

Durable solutions regional programme learning workshop

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Introduction

Collective efforts in the search for durable solutions have led to long-term programming with long-term funding for different organizations working in this area. There has been increased engagement from development actors who are committed to support both displaced and host communities in various ways. Together with leadership from regional organizations such as IGAD and respective national governments, actors have begun to monitor progress being made with the implementation of key national, regional and global policy processes and address related challenges. Nevertheless, better understanding of protection in development programming is still required to fully and additionally how to measure progress towards durable solutions with regards to the needs of displaced communities.

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. This report presents the main deliberations under four sections. First, the concepts of social cohesion and area based planning in durable solutions programming. Second, the approaches to support long-term durable solutions and ensure access to inclusive services. Third, the available opportunities for economic inclusion and self-reliance for displacement affected communities. Fourth, the use of research and evidence to inform policy processes and programming. Preparatory notes on the upcoming Global Refugee Forum and participants reflections on the workshop are also provided at the end of the report.

Key Points

- **Lack of a common understanding of social cohesion and protection:** Ensuring the protection of displaced populations while effectively integrating host community relations and social cohesion is a major challenge in durable solutions programming. Concepts such as social cohesion, inclusion and protection should be framed clearly to establish a common understanding for all actors in order to inform appropriate programming approaches.
- **Measurement of sustainable (re)integration:** there is a lack of evidence and consensus among durable solutions actors on what works or does not in the process of measuring and monitoring progress towards (re)integration – need to set standards to monitor and measure sustainable (re)integration.
- **Use of conflict analysis:** Proper conflict analysis can help in understanding the context and vulnerabilities of displacement-affected communities (DACs) to improve targeting and protection for sustainable outcomes. This enables the design of community-led mitigation plans that promote social cohesion.

- **Ensuring protection of displacement affected communities:** In order to support communities to improve their situation and for governments to increase their protection, employment of community-based protection approaches that aim at reducing vulnerabilities and threats is key. Such measures involve building the self-protection capacity of crisis-affected communities, facilitating safe and timely access to emergency and protection services.
- **Coordination:** Regional, national and local authorities should be supported in leading and coordinating durable solutions processes. Donor, development and humanitarian actors should collaborate more on joint planning and leverage each other's expertise and resources.
- **Economic opportunities and inclusion:** Innovative and scalable market-driven approaches create economic opportunities for DACs. Their sustainability can be assured by improving linkages with the private sector, micro-finance institutions and small-scale actors/businesses.
- **Area-based approaches:** Investment in 'Area-Based' approach to complement a 'People-Based' approach and move away from cluster/ sectors approach - to ensure that an understanding of and response to the needs of the displaced and their hosts, will be complemented by support to local governance and service delivery entities that manage the spaces within which the forcibly displaced are located.
- **Use of evidence to inform programming and policy processes:** Policy is enriched by research that is credible, resulting in programmes that can be trusted to deliver public good. Evidence can be used to change narratives and shift efforts towards durable solutions. Research also informs adaptive programming that is suitable for long-term solutions.

I. **Social Cohesion and Area Based Planning in Durable Solutions Programming** (*plenary panel discussion*)

Addressing social cohesion in displacement programming - Jo de Berry, World Bank

Social cohesion is a term that can be vague in definition and use as different organizations tend to define it differently. The World Bank defines it as "the ability to manage conflict without it being harmful or exclusionary." The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) considers it to be "the absence of latent conflict....the presence of strong social bonds." Some coherence has been achieved in the definition of social cohesion rooted in five dimensions, namely: belonging, inclusion, participation, recognition and legitimacy. A society that has strong social cohesion exhibits these characteristics whereas one without social cohesion leads to isolation, exclusion, non-involvement, rejection and illegitimacy. People do not participate in community or state processes and there is mistrust.

Social cohesion works vertically (between the person and the state) and horizontally (between different groups in society). Where there is strong social cohesion, there is greater progress while weak social cohesion leads to fragmentation and breakdown. An important point to note is that social cohesion accepts differences, not everyone has to be homogenous. Differences in society can be positively managed to include everyone.

In times of upheaval, such as forced displacement, populations move in disturbing ways with a lot of suffering, poverty and devastating presentation in media. As displaced populations try to secure livelihoods, there can be perceived competition with local communities. Social cohesion changes with displacement. These changes can contribute to tension and conflict or be positive if displaced people share some socio-economic similarities with host communities.

The World Bank recommends certain areas for improvement in social cohesion programming starting with having clearer definitions and theory of change. Better analysis is needed when forced displacement occurs and how it plays into the wider social fabric and political economy determined by various factors. The level of ambition in the programme objectives also has to be managed. The World Bank has seen it can be overambitious in some programmes yet some things are beyond its control in their work with different governments. To improve on this, an important question that can be asked is: “What exactly are we trying to change?” Finally, stronger measurement is needed in social cohesion to see what has changed as a result of interventions while also remaining realistic about what the programmes can actually achieve.

Protecting people while enhancing development and government led processes- Richard Nunn, OXFAM

Ensuring the protection of displaced populations while effectively integrating host community relations and social cohesion is a major challenge in durable solutions programming. Some of the common protection issues related to this include tensions between the displaced and hosts, discrimination against the displaced or host communities and housing, land and property issues.

In order to support communities to improve their situation and for governments to increase protection of these groups, Oxfam employs a community-based protection approach that is aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and threats. Measures to reduce vulnerabilities involve building the self-protection capacity of crisis-affected communities, facilitating safe and timely access to emergency and protection services and providing practical assistance such as solar lights, fuel-efficient stoves, cash etc. To reduce threats, Oxfam pushes for advocacy at international and local levels while strengthening the capacity of relevant authorities and supporting them in improving refugee policies and rights. For instance, in Uganda, community-elected representatives from both the host and South Sudanese refugee communities work together on ways to mitigate cross-border threats.

Through these regional programmes, Oxfam has learnt that it is important to:

1. Do a proper protection and conflict analysis and focus on community-identified priorities
2. Ensure representation and engagement of all stakeholders
3. Consider incentives carefully – ‘motivation’ vs sustainability
4. Invest time, human resources and funding into these processes
5. Complement approach with other activities – how to improve access, social cohesion
6. Encourage and support local action – support already existent activities of the host communities and local authorities.

Integrating conflict analyses in durable solutions programming- Pilly Omara, Danish Demining Group

According to the Danish Demining Group (DDG), conflict analysis entails understanding conflict dynamics and trends, conflict mitigation processes and opportunities for peace. This enables the design of conflict mitigation plans that promote social cohesion. As seen in the Somali case, conflict analysis has been used to build resilience and livelihoods (supporting socio-economic activities like agriculture and fishing), in conflict management and improvement of security in camps (community dialogue – *Guurti* plus), managing effective land tenure systems (in Baidoa and Dollow areas) among other sector-based interventions. These interventions were as a result of a conflict analysis that identified certain problems in areas of belonging/citizenship, insecurity, land disputes and urbanization, precarious livelihoods, access to justice, protection and SGBV, among others.

A good conflict analysis can help:

- Establish a better understanding of the context;
- Develop consensus among stakeholders around challenges or issues faced;
- Review and ensure programming is conflict-sensitive and does 'no harm';
- Engage national counterparts and/or partners in coordination meetings in deeper discussions of key issues identified in the analysis;
- Advocate for more sustainable outcomes through an increased focus on the root causes of conflict rather than on the symptoms;
- Find entry-points for programming that would address the substantial issues of fragility or potentially violent conflict, while also strengthening peace engines within a conflict-affected context;
- Promote collaborative approaches concerning the prevention of conflict and human rights violations; and,
- Develop scenarios and undertake contingency planning and risk management in unstable environments.

Conflict analysis can then be used in durable solutions programming to:

1. Identify what needs to be done per sector – Which conflict drivers should be addressed and peace opportunities supported?
2. Identify specific approaches that will bring the most effective results to the conflict issues identified.
3. Implement specific measures with a view to resolving the problem.
4. Review/update and use it for programme adaptation through monitoring and reporting on significant changes in order to adapt accordingly.
5. Develop mechanisms that enable collaboration with others to address the problems.

Conflict analysis is a continuous process in programme implementation and should be reviewed regularly. Efforts should be made for programme staff to understand what such analyses mean for different programmes. If the social benefits can be seen, then this can motivate cooperation and trust among different communities consequently developing more cohesive societies. Silo approaches should be avoided as most issues cut across different sectors. Peace and state building, justice, governance, humanitarian and development actors should aim to work together to inform a common understanding through joint activities. DDG has developed tools and checklists for partners to support better durable solutions planning informed by conflict analysis.

Area based planning in urban contexts- Mayor Abdullahi Watiin, Baidoa Municipality

Since 2016, Baidoa Municipality in the South West State of Somalia has received 323,691 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in total. These are often people fleeing the ramifications of in-country drought and conflict or they are returnees from Ethiopia, Yemen and Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya. This influx into Baidoa has caused water shortage, hygiene and sanitation challenges and it has a huge environmental impact.

In order to manage these challenges, the Municipality is working to provide land for the settlement of both IDPs and vulnerable host communities, enhance security and facilitate community consultations with local leaders. It has also engaged with development partners, such as IOM Somalia and UN-Habitat, who have supported consultations on land laws and city extensions to integrate the IDP settlements. These consultations led to the South West State of Somalia parliament endorsing the

land law in March 2019. Other collaborative efforts include disaster risk management, development of community action plans and resilience programming workshops with NGOs and durable solutions partners.

The Municipality is taking several actions to enhance response and partnerships for durable solutions. This involves an increased focus on livelihoods and social safety nets to reduce vulnerability and increase coping mechanisms, particularly with regard to the key drivers of forced displacement i.e. drought and food insecurity. It will also maximize on the opportunities that have come with hosting large numbers of displaced populations. For instance, the increased trade and economic activities of the displaced have generated employment and growth, especially for the youth. There has also been an improvement in security and reduction in violence and extremism. This progress has been made possible through participatory and inclusive processes in urban and area based planning that are locally led and sustainable in the end.

Key takeaways from panel discussion on social cohesion and area-based planning

Concepts such as social cohesion, inclusion and protection should be framed clearly for all actors to establish a common understanding, especially local authorities.

- Better understanding of the vulnerabilities and threats displacement-affected communities face provides entry-points to improve targeting and protection.
- Conflict analysis is a continuous process in programme implementation and should be reviewed regularly to adapt accordingly.
- Focus on area based approaches for sustainable management of displaced populations.
- Reflect on creative ways of involving the private sector. For example, the sector can offer employment opportunities with incentives of receiving tax-free land to provide jobs and facilities such as housing.

II. Approaches to support long-term durable solutions (*breakout sessions*)

In discussing approaches for long-term durable solutions, participants considered the best ways to support these processes at government and community levels for both displaced and host communities. Lessons learnt and best practices from various programmes were shared on sustaining locally owned solutions for integrated and inclusive access to services and opportunities. Participants chose a break out session. Each session had 3-4 speakers who first presented their learning, which then led to a discussion to identify 4 key takeaways. To this end, the key takeaways were summarized in two ways, namely what to keep and *discards* in durable solutions programming.

1. **Keep:** What should we continue doing or do more of?
2. **Discard/Avoid:** What should we stop/avoid doing?

Government engagement and capacity development

Outcome: Development and humanitarian actors should support regional, national and local authorities in leading and coordinating durable solutions processes.

Keep

- Support for governments to build their processes and capacities in knowledge, strategic planning and coordination. For instance, ReDSS and other partners have supported the Ethiopian government in evidence-based decision-making in the CRRF implementation.
- Long-term approaches in institutional capacity development beyond one off-training of individuals.
- Evidence-based planning and policy development.

- Accountability to track progress on government commitments.
- Support traditional/non-governmental structures such as elders in capacity development for early solutions in displacement problems.
- Systematic engagement of the private sector to strengthen these processes.
- Role of regional organizations in driving and sustaining momentum for change. IGAD is supporting member states in the implementation of the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) through advocacy, research and partnerships.

Discard/Avoid

- Projects that only focus on one-off trainings of individuals rather than long-term approaches in institutional capacity development
- Externalized approach on data ownership; governments need more access to data to inform programming. Development/humanitarian actors tend not to share data. In Mogadishu, the Benadir Regional Administration requires data on displacement to improve responses to severe and protracted displacement.
- Parallel coordination structures should be avoided; focus on strengthening government structures for good public service delivery, governance and social protection.
- Exclusionary approach – partners/donors often assume there is a capacity gap without assessing their own gaps. Capacity development approaches must be inclusive and support priorities of national authorities. A good place to start is to ask: “Do we understand how the local/national government works?”

Community engagement and social accountability

Outcome: *Inclusive community plans and adaptive programming contribute to resilient communities.*

Keep

- Focus on social accountability platforms that increase transparency and accountability. Be thoughtful about ways to deal with existing power structures.
- Work on collective plans that help the communities, especially the vulnerable and marginalized groups, through consultations with them.
- Long-term funding focusing on community action plans and involvement of communities in interventions.
- Adaptive programming that changes with changing contexts.

Discard/Avoid

- Assuming that we know communities’ priorities. Single top-down donor approach is not ideal as programme focus and costs change.
- Lack of focus on social cohesion and resilience from onset of programmes. Enhance positive aspects of relations between communities and avoid contributing to pre-existing conflicts.
- Not involving communities or stopping actions of community organizations. Real participation happens when communities are on board.

Integrated access to services and education

Outcome: *Area based approaches enable both refugee and host communities to access shared basic services and opportunities, which can contribute to stronger social cohesion and integration.*

Keep

- Shared services (particularly education, health and social amenities) for displaced and their hosts provide a platform for integration. However for the potential to be realized it needs to

be capitalized upon more effectively particularly looking at inclusion/exclusion dynamics so as to support social cohesion

- Go beyond engaging refugee agencies only to support national and local authorities (including line ministries) to integrate displacement-affected communities in national structures and development plans and policies.
- Early preparedness and planning with authorities, humanitarian and development actors including experts such as urban planners is critical in the development of integrated models with benefits to displaced and host communities
- Interventions that support integrated services should bear in mind the proximity of services for both displaced and host communities, social inclusion/exclusion, and availability and quality of services

Discard/Avoid

- Interventions that are population based rather than area based can be detrimental to social cohesion and integration
- Short term interventions that are not linked to long-term strategies/funding support beyond emergency situations perpetuate a culture of dependency
- Interventions that assume displaced and/or host communities to be a homogenous group with a 'one size fits all model' without proper consideration of the diversity of displaced populations and the host social cultural settings should be avoided.

Early solutions and preparedness

Outcome: Early solutions to displaced influx should be strengthened by investments in building resilience and preventing displacement from (re)occurring by forecasting better and supporting more of government-led and community-centric responses.

Keep

- Investment in long-term multi-year funding in urban and rural areas to reduce displacement before and during shocks. Pooling funds from different donors ensures better project success.
- Understanding the capacities of households to build resilience by engaging directly with them to learn how they cope with shocks while retaining safety nets for vulnerable community members. The Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) Approach noted previously vulnerable communities respond better to shocks after engaging in community-led programmes. 95% of all BRCiS communities displaced in the 2011 famine were not displaced during the 2017 drought.
- Flexibility of the nexus between humanitarian and development approaches to prevent displacement before it happens.

Discard/Avoid

- Fragmented short-term approaches with donor and development actors working in silos. Instead, long-term approaches that are adaptive to dynamic and non-linear contexts with some predictability of funding should be encouraged (with an adaptive management and iterative structure to learn in real time).
- Lack of evidence-based studies and use of displacement-related data to inform drought response and joint planning.
- Reacting to crises and responding late to displacement situations. Organizations should work more towards prevention ('no regrets' approach).

Area based and settlement planning

Outcome: Planning that defines an area rather than a sector or target group is needed to address displacement in an integrated and multi-scaled manner that does no harm.

Keep

- Carefully designed data collection tools and analysis plans that ensures that data collected is complementary and show both: the 'demand side'/population & the 'supply side'/location structures and services
- Invest in Area-Based' approach to complement a 'People-Based' approach and move away from cluster/ sectors approach - to ensure that an understanding of and response to the needs of the displaced and their hosts, will be complemented by support to local governance and service delivery entities that manage the spaces within which the forcibly displaced are located.
- Integrate both analyses (area and population based approaches) to see how best to balance them. Look into better targeting for each area to mitigate issues such as evictions.
- Involve communities for engagement, ownership and leadership in projects.
- Invest in time to share lessons and good practice that help partners in need of information to overcome the technical, operational and even political challenges of collecting and analyzing displacement data.
- Working with, and building on existing systems of local governance and service delivery to address short-term needs while focusing on longer-term outcomes and impacts.
- Adopt iterative, flexible and adaptive approaches to programme design, management, funding and coordination in order to respond to changes in context, shifting priorities or new emergencies when operating in complex operating environments.

Discard/Avoid

- Exclusive geographic analyses that do not map and assess relevant stakeholders, services and needs in an area.
- Leadership by local authorities is key in area based planning. However, risk and mitigation planning is required in the event that a government can harm its people.

Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and access to justice

Outcome: Access to HLP is key to the achievement of durable solutions hence, it is critical to support integrated responses and inclusive approaches to conflict resolution. Furthermore, access to justice and to livelihood opportunities as means by which displacement affected communities can be empowered to acquire and sustain basic services such as housing.

Keep

- Land conflict analyses is critical to build a common understanding among actors and strategic interventions on how to prevent and address land conflict nexus and HLP rights violations
- HLP is beyond a roof and walls hence innovation and new ways of working are essential to move away from shelter (short term) to housing (long term) is. Urban planning and land management remain key aspects of the HLP response and development partners should continue playing a key role to support long-term housing solutions.
- Support to national and local authorities to take an active role in strengthening land administrative institutions, dispute resolution mechanisms inclusive of all populations (marginalized groups, women and youth), data management and coordination.

Discard/Avoid

- Exclusion of vulnerable groups in HLP interventions and dispute resolution e.g. disregard to clan dynamics, women and youth rights
- Looking at HLP in isolation (only as a roof and wall) without considering influencing factors such as security of tenure, access to justice and land governance systems, access to basic services and livelihoods
- Lack of clarity within legal and policy frameworks regarding the transfer and disposal of HLP assets and investments acquired during displacement affects the sustainability of durable solutions processes particularly for returnees
- Reactive responses on forced evictions after the fact rather than focusing on preventive measures and early preparedness.

Key takeaways from discussion on long-term durable solutions

- Development and humanitarian actors should support regional, national and local authorities in leading and coordinating durable solutions processes.
- Inclusive community plans and adaptive programming contribute to resilient communities.
- Area based approaches enable both refugee and host communities to access shared basic services and opportunities, which can contribute to stronger social cohesion and integration.
- Early solutions to displaced influx should be strengthened by investments in building resilience and preventing displacement from (re)occurring by forecasting better.
- Planning that defines an area rather than a sector or target group is needed to address displacement in an integrated and multi-scaled manner that does no harm.
- Inclusive and durable housing options for displacement affected communities require the promotion of their land and property rights and access to justice

III. Economic opportunities and inclusion (*plenary panel discussion*)

The panel discussions in this segment centered on how Displacement Affected Communities (DACs) can be supported to transition from humanitarian livelihoods towards economic inclusion and self-reliance. Economic inclusion was understood as being characterized by equity in accessing opportunities and targeted livelihoods programming for those who lack capacity using effective approaches in working with development partners and the private sector. Moreover, this process benefits greatly from the use of data and evidence. Actors working in the development, humanitarian and private sectors shared learnings from different approaches applied in the field.

Promoting market-based approaches in creating economic opportunities- Feysal Farah, Mercy Corps Ethiopia

From 2012 to 2019, the USAID funded a project known as the Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME) in the Afar, Oromia and Somali Regions of Ethiopia. The objective of PRIME was to increase household incomes and enhance resilience to climate change through market linkages utilizing transformative, innovative and scalable market-driven approaches. This approach also targeted the overall improvement of the system in which households operate in, with the premise that if constraints are removed for the system to function properly, then the accrued benefits will eventually reach the targeted households. This is dependent on how the system is integrated and managed.

By focusing on the market and facilitating investments, the program was able to report some positive outcomes in the following five areas, which contributed to 22% increase in household incomes over six and a half years and enhanced resilience to shocks and stress.

1. Improved livestock productivity and competitiveness
2. Enhanced pastoralists' adaptation to Climate Change
3. Strengthened alternative livelihoods for those transitioning from pastoralism (ToPs)
4. Improved nutrition status of households
5. Enhanced innovation, learning and knowledge management.

Some of the economic benefits of PRIME include improvement of resilience of over two million marginalized people, creation of 5,668 full-time equivalent jobs and USD \$18 million private investments leveraged with USD \$6 million in business investments. Furthermore, beneficiaries had direct access to financial services and products and obtained business loans. This was made possible through enhanced public-private partnerships (PPPs), increased donor support and improved national and regional attention to pastoralist communities. In order to sustain and multiply these successes, the implementers recommend continuous data collection for improved learning and collaborations from all actors to effectively manage the physical and systemic challenges.

Advancing the financial inclusion of displacement affected communities - Patrice Kiiru, Equity Bank Group

The role the private sector can play in financial inclusion was seen in the example of Equity Bank, a Kenyan private commercial bank. Equity has extended its banking products and services to refugee households in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda estimated at about 40% of the refugee population.

Initially, Equity facilitated financial assistance (cash to refugees) in collaboration with humanitarian organizations. The bank provided a multi-wallet card to refugees as a solution to handling cash so that these organizations would not worry about the associated risks. Cardholders become bank customers and enjoy banking services like the general public. They are also able to receive remittances directly into their accounts in addition to saving the money they earn from their income-generating activities. Some refugee households have such good transactions that they are able to receive commissions that improve their economic capacity.

Research has shown that there are opportunities for the private sector to engage more with refugees as evidenced by a consumer and market study conducted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The study report, *Kakuma as a Marketplace*, presents information for companies looking to enter this market. The challenge lies in how to actualize this. Development and humanitarian actors can play an important role in motivating the private sector to get substantially involved. They can also support the private sector by facilitating the financial education of refugees so that they maximize the available products and services for comprehensive economic inclusion.

Women, land security tenure and economic empowerment- Evelyn Aero, Norwegian Refugee Council

Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) involves a process in which women increase their capacity to make and act on economic choices, their control over assets, resources particularly land, and they are agents of their own economic empowerment within an environment that enables them to participate and benefit equally, without fear of violence or retribution.

In displacement, women's vulnerability often increases, as already their rights are not always guaranteed even in stable times. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) studies on displaced women's HLP rights found that women have a range of housing and land rights under a mix of statutory, customary, and Islamic laws. Nevertheless, in several contexts in East Africa and the Horn of Africa, women's rights to land are usually through a male relative. This situation poses many obstacles, including access to housing and land rights and to justice when these rights are denied. Consequently, women are particularly vulnerable to evictions, exploitation and poverty directly related to the denial of land rights.

Significant research has been done on women's land tenure rights and demonstrated that access to secure land tenure is important for women's economic stability. However, there are few studies that specifically measure indicators associated with empowerment of women, such as bargaining power or decision-making power. This is information that can be useful in understanding and managing tenure arrangements for women's land tenure security.

Most regional legal and policy frameworks are gender neutral but in practice, the law and social practices frequently favor men and the economically empowered. Generally, humanitarian actors are reluctant to address land tenure arrangements in livelihoods and self-reliance programs. Lack of evidence on land tenure programs from humanitarian contexts means that findings from other middle and high-income studies are not applicable for displaced populations. To improve WEE, future focus has to be on programmes that strengthen land tenure security for displaced and conflict-affected women and on research that can change humanitarian policy and practice in the specific context of displacement and durable solutions.

Key takeaways from panel discussion on economic inclusion for DACs

- Innovative and scalable market-driven approaches create economic opportunities for DACs. Their sustainability can be assured by improving linkages with the private sector, micro-finance institutions and small-scale actors/businesses.
- Clear data is important for informing policy reforms. Baseline and end line surveys are important for demonstrating changes in systems and how they contributed to livelihoods.
- Evidence shows that refugees have skills and assets they can contribute to economies. This supports the case for greater economic inclusion and financial education of displaced people to transition from humanitarian situations to stable livelihoods.
- Enabling environments and legal frameworks make economic opportunities for IDPs and refugees possible. Regional instruments, such as IGAD's Djibouti and Kampala Declarations, are important for the recognition of refugee documents like education certificates.
- Policies and programmes that strengthen women's land tenure security can contribute positively to their economic empowerment.
- Project interventions should address social, economic, infrastructural and protection needs of displaced people, particularly with strategies on how to mitigate SGBV.

IV. Approaches to support long-term durable solutions (*breakout sessions*)

Private sector engagement in forced displacement contexts

Outcome: *Proper market analysis can assist development and humanitarian actors to design innovative and sustainable projects that can attract investments from the private sector.*

Keep

- Improving on advocacy through research to understand the markets better and to make projects sustainable/profitable. This will help the private sector understand the pros and cons.
- Working with governments, as active partners and stakeholders, to address common points for mutual benefits. Skilled refugees in camps such as Dadaab face a dilemma in movements, as they need interventions in wider national policies that can remove barriers to accessing markets for their products and services.
- Engaging local leaders who can be anchors for sustainability, even if they are not formally literate. Take time to familiarize them with organizational operations and find space for them to be involved. The UNHCR irrigation project in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia was strengthened by the reliable presence of elders who did not change as frequently as local authorities did. They also helped maintain peace in the conflict-prone area.
- Move to market-based training that can connect beneficiaries to economic opportunities and formal financial inclusion. Work on reducing risks so that the private sector can engage more. The Refugee Employment and Skills Initiative (RESI) project in Dadaab camp has diversified livelihood sources by training refugees on internet-based skills.
- Focus on gender and protection issues for more success in projects.

Discard/Avoid

- Private sector should not be used to do 'business as usual' in humanitarian and development programs. Collaborations should be different and aimed at sustainability. Shift mentalities and ask the question: "Would a private company/bank invest in this programme/business?"
- Traditional approaches such as trainings and giving start-up kits should be avoided. Proper market analysis should be done and donors encouraged to invest in the future of trainees/employees who can add more value. This analysis also helps reduce the flooding of markets with people possessing the same skills (carpenters, hair dressers etc.)
- Discard silo approaches and look at collective outcomes with different actors that can add more value. Some markets are not limited in scope like the need for energy or financial services. Looking at the bigger picture beyond targeted outcomes for the displaced/refugees only can attract the private sector to invest on a large scale for the wider community.
- Short-term thinking should be avoided. Programs should be designed in a way that ensures continuity and succession for others to take over in a sustainable way. At what point does the market step in? What are the returns for private sector investments?

Durable solutions and social protection

Outcome: Project interventions should address social, economic, infrastructural and protection needs of displaced people, particularly with strategies on how to mitigate SGBV.

Keep

- Data and cost benefit analysis highlighting the benefits refugees bring (not just social costs).
- Burden sharing in social protection programs in collaboration with governments that have increasing technical capacity to take on more responsibility in protection. Better linkages needed on how to find more resources to do this while maintaining sustainability.
- Leveraging on capacity, expertise and access of all actors to contribute to social protection.
- Addressing SGBV as a crosscutting issue throughout project cycles on health, education, livelihoods, WASH etc.

Discard/Avoid

- Multiplicity of safety nets should be avoided. Instead, improve on further distinctions on safety nets with differentiation on targeting specific groups and reduction of poverty.
- Lack of long-term planning and funding is harmful to programs e.g. in fighting SGBV, which require long-term and transformative approaches beyond humanitarian interventions. Approaches should be more integrated e.g. area-based programming.

Collective outcomes, programming principles and use of ReDSS solutions framework in Somalia

Outcome: Concerted efforts are needed in the articulation of area-level collective outcomes and development of joint tools on measurement of local integration for DACs

Keep

- Targeting that is clear, strategic, localized and measurable increases accountability and effectiveness in programming.
- Piloting of the local integration index in Somalia while building on components of the work done by other actors (ReDSS solutions framework, JIPS, MIDNIMO, and Ken Menkhaus). Although this piloting is still in its early stages for Danwadaag, participants acknowledged that it could be an innovative way to measure local integration for IDPs.
- Consistency in partnerships and engagement with governments to collectively respond to the needs of IDPs and reduce their risks and vulnerabilities to increase their resilience.
- Sustained efforts to collectively define area-level collective outcomes through a consensus building approach involving local authorities, practitioners and the DACs. Such a process can reinforce mutual accountability and shift it towards the authorities and the community.
- Continue with mutual programme learning exchanges such as ReDSS learning events to reflect and share lessons learnt.
- Application of the self-help groups approach as it has resulted in enhancing social cohesion. In Somaliland, through the Somaliland Durable Solutions Consortia programme, this approach has resulted in enhancing social cohesion between IDPs and the host communities.

Discard/Avoid

- Lack of evidence and consensus among actors on what works or doesn't in the process of measuring "results" of DS programming and what has been achieved with cultivation of minimum standards on how to achieve this e.g. localized monitoring and accountability.
- Siloed approaches – development of various initiatives without integrating/complementing what already exist and without linking them to local authorities' plans.
- Lack of harmonization of approaches e.g. community engagement, bearing in mind the different and dynamic contexts of programme implementation in Somalia
- Poor integration and linking of concepts – identity, socio-political and cultural dimensions should be integrated into programs (sense of belonging).
- Poor context and political economy analysis: lack of use and understanding of local context and political and conflict dynamics and of the lived experiences and perceptions of displaced and host communities to inform DS programming.

V. Use of research and evidence to inform policy processes and programming

The final session of the workshop examined ways in which research and evidence influence policy and programming. Policy is enriched by research that is credible, resulting in programmes that can be trusted to deliver public good. Evidence can be used to change narratives and shift efforts towards durable solutions as seen in the case of the Kenya government seeking to close Dadaab refugee camp. Research also informs adaptive programming that is suitable for long-term solutions.

Research and evidence in policy processes

Outcome: Partners need to increase their focus on uptake of research findings and recommendations rather than over production of mandate driven research

Keep

- Participatory process of research and production – consensus building around evidence produced is important so that it promotes ownership and is usable. This process takes time and sometimes calls for flexibility of approaches. The example shared of ReDSS' approach that involves key stakeholders through an advisory group to guide research from the outset was endorsed as an effective method of ensuring a collaborative approach, which promotes common ownership of the final product.
- Policies are starting points to effecting change beyond being adopted and signed. However, they should not be viewed as an end in themselves. Equally important is ensuring that promising policies are backed up with effective implementation.
- Bottom-up approaches to ensure that lessons learnt from local, context-specific examples inform national, regional and global processes.
- Awareness of context – policies approaches such as the CRRF are welcome, but they must be based on an understanding of the environment in which they are being implemented. Sometimes there is occurrence of 'policy schizophrenia', where it is not possible to discuss the same policies in the same way in different areas.
- ReDSS to document lessons learnt from the region to inform preparations for the Global Refugee Forum, particularly the voices of refugees and IDPs. There is an urgent need to identify how to meaningfully engage displacement affected communities while ensuring they are protected.

Discard/Avoid

- Feeling that Human Rights and humanitarian organizations are different, each with their exclusive mandate. Synergy and complementarity should be encouraged between a wide range of stakeholders to bring about necessary changes by leveraging on different actors' expertise.
- Gaps in sharing research findings with other groups. More forums are needed to share outcomes of research/studies widely, especially with those who will actually implement it.
- Disconnect in norms and values and reality on the ground. Certain values tend to come from international bodies, such as understanding of universal human rights, yet in practice some of the policies are not workable. Subsequently, this influences the changes that occur.
- Repetitive/cliché messaging. Sometimes organizations employ overused messages, which are not necessarily rooted in the reality of displacement-affected communities' lived experiences. This is partly because organizations are saying what they think donors want to hear. Reversing this requires truthfully addressing the power dynamics and building trust with DACs so that they feel valued to reveal the real issues.

Research and evidence in programming (Adaptive management)

Outcome: Ensuring monitoring and documentation of programme adaptation throughout the project's life cycle.

Keep

- Consistent engagement with authorities even at the early stages of programme inception or design phase. To ensure better understanding of authorities priorities and aligning the programme's approaches and priorities with the authorities

- Intentionality and creating of time or forums to think and collective reflections for the programme partners during implementation.
- Collaborating on discussions and pushing for evidence-based programming.
- Seeking and nurturing staff with competencies in reflection, learning, curiosity and open communications
- Ensuring that finance, planning and performance management systems enable and do not unduly hinder changes in interventions and budgets based on learning
- Promoting ongoing, open communications with members and partners to build trust and mutual understanding, as this can enhance speed of decision-making around proposed changes in interventions
- Enabling greater decision-making by field staff closer to programme implementation
- Focusing more on past evidence of learning and programme adaptation
- Adequately funding reflection and learning over time and retain the knowledge

Discard/Avoid

- Culture of trying to hide mistakes – be willing to learn from failures.
- Lack of context – critical to contextualize programming and not import durable solutions from one country to another e.g. from Uganda to Somalia without contextualizing.
- Disconnect between donors and implementing agencies – donors should be viewed as partners and not just the ones who only fund projects/provide requirements. It is good to update them periodically on activities and work together to make implementation and adaptation easier.
- Mentality that Adaptive Management is just about changing budgets/donors – it also involves changes to certain activities to assure relevance and accountability.
- Lack of strategic utilization of the adaptive phase as a period for reflection and programme testing/adaptation.
- Belief that not much can be learnt from short-term interventions – strategic reflections can be made based on areas such as sectors and quality of interventions.

VI. Preparatory notes on the First Global Refugee Forum (GRF)

The first [Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\)](#) will be held on 17 and 18 December 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. It will be an opportunity to build momentum towards achieving the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and strengthening the collective response to refugee situations.

The GCR is a programme of action to strengthen the application of comprehensive responses to refugee situations for more predictable and equitable responsibility sharing through international cooperation. It has four key objectives, which are aligned to the CRRF, to:

1. Ease pressures on host countries;
2. Enhance refugee self-reliance;
3. Expand access to third-country solutions; and
4. Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The CRRF implementation has made some progress in various parts of the world in the following three categories with examples of the achievements attained.

1. Political Commitments e.g. 13 CRRF countries have acknowledged right of refugees to work.
2. Economic, Social and Financial Inclusion e.g. In Uganda, 33,000 refugees and hosts are in livelihoods projects and 610,000 refugees access sustainable water supply systems.

3. Asylum, Registration and Access to Documentation e.g. In Mexico, asylum-seekers have national registration numbers to access work, education and health services. In Costa Rica, refugees are included in all national programmes of social welfare and poverty reduction.

The upcoming GRF will focus on the following areas: arrangements for burden and responsibility-sharing, education, creating enabling environments for jobs and livelihoods, clean energy and bolstering infrastructure, facilitating solutions and strengthening protection capacity. Responsibility sharing will look at how to broaden the support base through pledges and contributions, good practices and stocktaking of progress (indicators, measuring impact, tracking pledges).

Pledges and contributions

Can include:

- Commitments and advocacy – prevention, protection, response, solutions
- Financial, material, and technical assistance; resettlement places and complementary pathways plus other relevant actions.

Can be made:

- At national, regional or global levels
- By UN Member States, non-member observer States and other relevant stakeholders
- As individual, joint or matching pledges towards a common theme.

In the lead up to the GRF, there are key events that are taking part in preparation for this ([Cf. Calendar](#)). NGOs are also being consulted by UNHCR in the preparatory work leading up to the GRF and are envisioned a role at the event too. Given the short-time frame and constraints for an inclusive process, civil society and national actors need to organize themselves and make concrete suggestions on how they can be involved, and what they think could make the GRF relevant and impactful for people of concern in a way that leads to positive changes for refugees and hosting communities.

At country/regional levels, there is a particular need for strong NGO engagement to support GRF preparations to ensure that the event delivers to needs, gaps, challenges and opportunities in concrete refugee situations. These consultations are also important to allow for inclusive discussion of learning from the application of [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#) (CRRF) in pilot contexts and to inform the agenda and support setting a common vision over the next four years.

Furthermore, building on the ReDSS CRRF working group created in 2017, ReDSS regional office has brought on additional capacity for the next six months to facilitate collective preparations for the GRF in the East Africa region. Cate Osborn who is seconded by NORCAP will:

- Lead strategic engagement in GRF preparatory processes with key stakeholders at country and regional levels including through identifying collective pledges and contributions against GRF priorities to promote a common vision and set the agenda for the next 4 years;
- Document and share learning from the CRRF applications in the different pilot countries and at regional level that are contributing to GCR objectives; and
- Work in close collaboration with partners/forums to support displacement affected communities, civil society and national actor's engagement and meaningful participation in GRF preparatory processes.

Participants reflections on the workshop

The workshop participants were grateful for a well-organized workshop where they had an opportunity to reflect on their work and learn from each other. The following are some thoughts and suggestions for the future that they shared.

1. Bring on board more local organizations, especially local women-led organizations.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Reflections on analyses in policy framework when designing durable solutions were useful. Future workshops to build on these gaps in policy. More precision needed in fine-tuning indicators of frameworks discussed (Social Cohesion, Conflict Analysis, Solutions Framework etc.) and communication given on these updates/changes and how to integrate them in durable solutions programming.
5. More support to be given to regional youth programs as young people are still migrating to other countries where they risk becoming refugees. How best can, we document these illegal flows and consequently, apply the necessary interventions?
6. 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.
7. Participants to keep in touch and share resources through online working groups.

Click below to access:

- [Online evaluation](#) and [evaluation report](#).
- [Participants' list](#), [agenda](#), [list of questions per session](#) and [power point presentations and other useful resources](#)