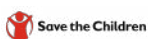


2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Key achievements, challenges, and way forward
JANUARY - DECEMBER





Woman and child. Credit Save the Children

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) work and achievements are made possible through the active engagement and generous contributions from its members and funding partners (UK DFID, European Union, ECHO, and Danida). ReDSS would like to thank them for their continued generous support and commitment to do more and to do better together in the search for durable solutions in the East and Horn of Africa region.

THE REGIONAL DURABLE SOLUTIONS SECRETARIAT (ReDSS)

The search for durable solutions to the protracted displacement situation in East Africa and the Horn of Africa is a key humanitarian and development concern. This is a regional and cross-border issue, with a strong political dimension, which demands a multi-sector response that goes beyond the existing humanitarian agenda.

The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) was created in 2015 with the aim of maintaining focused momentum and stakeholder engagement towards durable solutions for displacement-affected communities in East Africa and the Horn of Africa. ReDSS comprises 14 NGOs: ACTED, CARE International, Concern Worldwide, DRC, IRC, INTERSOS, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, RCK, Save the Children, World Vision, LWF, and ACF. The DRC, IRC, and NRC form the ReDSS steering committee.

ReDSS is not an implementing agency. It is instead a coordination and information hub that acts as a catalyst and agent provocateur to stimulate forward thinking and policy development on durable solutions for displacement. ReDSS seeks to improve joint learning and programming, inform policy processes, enhance capacity development, and facilitate coordination.



ReDSS CORE ELEMENTS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PLANNING AND PROGRAMING

Leaving no one behind: a commitment to address forced displacement

1. Creating durable solutions requires a **multi- stakeholder and sectoral, rights and needs based programming approach**
2. The process must be viewed as a **collective action rather than mandate driven** based on an inclusive, participatory and consensus building approach
3. **National, regional and local authorities have the primary responsibility** and need to be supported to to play their leadership and coordinating role
4. Developing **area based solutions approaches** is paramount to ensure integrated and comprehensive programing for host and displaced populations
5. **Community engagement** is critical to inform (re)integration analysis and programing to make solutions lasting, locally relevant and supportive of **social cohesion** and to **adopt a 'displacement affected communities'** approach- inclusive of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities
6. **Gender/age/diversity:** Interventions should take into account the gender, age and diversity at play and give special attention to women and youth
7. **Displacement is a development issue with humanitarian components** so it is essential to ensure complementarities and synergies between humanitarian, development, peace and state building programing to inform **collective outcomes**

¹ For more information about ReDSS, see: <http://regionaldss.org>

COLLABORATIVE

Ensure our work is generated and grounded in a collaborative and collective process involving all relevant members and external actors

ADAPTIVE

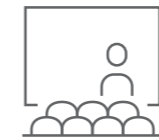
Embed adaptive working approaches where durable solutions strategies and activities are designed assuming change is inevitable

ITERATIVE

Promote the use of iterative decision-making to adapt durable solutions approaches continuously

LOCALLY-LED

Enable a context-specific and problem-oriented approach to strategies and activities for improved programming and policies for durable solutions



779 participants from over **140** organisations attended learning events *(double the number of participants in 2018)*



236 practitioners and policymakers trained (including **84** national actors) *(double the overall number of national actors trained in 2018)*



Over **21,000** views on the website with more than **6,000** users *(30% increase on online traffic on website since 2018)*



1 briefing paper; **6** one pagers; and **4** key messaging briefs developed



2 operational research; **1** solutions analysis; **1** lessons learnt piece with **3** case studies and **1** article



11 staff covering ReDSS country units in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and at the regional level *(double the size in 2018)*



1,300 followers on Twitter *(more than 600 new followers since 2018)*



Over **1,700** views on online animation

INTRODUCTION

CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND TRENDS IN 2019

Driven by a combination of conflict, cyclic climatic, and development shocks, and underpinned by poor governance, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and poverty, displacement in the East and Horn of Africa region is consistently high, protracted, and dynamic. By the end of 2019, the region was home to [over half](#) of the internally displaced people (IDPs) in Africa and there were [an estimated total of 14.1 million people](#) displaced in the region, with the majority of displaced people coming from or inside South Sudan and Somalia. At least half of these displaced people are children.

Over the past few years, responses to forced displacement have gradually shifted in many countries in the region. The international community has recognised the need to transition from short-term humanitarian aid to longer-term durable solutions programming, acknowledging that displacement is a political and development challenge requiring long-term investment that complements the humanitarian response. This evolving situation presents a major window of opportunity for new ways of working in displacement contexts such as consortia programming between humanitarian, development, and resilience actors; and more consistent engagement from development partners, such as the World Bank.

Additionally, there have been positive changes with a stronger focus on a self-reliance and resilience, integrated refugee and/or IDP–host community programming, and a commitment to support stronger participation of displacement-affected communities (DAC) in programming and policy processes. New durable solutions coordination structures are also being implemented, in particular at local and municipal levels across the region, allowing for increased area-based multi-stakeholder coordination, whole-of-government involvement, and ownership of processes (i.e. solutions hubs in Somalia and Ethiopia).

This was also a crucial year for the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) in the region. The first [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF), held in December 2019, created opportunities for renewed multi-stakeholder policy engagement at both the regional level and in ReDSS countries of focus: Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

In Somalia, the government faced a huge transition over the recent past, with the formation of Federal Member States (FMS) and the increased presence of local authorities with which to coordinate. The country has taken a number of important steps to ensure that refugees, returnees, IDPs, and vulnerable host communities are incorporated in the National Development Plan 9 (2020–2024) under a broader durable solutions agenda. The Somali government has also developed significant coordination architecture at all levels of government through the establishment of a National Durable Solutions Secretariat. Consortia programming approaches to durable solutions have gained momentum and there are now six active initiatives in Somalia and one in Somaliland, funded by multiple donors with multi-year financing.² These initiatives are the result of increasing donor coordination and alignment around a common vision and common approaches to durable solutions.

Ethiopia has seen significant policy reforms being undertaken by the new administration in 2019. The [Refugee Proclamation](#) adopted in early 2019 commits to significant changes in refugee policy, in particular opening up possibilities for the socio-economic integration of refugees. Most progress on the roll-out of whole-of-government approaches is seen at regional levels, notably in Somali Regional State, which has active CRRF coordination structures at both regional, woreda (third-level administrative districts), and city administrative levels. These structures allow partners with different strengths and areas of expertise—across the political, humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and state building spectrum—to come and work together.

In Kenya, refugees are still seen through a security lens, limiting their freedom of movement and right to work due to encampment policies. Kenya currently lags behind other Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) states in terms of establishing the necessary architecture to implement its commitments under the GCR / CRRF. While a CRRF roadmap was drafted in 2017, it has never been published. Despite overall lack of progress and transformation of the policy environment at the national level, there is growing evidence at the country level of good practice and learning from integrated approaches to service delivery of refugees and hosts. Refugees have now been recognised in the Turkana and Garissa County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), although the Garissa CIDP only refers to refugees but does not yet fully integrate them into the plan.

² These are: the EU RE-INTEG, which is composed of five consortia namely EIDACS, JSC, SDSC, and DSIRS, as well as the Danwadaag Solutions Consortia, Durable Solutions Initiative, and Durable Solutions Platform

At the regional level, the role of IGAD has been instrumental in terms of changing the regional discourse on durable solutions, both through its regional policy processes and the convening power it holds with governments. Regional commitments—in particular the 2017 [Nairobi Declaration](#) and the accompanying [Plan of Action](#), as well as the 2017 [Djibouti Declaration on refugee education](#) and the 2019 [Kampala Declaration of jobs, livelihoods, and self-reliance](#)—have provided useful anchors for donor and national government commitments. IGAD holds great convening power with governments in the region, which has allowed it to get governments to the table that would otherwise not have been there. IGAD has also been able to incentivize policy change by setting standards for the region, which has supported cross-learning and regional dialogue on good practice. Donors such as the World Bank have channeled funding through IGAD; e.g. its Development Response to Displacement Impacts [Project](#) (DRDIP) programmes and funding to incentivise better coherence on data and planning. Additionally, the role of IGAD has been formalised through the announcement of the GCR [regional support platform](#) in December 2019 at the GRF.

OVERVIEW OF LEARNING, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

KEY INSIGHTS FROM 2019

The GCR/ CRRF processes in the region present a unique opportunity to work together as a ‘whole of society approach’ bringing displacement affected communities, authorities, humanitarian, development and peace building actors, but also diaspora and private sector. At national levels, there have been significant developments occurring including initiatives to improve prospects for local integration for long-term refugees; efforts to establish alternatives to camps; and the inclusion of displacement and durable solutions in national development plans. Several examples are highlighted below:

1. Increased use of area-based approaches and coordination on durable solutions processes

While the majority of programming responses to displacement have traditionally been status based, there are several recent examples in the region of area-based, DAC-oriented approaches. Emerging learning shows that an effective area-based approach is dependent upon ensuring complementarity and coordination with other actors and programmes also operating in a defined geographical area. One programme does not have to address all the needs and vulnerabilities in its area of implementation. It is important, however, to understand the planning and interventions that already exist in a given area in order to identify the gaps that can be filled and the opportunities that can be capitalised upon. This is why it is essential to link programming to local and district development plans. In Kenya for instance, the [15 year Kalobeyei Integrated Social Development Programme \(KISEDIP\)](#) that is closely aligned to the CIPD, is a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder initiative that applies an area-based approach to enhance integrated service delivery, capacity strengthening, and livelihoods to refugees and hosts. Somalia has much positive practice to showcase in terms of area-based solutions for ensuring integrated and comprehensive programming for host and displaced populations. The establishment of durable solutions coordination groups and units (local solutions hubs), in particular at municipal levels, has encouraged increased multi-stakeholder coordination, whole-of-government involvement, and ownership of the process. These local solutions hubs are playing a critical role in shifting responses from clusters to multi-stakeholder coordination that brings together development, humanitarian, resilience, and state building actors under the leadership of local authorities. In Ethiopia, the Agency of Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and the regional government in Somali Regional State have together taken the lead in establishing ‘whole-of-government’ approaches and area-based approaches to planning and coordination. These government actors are supported by partners such as UNHCR and ReDSS in two primary ways: first, through secondment of knowledge management staff to their offices; and second, through strengthening their technical capacities to foster locally led approaches. Particular advances can be seen at the woreda level, where regular CRRF-related coordination is currently taking place.

2. Gradual shift in focus from return to sustainable (re)integration and durable solutions in host countries in the region

A shift away from a predominant focus on returnee movements towards finding more durable solutions for hosting refugees and IDPs can be observed across the region. While this partly reflects global policy shifts and commitments agreed through the GCR and other regional commitments, it is also the result of sustained efforts to build common understanding among the different actors working on protracted displacement in the region. This shift is increasingly seen in three particular areas: 1) in new ways of working; 2) the involvement of new partners and organisations; and 3) changes in the type of language used for programming.

Shifting emphasis away from return towards sustainable (re)integration programming: The ReDSS approach to engaging with key stakeholders in Kenya and Somalia

Providing spaces and platforms for learning and reflection

Through the ReDSS+ structure (ReDSS members, combined with all interested NGOs) in Kenya and Somalia, ReDSS convened a number of cross-border meetings on Somalia return and (re)integration. The main aim of these meetings was twofold: first, to reflect on key lessons learnt from the 2016–2017 return process; second and closely related, to inform returnees to Somalia of the Kenyan government decision to close Dadaab in 2019. In 2016–2017, ReDSS conducted [solutions analyses](#) based on the ReDSS framework.

These solutions analyses were designed to inform reintegration programming for Somali refugees. This was followed by another review in 2018–2019. Through a participatory research process and a consensus-building approach, a wide range of different actors and governments were involved in the analyses to reach agreement on the gaps and priorities for programming.

In 2019, ReDSS also partnered with the MENA Durable Solutions Platform and the Afghan Displacement Solutions Platform to conduct a comparative case study drawing lessons from refugee return and (re)integration processes in Afghanistan, Syria, and Somalia.

Creating alliances and partnerships for programming and policy influence

All through 2019, ReDSS worked in partnership with donor groups in Kenya and Somalia, the UNHCR Special Envoy for Refugees in Africa and UNHCR more broadly, the World Bank, and other interested agencies and coordination fora (including the cross-border working group, country of origin working groups in Kenya, etc.). The objective was to create a partnership to gather relevant evidence and conduct joint analyses, informed by the solutions analyses already conducted by ReDSS and partners.

Using emerging evidence to challenge the status quo

Based on evidence gathered from operational actors and studies, ReDSS and partners developed common messaging based on the joint analyses. The [ensuing brief](#) and other evidence has been used to inform ongoing discussions among donors and operational actors in Kenya and Somalia, as well as to contribute to the process of unpacking Dadaab, which is led by UNHCR and Garissa county government officials. The brief has also been used to inform ongoing discussions to adapt programming and to support the government of Somalia to increase returnee absorption capacity and preparedness, particularly in urban areas.

Applying ReDSS core programming principles

The [ReDSS core programming principles](#) were a key building block for shaping and agreeing common understanding of how (re)integration programming should work. In 2019, the ReDSS core programming principles were endorsed and adopted by the Federal Government of Somalia.

Strengthening the technical capacities of local actors

In order to inform better integrated solutions, programming, and policies, ReDSS worked with key actors from both Kenya and Somalia to strengthen their technical capacities for integrated solutions. In particular, the focus in 2019 was to support programmatic learning and adaptation based on evidence. This evidence-based approach was also used to support policy dialogue on return and (re)integration.



3. Shift from short-term livelihood interventions towards longer-term economic opportunities and more sustainable economic and social inclusion approaches

Over-reliance by humanitarian actors on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) approaches has been well documented.³ More emphasis is now being placed on supporting initiatives that take a market systems approach and aim to support both the demand and supply side of labour markets. One example of how this can be done is the BORESHA programme in the Mendera triangle⁴, which is working with a private sector company to carry out market and value chain analyses, and establish business links and business incubators for the programme. In Ethiopia, the SHARPE programme works to sustainably empower refugees and hosts to become more economically resilient through the innovative use of an adapted market systems development approach. The PRIME programme in Ethiopia, implemented by Mercy Corps and its local partners, also works by applying a more integrated long-term approach to enable pastoralist households to withstand and recover from droughts.

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Urgent need to rethink displacement financing structures and ensure greater sharing of responsibility to ease the pressure on host nations

A recent report from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) finds that the logic behind easing the pressure under the GCR largely comes down to a simple bargain between refugee-hosting states and donor countries: you host, we fund. Despite a long-standing gap between refugee needs and the financial contributions provided by donor governments, the GCR does not contain a mechanism to ensure additional or more predictable development funding. Humanitarian budgets for refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda are under threat despite solidarity messages from the New York Declaration, including the specific goal of closing all funding gaps.

Refugee-hosting governments need confirmation of predictable long-term funding to take the risky and politically unpopular step of integrating refugees into national systems. The lack of transparent financial tracking systems at country level also means it is currently impossible to determine long-term financing allocations. The notable exception to this financial picture is the [World Bank IDA 18 refugee window](#) made available to refugee-hosting countries, intended to ease the burden. While World Bank financing is important, it will never address ongoing humanitarian needs or fully finance the transition towards nationally led refugee responses as envisioned in the CRRF. Importantly, easing the pressure on refugee-hosting countries must go beyond financial incentives. Increased third-country resettlement must play a more central role.

Continued gaps on monitoring and evaluation of progress towards sustainable (re)integration

(Re)integration is a difficult but not impossible concept to measure. Several factors define these difficulties, including: the highly complex and context-specific nature of (re)integration; the multiple dimensions it encompasses, such as economic, social, gendered, and psychological elements; and the subjective character of perceptions of different groups; i.e. returnees, IDPs, and host communities. At present, there is no agreement across different stakeholders on how to measure progress towards (re)integration and different actors are still using different tools. It thus remains important for key actors to come together and agree common standards for how to measure progress towards (re)integration at programmatic levels, across regions and national levels, and in ways that are linked to wider poverty indicators. For indicators to be useful, they need to look at both pathways and thresholds towards (re)integration.

³ For example, see: DRC / IRC / NRC (2019). Unprepared for (re)integration: Lessons from Somalia, Afghanistan and Syria on Refugee Returns to Urban Areas; Jacobsen and Fratzke (2016). Building Livelihood Opportunities for Refugee Populations: Lessons from Past Practice; see: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/building-livelihood-opportunities-refugee-populations-lessons-past-practice>

⁴ The Mendera triangle is a geographical region in Eastern Africa where the countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia meet.

PILLAR REVIEW

ReDSS work is guided by four pillars:

- **Research and knowledge management:** To increase the availability, accessibility and utilisation of relevant and timely analysis and information on durable solutions
- **Programme support and capacity development:** To provide high quality support on programme development and design; collective monitoring; and learning that adds value to collective programming on durable solutions by ReDSS members and partners
- **Policy dialogue:** To facilitate and undertake constructive and influential policy dialogue with key national and regional policy actors and processes in the East and Horn of Africa
- **Coordination:** To strengthen ReDSS as an inclusive, collaborative, coordinated hub for quality information, analysis and learning on durable solutions.

To guide its ways of working, ReDSS focus and priorities is based on its [2018-2020 strategy](#), [learning strategy](#), [common programming principles](#), and [2016 Agenda for Humanity and SDG commitments](#). ReDSS aims to support targeted learning through a systematic approach, promote consistency and build an evidence base beyond individual donor programmes to contribute to collective outcomes in the search for durable solutions in the region. Progress for each pillar in 2019 is reviewed below.

PILLAR 1. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

One of the most pressing questions in the East and Horn of Africa region has been how to create an agreed-upon and shared evidence-base to inform coordinated responses, as well as measure progress towards durable solutions. ReDSS recognizes that this does not entail producing more uncoordinated reports and knowledge products, but rather supporting a collective agenda to invest in a few well-researched, quality products that really support technical practitioners and policy makers to improve programming and policies.

Key themes and focus areas for ReDSS in 2019 included: Early solutions; Return and (re)integration; Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) and Urban solutions; and Self-reliance and economic opportunities. These focus areas complemented the continued application of the [ReDSS Solutions Framework](#) to provide a joint analysis on the status of solutions in specific contexts in the region. This collective approach is designed to maximise ownership and uptake of recommendations and has been identified as a key strength by ReDSS members and partners. ReDSS has also invested time and resources to conduct annual aspirations surveys to address key data gaps on displaced communities' intentions and aspirations vis-à-vis durable solutions.

Key outcomes reviewed under this pillar focus on the impact of learning and evidence generated from ReDSS; ReDSS contribution to the standardization, disaggregation, and availability of displacement related data; and lastly, the uptake and dissemination of evidence and learning. Key outputs include the number of joint studies and analyses conducted, the availability of online tools and number of users accessing them, and the number of learning events and workshops organized (including a disaggregation of the number of participants by country, organization and gender).

Publications

During 2019, ReDSS also produced and disseminated a total of six in-depth qualitative case studies on displacement and durable solutions that address specific knowledge and practice gaps. These publications are as follows:



Results and findings from citizen-led discussions in Mogadishu - Common Social Accountability Platform (CSAP), January 2019: CSAP developed by Africa's Voices Foundation and launched in partnership with ReDSS and the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA), used radio to build dialogue and gather public opinion on issues related to durable solutions. Although the first iteration of CSAP was confined to Mogadishu, it represents a promising approach to increasing accountability to displacement-affected communities. It is currently being replicated in Baidoa and Bossaso by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.



Solutions analyses review: case study on lessons learnt and practices to support this (re)integration programming - Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo, March 2019: this report documents key progress made on durable solutions planning and programming and share lessons learnt. The analyses also include seven case studies structured around four key durable solutions programming principles: 1) area-based planning; 2) sustainable (re)integration; 3) collective outcomes and coordination; and 4) government engagement.



Lessons learned from EU-REINTEG Durable Solutions Consortium (2017-2020), October 2019: The objective of this report is to document learning and promising practices from the EIDACS, JSC and SDSC programmes in the following areas: 1) strategy and approach, including the use of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) indicators; 2) consortium governance structures and coordination within and between consortia; 3) engagement with critical durable solutions stakeholders, particularly government representatives and displacement-affected communities; and 4) learning and project adaptation. Learning identified as part of this process is intended to inform ongoing and future solutions-focused programmes in Somalia and the wider region.



Unprepared for (re)integration: Lessons learned from Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria on Refugee Returns to Urban Areas I December 2019: This study informs programming and policies in relation to refugee returns and, specifically, with regards to their (re)integration within urban areas, with a focus on Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria. While millions of refugees return to poverty, conflict and insecurity in all three settings, a tunnel focus on returns rather than on (re)integration has limited value for long-term planning. Stakeholders, including communities and returnees themselves, have been unprepared for what happens post-return. This publication was commissioned by the Danish Refugee Council in partnership with International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), Durable Solutions Platform (DSP) and Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP), and was researched by Samuel Hall.



Advancing multi-stakeholder engagement to sustain solutions, December 2019: This briefing paper aims to document learning around the application of the CRRF in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and at the regional level, including the role of the IGAD. Using a thematic approach, it highlights learning from new ways of working and identifies opportunities that the application of the CRRF has enabled in three key areas: 1) return and (re)integration; 2) area-based and locally led approaches; and 3) regional and national level engagement around the CRRF process. Cross-cutting issues such as multi-stakeholder approaches, accountability, and adaptability are brought out across all themes.



Oxford Forced Migration Review article on multi-stakeholder approach to address urban displacement in Somalia, to be published in 2020: This article illustrates how actors are collaborating to provide a coordinated and comprehensive response to urban displacement under the leadership of local authorities in Somalia. It highlights some of the challenges and critical success factors, and provides practical recommendations to inform ongoing and upcoming durable solutions programming.

Ongoing thematic case studies

In addition to the above publications, ReDSS is involved in the research and production of ongoing thematic case studies, most notably on land administration, conflict, and inclusion in Somalia. ReDSS is working in partnership with the World Bank and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to develop a case study on land administration and governance challenges related to rapid urbanisation and forced displacement. The case study analyses key land administration and governance challenges, including social inclusion risks that are emerging in rapidly urbanising Somali cities such as Kismayo, Baidoa, and Mogadishu. This case study intends to contribute to the [World Bank's Somalia Urbanization Review](#). Emerging findings will inform programme approaches and adaptation of ongoing durable solutions programmes in Somalia.

Annual aspirations survey to inform durable solutions programming

In 2019, ReDSS developed and piloted a [people-centered survey methodology](#) to better understand intentions and aspirations vis-à-vis durable solutions. The survey also collected evidence related to inter-community dynamics and relations. The four areas of focus of this survey (HLP, livelihoods, assistance, social cohesion, safety and security) have been selected in such a way as to inform the most important dimensions of local integration and adapt durable solutions programming based on a better understanding of displaced aspirations. Between June and September 2019, 658 host communities and 1,352 displaced households were surveyed. In-depth, structured household interviews by phone. The use of 500 households per location serves to ensure a sufficient sample size, despite large potential dropouts over the duration of the full implementation of the project in the ensuing 3 years. The survey will be conducted annually in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and Dollow during the period of 2019 – 2022. Survey data will help inform the design and adaptation of solutions-oriented policies and programming. The survey also aims to provide contextualised evidence-based disaggregated data and information.

Development of a shared research agenda to inform a common narrative

In Ethiopia, ReDSS and its members working in partnership with the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), and with the support from European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), started a process to support the National Coordination Office (NCO) and CRRF stakeholders in developing a common research agenda. The first step was developing an overarching framework for carrying out an extensive mapping of CRRF-related research that links existing and planned work to CRRF policies, and identifies potential gaps to be filled. Based on the mapping that was carried out, a research synthesis paper was then developed that summarises the state of existing knowledge against the agreed framework and identifies key gaps and areas for future focus. This work was guided throughout by a technical steering committee comprised of representatives from the ARRA, the NCO, the EU, UNHCR, the World Bank, DFID, UNICEF, the EU Research and Evidence Facility, the Action Against Hunger (ACF) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

This work has also included the development of a [research database](#) available to government and other key stakeholders to access and utilise the latest research assessments and information related to coordination on the CRRF in Ethiopia. The database is updated regularly as new research and evidence becomes available. ReDSS Ethiopia is also developing partnerships with key policymakers to understand and respond to their requirements in relation to research and convening teams of researchers working on refugee issues in Ethiopia to reduce overlap and encourage greater coordination. Through this process, the ReDSS Ethiopia research team has also brought together an informal group of researchers working on refugee and refugee-related issues to share information, reduce overlap between different studies, and identify opportunities for joint dissemination and advocacy of key findings.

In 2020, ReDSS aims to adapt the same process for implementation in Kenya to improve the coordination, generation, and availability of relevant data and analysis, and to operationalise complementary humanitarian and developmental approaches.

Learning events and workshops to support knowledge sharing and uptake

ReDSS plays an essential role in creating spaces for learning and facilitating exchanges that bring together key stakeholders to support the development of common understanding and a collective approach to durable solutions. In 2019, in partnership with its members and partners, ReDSS brought together **779 participants (531 male and 248 female) from more than 140 organisations** (political, humanitarian, development, academia, private sector, and displacement-affected communities, including both host and displaced communities) to share, reflect, and learn about relevant solutions topics for the region. This is **almost double the number of participants** who attended ReDSS learning events and workshops in 2018. The 2019 events focused on social accountability, self-reliance, durable solutions planning and programming, and area-based approaches (See annex 2 for a cumulative table on all learning events and workshops).

A key highlight in 2019 was the organisation of the first [regional programme learning workshop](#) to discuss emerging trends in durable solutions programming in the Horn of Africa. Drawn from Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia, a **total of 112 participants attended this two-day event** in June. ReDSS supported more than 20 participants from local authorities and civil society organisations from these countries to participate in the workshop and share their experiences.

ReDSS also organised its second annual evidence week in Somalia and Somaliland to discuss and share evidence collected by various stakeholders over the past year on durable solutions and displacement to better understand displacement-related vulnerabilities. **More than 200 participants attended the events** across Mogadishu, Kismayo, Dollow, Baidoa, and Hargeisa. All the events were led by Somali institutions, with more than **69 national**



Somaliland Evidence Week 2019. Credit: World Vision

partners involved, including federal, state and municipal authorities. Based on the success of the second annual evidence week, ReDSS aims to organise similar weeks in Ethiopia and Kenya.

At the end of 2019, ReDSS in partnership with Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) held its [first online webinar](#) on the analysis of durable solutions in places of displacement and return. It was attended by 45 participants from various parts of the world and entailed a valuable exchange that built on the methodological approaches and experiences from implementing durable solutions analysis from Iraq, Sudan, and Somalia. In 2020, ReDSS aims to facilitate more webinars with its members and partners at least twice in a year.

Key steps to support uptake and dissemination during research processes

Ensure the exercise is participatory and collaborative

Include a diverse range of stakeholders: government actors and institutions, UN agencies, donors, civil society actors, NGOs, private sector actors, and academics. A stakeholder mapping should also be conducted at the start of the research process to identify: 1) key actors to engage based on their expertise; and 2) who or what institution the research is designed to influence.

Engage national research institutions and researchers

Support a thorough context analysis. This contributes to strengthening the capacity of local actors to engage in evidence generation in the search for durable solutions for displacement-affected communities.

Conduct operational learning workshops at the field level

Review preliminary findings with key stakeholders at the field level. To support uptake and ensure ownership, it is also important to jointly develop concrete recommendations at these workshops. In 2019, ReDSS organised a total seven operational workshops in Baidoa, Kismayo, and Mogadishu, which were attended by 145 practitioners and policymakers.

Bring back findings to the communities

Ensure accountability to displacement-affected communities. This entails consulting displacement-affected communities throughout the entire research process, start to finish. This helps to build trust between the communities and the researchers. In sensitive environments, lack of trust and mistrust can result in tensions that are damaging in themselves and undermine the research process. In 2019, ReDSS invested in this process through participatory feedback sessions with displacement-affected communities to validate the research findings and ensure their relevance. ReDSS has also translated most of its materials into the relevant local languages to disseminate findings.

Use on online tools (dashboard, website and regional updates)

Use of dashboard: Since its launch in late 2017, the ReDSS online dashboard has had a total of 991 users. This figure is still comparatively low. In 2019, ReDSS conducted a [needs assessment exercise](#) to determine how users perceive and use the dashboard. The aim of this assessment was to improve the usability of the dashboard. Key feedback from the assessment indicates that the low traffic on the dashboard is mainly due to the inconsistent update of information since its launch. Based on this information, ReDSS has made specific improvements to representing the solutions analysis at the criteria level (as opposed to indicator level) and added a split screen element to enable comparison of the indicators across locations. In 2020, ReDSS aims to be more consistent in updating information on the dashboard.

Use of website: The [website](#) acts as an online information hub and resource centre, providing users with up-to-date information, tools, and a depository of studies and research published by ReDSS and other relevant partners. In 2019, the website had more than **21,000-page views with more than 6,000 users**. This is a 30 per cent increase on online traffic as compared to 2018. The most visited pages are: the home page (latest updates); Somalia solutions analysis page; and the bi-monthly updates page. In 2020, ReDSS will continue using more of the website home page and sharing updates on its twitter handle for wider dissemination of information.

Use of bi-monthly updates: ReDSS external mailing list comprises 1,060 subscribers from countries in the region. It also includes other global contacts of donors, governments, UN agencies, NGOs, local actors, private sector actors, academics, and global networks. In 2019, ReDSS sent out [six regional updates](#). Country-specific updates for Ethiopia and Somalia were also sent out on a monthly basis. ReDSS has seen an increase in the click rate for the updates when they focus on a specific issue, as compared to the regional bi-monthly updates. This is the same for the country specific updates. In 2020, ReDSS intends to increase its subscribers by sending updates that are more specific and thematic. This will also serve to more widely disseminate information and evidence.

KEY LEARNING TO INFORM 2020 FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

More investment in uptake and dissemination

Written publications have limited effect unless they are accompanied by additional methods to support the use and uptake of evidence to adapt programming and policies so they are more effective. Learning from experiences in 2019, there is more uptake of ReDSS research products when they are accompanied by summary infographics, factsheets power point slides, one pagers, and briefing papers. It is clear that more accessible publications have greater impact than those that are too dense or overly reliant on jargon.

In 2019, a total of **30 operational durable solutions partners, authorities, and research institutions** are using evidence generated by ReDSS to inform their programming and learning (see annex 1 for more detailed examples).

To increase this number, ReDSS aims to invest more resources in supporting the use and uptake of evidence and learning in 2020 by:

- Having a clear dissemination and uptake plan for each study conducted highlighting key findings, primary target audience and opportunities to disseminate the study. The plan will also include key qualitative indicators that will ensure that ReDSS can monitor uptake
- Using more visual infographics, factsheets, and briefing papers to present complex information in an easily digestible and readily accessible manner
- Translating all relevant materials into local languages to ensure that local communities and authorities can access the information

Greater coordination of research and knowledge management via the development of a shared research agenda to inform a common narrative

One of the key challenges arising in 2019 was the lack of coordination between the many different donors, partners, and researchers. Many similar research studies are regularly commissioned without an overall understanding and consolidation of the existing available evidence. Most studies conducted in the region are also organisation centric, with a high degree of duplication and contradiction. This leads to a lack of common analysis. It also undermines efforts oriented to the development of a common narrative.

In 2020, based on learning from experiences in Ethiopia related to developing a common research agenda, ReDSS aims to replicate and adapt the same process in Somalia and in Kenya.

More investment in joint analyses of existing and new data to help build common understanding

The ReDSS solutions analysis process—an annual multi-stakeholder analysis done jointly with local authorities—is a good example how such a process can inform common understanding. It can also inform resource allocation, policymaking, and practice. The development of participatory multi-stakeholder analyses has been instrumental in informing a common understanding and agreeing on where and how to invest. The collaboration on the generation and use of evidence is a critical success factor to inform a common narrative and subsequently a coherent planning approach with authorities.

In 2020, ReDSS will continue to invest more time and resources in conducting joint analyses and studies (complementing what already exists) to identify remaining gaps, progress and where each actor could prioritise investments.

Focus on monitoring and assessing the use and impact of ReDSS learning tools

At the end of 2019, ReDSS sent out an [evaluation survey](#) to its members and external partners to evaluate the use and impact of its research and learning tools. In total, 40 participants (representatives from 24 INGOs, 6 national NGOs, 2 UN agencies, 1 donor, 3 governments, 5 private sector, and 1 Red Cross) completed the evaluation form. From the evaluation, learning events are the highest rated tool, with 85% of participants indicating they are aware of the events and workshops. The website is the second highest rated tool, with 80% of participants indicating they had used it.

Additionally, in 2019, ReDSS developed a comprehensive evaluation form which is filled out after each learning event and workshop. This ensures that ReDSS is able to adapt its approach consistently.

In 2020, ReDSS aims to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation system by developing relevant tools and methodologies (online surveys, practical templates for ReDSS partners and stakeholders, key informant interviews, evaluation forms embedded onto online platforms like the website and dashboard) to better document and monitor the use and impact of ReDSS research and learning tools.

PILLAR 2. PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Momentum at the political and policy levels on durable solutions has been matched by an expansion of the range and scale of durable solutions programming in the region. A key highlight for ReDSS in 2019 has been that it has clearly defined the scope and value add of its programme support role. Given the positive experiences in Ethiopia and Somalia, a learning partner such as ReDSS in a consortium proves to be an effective and efficient way to generate evidence to support programme learning and adaptation, while informing and influencing policy processes for lasting solutions for displacement affected communities.

In 2019, key outcomes and outputs under this pillar focussed on how ReDSS has supported programme learning and adaptation, monitored progress towards durable solutions processes, supported more meaningful engagement with local authorities and displacement affected communities, captured and strengthened real-time collaborative learning on durable solutions across different sectors, and lastly developed relevant tools to inform better solutions programming.

Emerging good practices and learning on durable solutions planning and programming

Nine distinct but closely related insights about good practices and learning emerged in 2019, as follows:

Consortia programming on durable solutions and new ways of working together

In Somalia, ReDSS is the learning partner for three EU-REINTEG consortia, the Danwadaag Solutions Consortia, and the Durable Solutions Programme (DSP). During 2019, ReDSS played a key role in supporting harmonised approaches and programming, and enabled cross-learning among these five different consortia. All of these consortia have adopted common programming principles. They have also agreed to work towards and measure collective outcomes in line with the ten IASC outcome level indicators that are adapted from the ReDSS / IASC Durable Solutions Framework. This is an innovative approach to monitoring collective outcomes and progress towards sustainable integration. However, the IASC indicators alone are not sufficient to capture and monitor progress towards durable solutions processes. ReDSS also supported the development of Durable Solutions

Consortia Guidelines for Government Engagement. These guidelines commit partners to sustainably support government leadership and capacity to implement the durable solutions agenda in Somalia.

Supporting area-based approaches for planning and coordination

In Ethiopia and Somalia, ReDSS has supported the development of multi-stakeholder government-led coordination structures at the regional state level in Jijiga, and at local municipality levels in Baidoa, Mogadishu and Kismayo respectively. During 2019, this support involved:

- Contributing to local and regional state-level workshops on strengthening area-based monitoring and data collection
- Developing area-based capacity assessment plans for local government: in June 2019 for example, ReDSS supported UNHCR in organising a workshop in Jijiga to assess local and regional government authority capacities to promote Sustainable Development Goal based local development in refugee-hosting areas. Following the workshop, UNHCR and ReDSS staff have been working with local and regional government authorities to develop area-based capacity development plans to allow for stronger Sustainable Development Goal indicator tracking
- Working with government authorities and UNHCR in Ethiopia to develop a comprehensive mapping (5W mapping) of all actors engaged in displacement responses in the respective areas
- Starting a process to develop area-based training tools designed to examine government engagement, community engagement, and social cohesion, which will be first piloted in Jijiga in early 2020. With a functioning government-led coordination mechanism in place, these tools will aim to build the capacities of these actors to more effectively lead on durable solutions processes in Somali Regional State
- Providing consistent support to local authorities through the continued secondment of a knowledge management coordinator (based in Jijiga since 2018), including the use of relevant training, coaching, and mentoring tools based on their capacity development needs. This approach has been good way to support authorities' capacity and leadership role related to coordination, sharing of information and convening stakeholders
- Strengthening the capacity of local governments in Ethiopia and Somalia through joint planning and moving beyond information sharing towards joint analysis to inform area-based programming and to sustain locally owned solutions.

Adoption of a common vision and common durable solutions programming principles in Somalia

In 2016-2017, ReDSS and its partners first formulated a set of [common programming principles](#) to inform programme design and implementation. In 2018, [these principles were revised jointly](#) with NGOs and UN agencies, coordinated by ReDSS and the Somalia UN Resident Coordinator's Office with the objective to harmonise them. These principles draw on partner experiences and learning in relation to the implementation of durable solutions projects. Over time, these principles have proven to be a good tool for increased coherence in the design of projects and programmes. In 2019, the principles were endorsed and adopted by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). In 2020, ReDSS and the UN Resident Coordinator will document progress towards operationalisation of these principles by the FGS.

Documentation of lessons learnt by partners to inform programme learning in Somalia

ReDSS has been supporting the knowledge management and learning component for three [EU RE-INTEG NGO consortia - Enhancing Integration of Displacement Affected Communities in Somalia \(EIDACS\), Jubaland Solutions Consortium \(JSC\), and Somaliland Durable Solutions Consortium \(SDSC\)](#) while coordinating with UN-Habitat and the Durable Solutions for IDPs and Returnees in Somalia (DSIRS) consortia. In 2019, ReDSS undertook a review to document learning and promising practices from the EIDACS, JSC, and SDSC programmes in the following areas: 1) strategy and approach, including use of the IASC indicators; 2) consortium governance structures and coordination within and between consortia members; 3) engagement with critical durable solutions stakeholders, particularly government representatives and displacement-affected communities; and 4) learning and project adaptation. Key lessons learnt and promising practices were identified through a desk review of key programme documentation and relevant external documents. Twenty key informant interviews also contributed valuable insights to this review process. Interviews were held with programme stakeholders, including EU RE-INTEG implementing and learning partners, the EU, representatives of government, and partners from other durable



solutions consortia. Learning identified as part of this process is intended to inform ongoing and future solutions-focused programmes in Somalia and the wider region. In 2020, ReDSS aims to conduct a similar process for the Danwadaag Solutions Consortium.

In partnership with the Danwadaag Solutions Consortium and the municipality of Baidoa, ReDSS developed an article documenting the multi-stakeholder approach to addressing urban displacement in Somalia. This article illustrates how actors in Somalia are collaborating to provide a coordinated comprehensive response to urban displacement under the leadership of local authorities. It highlights some of the challenges and critical success factors, and provides practical recommendations to inform ongoing and future durable solutions programming. The article will be published in the Oxford Forced Migration Review in 2020.

Supporting participatory and inclusive processes that ensure the meaningful engagement of displacement affected communities

Development of durable solutions strategies at the municipal level based on community action plans (CAPs): Through the Danwadaag Solutions Consortium in Somalia, ReDSS is supporting the Kismayo and Baidoa municipalities to consolidate the community action plans (developed by the IOM MIDNIMO project, among others) into integrated district-level plans. This process aims to ensure an inclusive planning approach based on needs identified directly by displaced and host communities. CAP processes are based on thorough context and conflict analyses, and involve multiple stakeholders. They aim to create common understanding of the context to jointly address those issues that the CAPs identify.

Art and culture to support inclusion: Body mapping is a creative tool that brings visual artistic expression together with lived experience. It involves painting a life-size representation of one's body onto a large surface then using vibrant colors, pictures, symbols, and words to represent one's lived experiences and showing the path taken through life. In partnership with an external consultant, ReDSS conducted two body mapping exercises in Baidoa and Mogadishu. Key discussions with communities focused on issues of belonging, access to information and services, security, employment, and safety. ReDSS will share an outcome report of this exercise with its solutions partners to inform their own programming. To ensure accountability, ReDSS will also conduct a series of feedback sessions with the participating communities to collectively inform next steps in 2020.

Investing in adaptive management

Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, getting feedback, and crucially, making adaptations and course corrections, as necessary. Effective adaptive management requires a programme to be able to learn, reflect, decide, and then act. ReDSS work is based on an approach that takes the complexity of durable solutions processes as its

starting point. This means that the ReDSS adaptive management approach begins from a position of uncertainty about which outputs are the right ones for getting to outcome-level change, which requires an iterative process of testing and learning. Throughout the year, ReDSS supported its partners consistently to adapt their programme activities based on emerging evidence and analysis.

A key example from 2019 includes that adaptation of the Danwadaag solutions programme based on learning from early solutions report, combined with lessons from the 2016–2017 drought response: the Danwadaag Solutions Consortium included a much stronger component on early solutions planning in their 2019 programming. This lays the foundation for longer-term solutions, and places a greater focus on addressing rural–urban dynamics in collaboration with the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCS) Consortium. The early solutions approach that the Danwadaag Solutions Consortium uses is focused on areas already affected by high levels of displacement and that will inevitably receive more displaced households, while continuing to address longer-term durable solutions needs. In addition, the Danwadaag partners have taken specific steps to target assistance according to Integrated Phase Classifications and to combine data and analysis with information on the impact of displacement, social exclusion, and historical patterns of disempowerment. The primary objective is twofold: 1) to support absorption capacity; and 2) to support urban preparedness, as the majority of displaced households move to urban centres.

Providing solutions expertise to ReDSS members and partners during the development of solutions-oriented programming

In Kenya, ReDSS submitted a two-page contribution for the DFID Kenya integrated refugee and host community programme (PAMOJA) and facilitated a workshop with its members to inform collective ways of working based on evidence and lessons learnt from Somalia and Ethiopia. This two-page contribution was used by ReDSS members to inform discussions and recommendations at the DFID Early Market Engagement workshop in July 2019. ReDSS aims to lead the development of a common learning and policy agenda under PAMOJA through an inclusive participatory process to generate and use evidence to support refugee self-reliance and integrated programming for host and displaced communities alike.

ReDSS also provided technical support to the DRC and the NRC on the EUTF project proposal. ReDSS was selected as the learning partner for the NRC/DRC consortium. Based on learning from Somalia and Ethiopia, ReDSS emphasised the need to put learning and adaptive programming at the centre of the programme. This programme is scheduled to begin in 2020.

KEY LEARNING TO INFORM 2020 FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

Measure collective progress towards sustainable (re)integration

There is a lack of evidence and a lack of consensus among actors on how to measure progress related to durable solutions processes. In particular, different actors still use different tools. There are currently a number of initiatives in Somalia being piloted that could provide further useful learning. For example, the Danwadaag Solutions Consortium in Somalia is working towards a local (re)integration index (LoRI) that builds on the eight IASC indicators. This approach places strong emphasis on social cohesion. The World Bank is also looking at how to better measure changes as part of its broader [poverty assessment for Somalia](#). Despite these efforts, programme level conversations around measurement and indicators still need to be linked up to national development plans. Similarly, it would be useful for (re)integration progress to be monitored and measured across regional plans. There is also some movement in this direction. For example, the Somali authorities now include IASC criteria and indicators in National Development Plan 9 and in the pledges they presented for the GRF. The Somali government is also developing a Durable Solutions Strategy Performance Matrix that incorporates the IASC Framework to measure the achievement of durable solutions.

In 2020, it will remain critical for ReDSS to continue creating the space for key stakeholders to come together to discuss and work on common standards to measure and monitor progress towards sustainable (re)integration. This should be done both at the programmatic level and across regional and national levels, including links to wider discussions around the poverty agenda and the SDGs.

Promote common understanding of social cohesion and conflict-sensitive programming

A key challenge that has arisen in most countries in East Africa and the Horn of Africa is how to foster social cohesion to mitigate rising social tensions between displaced and host communities. Concepts such as social cohesion should be framed clearly to establish common understanding to inform appropriate programming approaches. The complex conflict patterns in the fragile environments in which ReDSS operates require in-depth local knowledge

and continual analysis to ensure that interventions do not unintentionally feed conflict dynamics. Power relations, alliances, divisions, and tensions at the local level, as well as clan or ethnic affiliations and governance systems, need to be well understood and considered in support of programme design.

In 2020, ReDSS aims to collaborate with Danish Demining Group to facilitate a technical training for practitioners to better adapt to the lens of social cohesion in their programmes.

Focus on housing and integrated settlement approaches in Somalia

Based on key learning from the Somalia solutions analysis update in 2019, ReDSS aims to continue working with its partners to shift from the prevailing tendency to implement humanitarian shelter interventions towards more sustainable housing approaches. The centrality of HLP assistance, as opposed to the shelter approach, is increasingly recognised as key for sustainable (re)integration. Recently, there have been more policy and programming advances in this area. One notable pilot project is the [joint UN-HABITAT / NRC](#) housing project that works with the BRA in support of 80 IDP households in Mogadishu. Better understanding this pilot project, especially its constraints, limitations, and achievements, would allow for adaptation and scalability, both in terms of location and the inclusion of refugee-returnees.

In early 2020, ReDSS will be working in partnership with key donors and partners to organise a workshop around housing and integrated settlement approaches in Somalia. This workshop aims to collate the current programming practices around housing approaches, issuance of land by authorities, and tenure security models to inform both ongoing solution programmes and future donor investments.

Focus on the IDP agenda in Ethiopia

A series of conflicts (fuelled in large part through ethnic divisions) has led to sharp increases in the number of IDPs, rising from more than 3 million countrywide prior to the government engaging in large scale returns of IDPs late in 2019, which reduced the official figure to 1.6 million IDPs across the country⁵.

In 2020, ReDSS aims to strengthen its strategic engagement with its members and other partners to develop an IDP strategy to define entry points for programming and policy influence. This is a key opportunity for ReDSS and its members in this region to put internal displacement high on the solutions agenda. With an increased focus on durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia, ReDSS will also continue to engage closely with member organisations, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and key donors to facilitate discussions centered on working towards a common durable solutions agenda.

Address early solutions and long-term urban planning simultaneously

There is a constant struggle to work on long-term goals and urban planning to address displacement as a development challenge, while at the same time answering immediate large-scale humanitarian needs. Investing in early solutions and urban preparedness responses by humanitarian and development actors is key to supporting municipalities to be able to tackle both at the same time. For instance, while humanitarian actors focus on rapid response to support the capacity of cities to absorb new residents, development actors complement those efforts by bringing in urban planning experts at the outset. The deployment of urban planners, along with socio-economic and governance experts, from the outset is a critical but often overlooked resource.

In 2020, it will remain key for ReDSS to support durable solutions programming in urban contexts and to work in complementarity with resilience programming in rural areas. This dual focus will support both local integration in urban areas and the voluntary, safe, and dignified return and reintegration of IDPs and refugee-returnees in rural areas, as the security situation allows.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

There is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian and development programme staff, as well as of policy and decision makers across all levels. Building on the capacity development work that started in 2017, ReDSS has invested in long-term capacity development by providing more support on peer learning and mentorship as opposed to one-off trainings.

⁵ Double Standards (2019). Ethiopia Must Solve its Internal Displacement Crisis: <https://theglobepost.com/2020/01/09/ethiopia-idps-refugees/> (references IDP population reaching 3 million, and provides an analysis behind some of the drivers of internal displacement). See also IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix: <https://displacement.iom.int/ethiopia> (according to DTM, latest population figures for IDPs in Ethiopia stands at 1,606,086, as of October 2019)

In 2019, key outputs and outcomes under this pillar focused on how ReDSS has strengthened the technical capacities of members and key durable solutions actors, built strategic partnerships with local actors through a long-term capacity development approach, facilitated regional, cross sector learning on key solutions topics and tailoring innovative, and developed varied capacity development and learning techniques that are tailored to the needs of its different stakeholders (peer learning and mentorship support). ReDSS also monitored how it supported local authorities in the region to effectively lead and coordinate durable solutions programming.

Durable solutions trainings

In 2019, ReDSS members and partners collectively delivered **6 technical trainings for practitioners and policymakers in Kenya, Somalia, Somaliland, and Ethiopia** with **236 participants (188 men and 48 women)**. Of this total, **84 national actors** were trained (local authorities, local NGOs, universities). This doubled the overall number of local actors that were trained in 2018.

Country	Training
Ethiopia	<p>ReDSS technical training on durable solutions for practitioners and policymakers in Jijiga, April 2019 (attended by 48 participants, 35 male and 13 female): focused on area-based planning and programming in line with the CRRF.</p> <p>UNHCR / ReDSS capacity assessment workshop for local and regional government authorities in Somali Regional State, June 2019 (attended by 45 participants, 34 male and 5 female): aimed to assess capacities and support local and regional authorities in developing area-based capacity development plans to allow for stronger SDG indicator tracking in refugee-hosting areas.</p> <p>ReDSS / UNHCR CRRF frontline engagement workshop for the Awbare CRRF Coordination Group, August 2019 (attended by 32 participants, 32 male): ReDSS contributed to a workshop co-hosted by UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia for 32 representatives of the Awbare Woreda CRRF Coordination Group. Training included an introduction to CRRF / NCRRS key concepts and an introduction to ReDSS and durable solutions definitions, concepts, and principles.</p>
Somalia	<p>Mogadishu durable solutions technical training for Federal Government of Somalia line ministries, May 2019 (attended by 38 participants, 32 male and 6 female): supported line ministries to develop their specific sectoral action plans contributing towards the Somalia government national roadmaps and in line with the durable solutions principles.</p>
Somaliland	<p>Hargeisa durable solutions technical training for practitioners and policymakers, August 2019 (attended by 30 participants, 22 male and 8 female): supported increased knowledge of authorities on durable solutions in the revision of the Hargeisa National Development plan II under revision.</p>
Kenya	<p>Garissa durable solutions training for practitioners and policymakers, October 2019 (attended by 37 participants, including 12 county ministry directors- 24 male and 16 female): provided participants with required technical skills and knowledge on key aspects of durable solutions such as socio-economic inclusion, area-based planning, and coordination.</p>
Afghanistan	<p>Technical durable solutions technical training for practitioners, February 2019 (attended by 20 participants, 12 male and 8 female): ReDSS adapted the regional training tools and contextualised them to support the Afghanistan Durable Solutions Platform in developing a durable solutions strategy.</p>

Building strategic partnerships with local civil society organisations through a long-term capacity development approach

In June 2019, ReDSS held a workshop with civil society organisations (20 participants, 12 female and 8 male) from Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Somaliland to define their priorities and develop an engagement strategy. Participants were able to critically reflect on ways of working with ReDSS in 2019 in order to inform ReDSS strategic planning and locally led strategy. ReDSS was also able to support increased civil society representation at key regional forums such as IGAD processes.

In September 2019, ReDSS partnered with the [Institute for Development Studies](#) to convene a five-day workshop to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations how to utilise evidence and policy for social change on displacement in the Horn of Africa. A total of **29 participants** (16 male and 13 female) from Somaliland, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia attended the training. The [training](#) focused on effective strategies for policy framing, and measuring policy influence and impact. Participants used a seven-step theory of change approach that describes a process for developing strategies to engage with policy and practice through the use of evidence.

Peer learning between countries and various local authorities and durable solutions consortia

ReDSS has mainly facilitated peer learning through joint learning events and workshops with indicators that monitor uptake and adaptation in support of a collective learning agenda. In 2019 in Somalia, ReDSS supported:

- **Peer learning between consortia:** ReDSS partnered with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office to convene a workshop bringing together durable solutions consortia and UN agencies to discuss area-based collective outcomes.
- **Peer learning between municipalities:** ReDSS supported the UN Resident Coordinator's Office to convene a workshop with the municipalities of Baidoa and Mogadishu. This workshop enabled an exchange of experiences and learning on social accountability based on key findings and learning from the 2019 CSAP report. Partners made a commitment to ensure their support for more exchange forums between municipalities and on a regular basis.

KEY LEARNING TO INFORM 2020 FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

Implement ReDSS locally led strategy informed by political smart ways of working

Displacement is a political issue so political economy understanding and locally led approaches need to inform durable solutions processes the region. 'Locally led' is a way of underlining the importance of the tacit knowledge, relationships, capacities and motives that can be brought to bear on a problem by actors who are local in the sense of not being mere implementers of a donor agenda.⁶ Political understanding, political skills and locally led approaches need to be deployed alongside a wide range of more traditional expertise to find ways forward that are both technically sound and politically feasible. Politically smart approaches are not a substitute for a social science understanding but they are crucial to making good judgements about the pace and kind of progress on durable solutions that it is realistic to expect in each region and to making good choices about what to work on, whom to work with, how to set about it and how to assess progress.

At the end of 2019, ReDSS developed a locally led strategy that defines how it engages with local actors (authorities, civil society organisations, academia, and DAC). This engagement will be monitored through qualitative indicators. In terms of approaches, ReDSS will place greater focus on political economy analyses in 2020 to identify risks, mitigation and how to navigate the political environment as increasingly governments and local actors need to take more leadership and coordination role.

Find the right balance to effectively engage with government actors

A key challenge that arose in 2019, particularly in Somalia, is the need for durable solutions consortia to find the right balance of engaging with government actors at different levels, and between different entities and ministries. Working more effectively with the government means going beyond capacity development and secondments to understanding partnership building and institution building. According to the 2019 ReDSS solutions analysis, the main request from different government actors is for more mentorship and peer support, and technical assistance on planning, budgets, and monitoring.

⁶ See ODI (2014). Politically smart, locally led development <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9204.pdf>

In 2020, ReDSS intends to continue working with its partners in Somalia to ensure that they develop and implement realistic, localised, well defined, and collectively endorsed capacity development plans for government institutions and individuals spanning the next 3 years at minimum. The main objective is to go beyond means going beyond capacity development and secondments to understanding partnership building and institution building.

Develop advanced thematic training modules

ReDSS developed its first training package in 2016. The tools have been useful in providing actors with a basic understanding of durable solutions processes. The next steps involve going beyond the basic training module to focus on more advanced thematic areas. In 2019, a key request from members and partners has been for ReDSS to develop advanced thematic modules on area-based programming, self-reliance, early solutions approaches, social cohesion, and conflict sensitivity.

In 2020, the first phase of this process—the development of the area-based planning and programming module—will be piloted in Jijiga. The tools will then be adapted to other contexts in the region.

Strengthen participation based on age, gender, and diversity lens

In 2019, a total of **296 women** attended ReDSS trainings, learning events and workshops as compared to 171 in 2018. This is **almost double the number of female participants**.

In 2020, in line with the core programming principles, ReDSS will continue to strengthen its focus on the participation of women, youth, and other diverse groups, particularly in field locations.

Develop online tutorials on selected themes

In 2017, ReDSS developed its [first online animation](#) on displacement and durable solutions in the East Africa and Horn of Africa. A wide range of actors globally and across the region have referenced the tool (1,806 views online), which supplements the full two-day training programme on durable solutions. ReDSS has also received numerous requests to develop more online animations on several themes.

In the first quarter of 2020, a second online animation—on HLP in Somalia—will be finalised and launched. ReDSS partnered with the NRC and other actors to develop this online animation.

Strengthen post-assessment training and evaluation to demonstrate the impact of ReDSS trainings

In 2019, ReDSS conducted its first annual post-training evaluation. This was mainly done through a 30-minute skype call with 12 participants from Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia who had already participated in the training 6 months to a year before.

In 2020, key feedback from this exercise will inform the ReDSS capacity development strategy. ReDSS will continue to focus on identifying the capacity needs of different actors by consistently conducting quarterly post-training evaluations to measure impact of the training on the individual. This will help ReDSS to tailor its capacity development efforts more closely to partner needs.

PILLAR 3. POLICY DIALOGUE

In 2019, ReDSS actively engaged with governments, IGAD, UNHCR and the World Bank amongst other key stakeholders to support open dialogue around local integration and transitional solutions, moving away from a focus solely on return processes. ReDSS engaged through evidence, using findings from its studies and analyses to improve solutions-oriented policies at national and regional policy levels. This has built on the work to date and in support of commitments made and endorsed by ReDSS members in the 2016 Agenda4Humanity. To support members and partners engagement and understanding on solutions policy in 2019, ReDSS developed one briefing paper documenting the application of the CRRF in the region, six policy briefs and four key messaging documents ahead of the GRF. In addition, ReDSS held regular online calls with policy working group to share key developments in the region including the political context related to solutions. Additionally, ReDSS GRF pledges which will be highlighted in this section have set the scene for a more comprehensive approach and common vision in relation to how ReDSS and its members can work together for collective outcomes in relation to unlocking durable solutions in 2020 and beyond.

In 2019, key outputs and outcomes under this pillar focused on how ReDSS has contributed to policy processes at global, regional and national levels, developed policy briefs and one pagers based on evidence, and supported the design, development, and, monitoring and evaluation of solutions strategies and policies in the region.

Policy dialogue and influence at the global level

Global Compact on Refugees and Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

[The Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#) signed in December 2018 represents a key opportunity to transform the way in which the international community responds to refugee situations. It sets out to: 1) ease the pressure 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 GCR provides a global framework for more equitable and predictable sharing of responsibility in recognition that solutions to refugee situations require international cooperation. [The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework \(CRRF\)](#) is incorporated into the GCR and has so far been rolled out in 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. The first [Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\)](#), held in December 2019, provided a critical opportunity to build further momentum towards the objectives of the GCR, take stock of achievements and progress to date, and share good practice and innovative learning from country specific and regional contexts.

ReDSS engagement in Global Refugee Forum

In mid-2019, ReDSS brought on [additional capacity](#) seconded by NORCAP to play a convening role in support of collective preparations for the GRF in the East Africa region. ReDSS actively coordinated with the UNHCR regional office and IGAD to support this work. Key achievements related to ReDSS contributions to GRF preparations include:

- Strengthened ReDSS engagement and partnership with the UNHCR regional office and the IGAD Secretariat in relation to policy dialogue about comprehensive regional refugee responses
- Reinvigorated and renewed ReDSS engagement with members and partners on CRRF policy through the creation of the GRF working group and regular monthly meetings at regional and country levels in relation to CRRF stocktaking, learning, and good practice around CRRF approaches (programming)
- Developed key messaging, in close cooperation with ReDSS members, for Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya to support shared and coherent communications during engagement in regular CRRF coordination fora and at GRF multi-stakeholder consultations
- Strengthened the engagement of ReDSS country teams with key refugee agencies, line ministries, and local authorities in relation to CRRF, GCR and GRF policy dialogue and durable solutions programming, better positioning ReDSS as a knowledge management and learning partner
- Developed a [GRF briefing paper](#) to document learning and best practice around the implementation of the CRRF in East Africa and the Horn of Africa. The briefing paper takes a thematic approach, highlighting new opportunities and new ways of working that the application of the CRRF enables in three key areas: 1) return and reintegration; 2) area-based and locally led approaches; and 3) regional and national level engagement around CRRF processes. Specific examples from Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and the regional level (through IGAD) illustrate good practice in concrete ways. The overall aim of the briefing paper is to feature learning examples from the CRRF, highlight key messages, and showcase good practice. The briefing paper also discusses gaps and opportunities for further development and advocacy that can be used by ReDSS members and partners at the GRF. These also feed into creating a common agenda.
- Finalised and presented [a joint pledge at the 2019 GRF](#), following consultations in the GRF working group, focused on advancing multi-stakeholder engagement to sustain solutions locally, nationally, and regionally in East Africa and the Horn of Africa in the following areas: 1) area-based planning and locally led approaches; 2) measuring collective outcomes; 3) rethinking displacement financing; and 4) regional and cross-border engagement.

Despite significant progress, three primary challenges remain. First, GRF consultations in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya revealed that understanding of the CRRF, GCR, and GRF is often restricted to the national government level, while local authorities are insufficiently versed in the objectives of these approaches, government commitments, and the opportunities created by the CRRF and the GCR. Second, due to time constraints, ReDSS was unable to develop a comprehensive localisation strategy to ensure the engagement of local civil society on CRRF policy dialogue and to support these actors to contribute to GRF preparations. This limited ownership of policy dialogue to international and national NGOs. Third, outside the IGAD and country specific coordination structures set up

under CRRF, there were few regular or structured conversations between humanitarian and development partners (i.e. UNHCR, donors, and humanitarian and development actors). Instead, engagement was limited to specific topics and was often ad hoc in nature.

Policy dialogue and influence at regional levels

At the regional level in 2019, IGAD convened a regional ministerial meeting in March 2019 that resulted in the signing of the [Kampala Declaration on jobs, livelihoods, and self-reliance for refugees, returnees, and host communities](#). IGAD member state participants also developed an action plan to operationalise the agreed commitments of the declaration. A core technical group composed of ReDSS, the EU, UNHCR, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Bank helped organise the meeting. The Kampala meeting was a result of the [2017 Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees](#).

The Nairobi Process was initially designed to address the lack of solutions available to address the displacement of Somalis but transformed into a discussion of solutions for all refugees in the region, with follow up annual stocktaking meetings providing opportunities to discuss progress (the latest of which was held in September 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). The Kampala Declaration is a concrete expression of the contemporary direction of refugee management and of increasingly progressive policymaking to address gaps and programmatic shortfalls and poor outcomes. Two points addressed in the Declaration — moving beyond refugee camps and allowing refugees' access to work — create the potential to be truly transformative in the IGAD region and to make the region a model for the rest of the world⁷.

In November 2019, IGAD also partnered with ReDSS, the World Bank, and UNHCR to organise a regional durable solutions workshop in Uganda. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Promote common understanding on durable solutions processes among policymakers, and humanitarian and development actors in the IGAD region
- Raise awareness of ongoing durable solutions initiatives among policymakers and practitioners in the respective member states
- Identify gaps and opportunities to create a common agenda and vision on durable solutions in the IGAD region

The collective recommendations from the workshop informed a follow up workshop in late November for IGAD member states in Djibouti, where they prepared their pledges ahead of the GRF. Through continuous engagement, IGAD has created opportunities for cross-learning, sharing of good practice, and stocktaking in relation to the implementation of regional and national CRRF commitments. Additionally, the role of IGAD has been formalised through the announcement of the GCR [regional support platform](#) in December 2019 at the GRF.

Two additional ReDSS-IGAD key processes also bear mention.

- **IGAD protocol on the free movement of persons in the Horn of Africa region:** ReDSS co-facilitated a session with Professor Walter Kaelin on how to address displacement in the IGAD region in relation to the protocol. The objective of this meeting was to support a conducive policy environment that allows for freedom of movement and work permits, which are key building blocks for achievement of durable solutions in the region. The protocol is currently being reviewed by IGAD member states.
- **IGAD / GP20 12th regional exchange on experiences in supporting resilience and durable solutions to internal displacement in the IGAD region:** ReDSS also facilitated a session with JIPS and Internal Displacement and Monitoring Centre (IDMC) on the use of data to inform better solutions programming and policies. The objective of this session was to take stock, document operational practices, and draw out lessons learnt on supporting resilience and durable solutions to internal displacement in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda. IGAD member states and technical practitioners agreed on the need to support national data statistical systems and to ensure displacement-related data addresses the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

⁷ Palgrave & Hopkins (2019). The IGAD Kampala Declaration on jobs, livelihoods, and self-reliance: from declaration to reality <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-019-0370-2>

Policy dialogue and influence at national levels

In Somalia, there were four key policy-related activities in 2019:

- **Somalia National Development Plan 9 process:** ReDSS provided technical input to MoPIED and Somali authorities have now included IASC criteria and indicators in the plan. The Somali authorities are also developing a Durable Solutions Strategy Performance Matrix that incorporates the IASC framework to measure the achievement of durable solutions.
- **Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF) 2019:** ReDSS supported donors, specifically DFID and Danida, prior to the SPF by preparing key messages and providing technical input for their presentations. ReDSS focused on the continued need to invest in capacities to sustain solutions locally and nationally through whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches. A key outcome of ReDSS technical support is the inclusion of a durable solutions component in the Somalia Mutual Accountability Framework.
- **Government-led coordination on durable solutions processes at federal, federal member state, and district levels:** ReDSS has been a consistent participant in the resilience pillar working group and, in the migration, displacement, and durable solutions (MDSS) sub-group. During 2019, ReDSS participated in five meetings convened in Mogadishu. A key outcome for ReDSS is ongoing work with the co-chairs of the MDDS sub-group (the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) and UNHCR) and providing technical input to MDSS 2019 annual work plan. At the federal member state level, municipal authorities in Baidoa and Kismayo have received technical support from the Danwadaag Solutions Consortia to establish durable solutions technical working groups (local solutions hubs).
- **National engagement in the GRF:** ReDSS was invited to be part of the National Task Force led by NCRI and IDPs and UNHCR to prepare for the GRF. ReDSS supported Somali authorities to develop four key pledges (relocation and reintegration; job creation; seeking permanent solutions for the recurring flood and drought cycle; and strengthening the provision of durable solutions to all displaced populations), which were presented at the GRF by the Somalia authorities. ReDSS also developed [key messaging documents](#) related to GRF preparations and the formulation of the Somali pledges.

In Ethiopia, there were three key policy-related activities in 2019:

- **National engagement in the GRF:** ReDSS Ethiopia played an active role in the development of policies and pledges related to the Forum, given the central role Ethiopia has as one of the five global co-conveners. ReDSS contributed to a series of multi-stakeholder pledge consultations co-hosted by the Government of Ethiopia and UNHCR, and actively ensured the inclusion of its member organisations in these discussions. As in Somalia, ReDSS developed [key messaging documents](#) related to GRF preparations and pledge development in Ethiopia, which were shared with a range of stakeholders to inform their involvement in the consultations. In cooperation with DFID, ARRA, UNHCR, and UNICEF, ReDSS also contributed to a GRF Spotlight Session on building refugee self-reliance and facilitating refugee integration in Ethiopia.
- **National engagement in the CRRF:** ReDSS continued to work closely with key local actors leading the coordination of the CRRF in Somali Regional State. In particular, ReDSS closely supported the regional state Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, ARRA, and UNHCR as the co-chairs of the CRRF coordination groups at the regional state level in Jijiga, and at local levels in Awbare woreda, Kebrebeyah woreda, and Kebrebeyah city administration. While national level CRRF coordination in Ethiopia was a challenge in 2019, these multi-stakeholder government-led coordination groups met regularly throughout the year.
- **Strengthening policy reach, access, and impact of ReDSS members in Ethiopia:** The ReDSS Ethiopia country unit is still relatively new, so significant time and effort was invested in relationship building with key stakeholders, including government actors, UN agencies, donors, ReDSS members, researchers, and other actors. This has resulted in ReDSS being actively sought out as an expert on displacement and durable solutions for discussions and debates. During the course of 2019, the ReDSS Ethiopia team provided briefings to a range of different actors, including the Ethiopia CRRF donor sub-group, the German embassy, the Swiss Development Cooperation, the Danish embassy, and DFID. The team contributed to policy events and workshops hosted by ReDSS members and partners, such as the DRC, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Danida, UNHCR, and the Government of Ethiopia, and provided key technical inputs to the development of durable solutions strategies and concept notes for the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and the IOM.

In Kenya, there were three key policy-related activities in 2019:

- **Discussions on the closure of Daadab camp:** ReDSS actively worked in partnership with the Kenya donor group, the UNHCR Special Envoy for Refugees in Africa, the World Bank, UNHCR, and other interested agencies and coordination fora (the cross-border working group, country of origin working group, etc.) to inform discussions on Somalia returns and reintegration. ReDSS aimed to challenge the status quo and develop a common narrative for quiet advocacy with policymakers. As a result, ReDSS and partners developed the [Dadaab Solutions paper](#), which has key recommendations to support cross-border coordination, sustainable (re)integration, and early preparedness.
- **Kenya Refugee Bill 2019:** In October 2019, ReDSS and Kenya refugee bill task force members (the Refugee Consortium of Kenya, Amnesty International, the DRC and the International Rescue Committee (IRC)) met to conduct a thorough analysis of the legislation and its implications for the operational context in Kenya. This analysis informed consultations ahead of parliamentary review of the bill. A briefing paper highlighting key recommendations for actors working in Kenya on a collective strategy for influence at county and national levels was then jointly developed and disseminated.
- **National engagement in the GRF:** As in other countries, ReDSS developed [key messages](#) to serve as a guide in terms of coherent messaging ahead of the national GRF consultations to support common messaging and encourage the development of joint pledges and contributions.

KEY LEARNING TO INFORM 2020 FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

Develop ReDSS policy strategy

ReDSS [Agenda4Humanity and SDGs](#) that was first developed in 2016, contextualised its global commitments and principles towards ensuring that no one is left behind. The commitments were endorsed by ReDSS members and have guided ReDSS work while the actions have informed its workplan over the last few years.

This year, ReDSS aims to review the agenda and develop its policy agenda for 2020. The policy strategy will define ReDSS engagement and contribution to global, regional, national policy processes in the East Africa and Horn of Africa. Key themes and priorities for ReDSS in 2020 include:

Country/Region	Themes and priorities
Regional	Return and (re)integration Climate change and displacement Post GRF agenda IDP focus and agenda Displacement financing and private sector engagement
Somalia	Urban displacement Economic empowerment and private sector engagement Measuring sustainable (re)integration Housing, Land and Property
Ethiopia	Area-based approaches Self-reliance and social economic inclusion Social cohesion Protection in development contexts
Kenya	Devolution and area-based planning Self-reliance and social economic inclusion Private sector engagement and innovation Urban displacement

Follow up and engagement after the GRF

In 2020, ReDSS aims to identify strategic opportunities to engage around GRF pledges/commitments with national and local authorities, donors and humanitarian and development partners. The inclusion of GRF 'stocktaking' in ReDSS country team workplans will be a key priority to ensure that ReDSS can document progress made. ReDSS will continually update key messages at regional and country level and develop a one-year post GRF research paper in partnership with key research partners to keep GRF commitments on the radar.

Ensure meaningful engagement of DAC in policy processes

With momentum at the policy level in this region, it will be important to capitalise on this to maximise impact and ensure that the durable solutions agenda is not only top-down, and disconnected from the realities and needs of displacement-affected communities. ReDSS recognises that DAC have the right and the capacity to participate to any decision impacting their life to make solutions locally relevant and supportive of social cohesion.

PILLAR 4. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COORDINATION

In the span of three years, thanks to a focused secretariat, ReDSS has not only managed to create a space to talk about durable solutions but it also initiated policy processes and long-term programming in partnership with governments, development actors and donors contributing to a shift in addressing protracted displacement in the East and Horn of Africa. ReDSS has acted as a coordination and information hub contributing to improve joint learning and programming. The fact that ReDSS is an NGO only structure allows it to be independent and flexible, while working closely with all relevant stakeholders.

In 2019, key outcomes reviewed under this pillar focus on how ReDSS is harnessing and coordinating the expertise, capacity, and influence of ReDSS members and partners; fostering inclusive, trustful, and collaborative working approaches in order to maximise the potential for drawing on the expertise and capacities of members; pursuing strategic partnerships, collaboration, and relationships at national, regional, and global levels with other coordination platforms and stakeholders so that impact, learning, and influence is enhanced; and lastly enhancing ReDSS secretariat management and coordination approaches so that the efficiency and effectiveness of ReDSS is enhanced. Key outputs and activities focus on increased requests for ReDSS support, number of regional and country level core group meetings held and processes and systems put in to ensure that ReDSS can deliver at scale while ensuring focus and value add.

Overview of key activities

Internal coordination

Harnessing and coordinating the expertise, capacity, and influence of ReDSS members and partners

- Quarterly meetings with ReDSS + Structure in Somalia and Ethiopia held
- Conducted comprehensive risk analyses and engagement strategies in country (Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia), while creating the space to engage and discuss key solutions issues
- Maximised regional impacts through cross border and cross-country learning e.g programme learning events, cross border meetings and workshops between actors in Somalia and Kenya
- Invested in strengthening collective understanding of terminology and concepts to ensure ReDSS members and partners are contributing towards collective outcomes.

Enhancing ReDSS secretariat management and coordination approaches so that the efficiency and effectiveness of ReDSS is enhanced

- Dedicated country support for Somalia and Ethiopia (three staff covering Somalia based in Mogadishu and Nairobi; and three staff in Ethiopia based in Addis Ababa and Jijiga)
- Replicated 'regional learning hub' at country levels in Somalia and Ethiopia
- Put in place flexible systems and processes that can deliver at scale, while ensuring quality, focus, and value added.

Strengthening performance and collective accountability within ReDSS

- Developed internal monitoring systems with critical outcome indicators to ensure that ReDSS can measure uptake and impact
- Embedded adaptive working approaches so that ReDSS strategies and activities are designed assuming change is inevitable. ReDSS has been flexible and responsive to changing context and needs doing more of 'what works' and less of what doesn't.

External coordination

Fostering inclusive, trustful, and collaborative working approaches

- Increased demand for ReDSS support: members, government, donors, and academia recognise ReDSS as the go to organisation on durable solutions in the region. ReDSS has been invited to join working groups, key events, donors' briefings and strategies development, UN missions, etc
- ReDSS secured positions as a learning partner across different durable solutions consortium in Somalia and Ethiopia, supporting a common vision and understanding of the durable solutions agenda, conducting joint trainings, and capacity building with county authorities and other stakeholders
- ReDSS has maintained and ensured consistent engagement with key donors in the region e.g. DFID, DANIDA, Swiss, EU, USAID to ensure that it can influence their solutions strategies

Pursuing strategic partnerships, collaboration, and relationship building

- Developed strategic partnerships: IGAD, UNHCR, WB, governments and municipalities, local researchers, and universities
- Seconded staff to national authority structures; i.e. Knowledge management expert in Jijiga
- Increased joint planning and engagement with local authorities in Somalia and Ethiopia.

KEY LEARNING TO INFORM 2020 FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

Review of ReDSS theory of change and strategy for 2021-2023

In 2020, ReDSS aims to review and adapt its theory of change that was first developed in 2018. Furthermore, as ReDSS strategy comes to an end in 2020, it will be crucial for ReDSS to engage with its members and other key stakeholders to articulate its strategic direction for the next 3 years and provide a framework for future growth.

Internal evaluation of ReDSS and its membership

In 2020, ReDSS aims to conduct an internal evaluation thoroughly reviewing its impact and value add over the last three years, core group membership and ways of working. The aim of this process is to also ensure that the core values and attributes of the ReDSS collective approach are retained and strengthened during the growth to country level including regional impacts.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Emerging learning and good practices from East and Horn of Africa region offer much to build upon, adapt, and replicate in other contexts. Several key developments are worth noting. First, shifts away from a predominant focus on returns movements towards finding more durable solutions for hosting refugees and IDPs can be observed across the region. These shifts can be increasingly seen in new ways of working, such as consortia programming between humanitarian, development, and resilience actors, as well as in more consistent engagement from development partners such as the World Bank in displacement responses. Second, there are many innovative examples of longer-term approaches to thematic areas such as: HLP; self-reliance; and integrated programming for host and displaced communities. New durable solutions coordination structures are also being implemented, in particular at local and municipal levels across the region. These allow for increased multi-stakeholder coordination, and whole-of-government involvement and ownership of processes. Collaboration between humanitarian, development, resilience, peacebuilding, and state building actors around participatory area-based approaches that are led by local governments are emerging. Third, regional actors, in particular IGAD, have been instrumental in changing the regional discourse on durable solutions and bringing governments in the region together around a common agenda.

Governments in the region have also made various pledges to continue their commitments to sustainable durable solutions in the region. In relation to the GRF, for instance, Ethiopia pledges to increase access to education, livelihoods, protection, and sustainable energy for refugees and hosts. The Ethiopian government is also calling for both increased private sector engagement and more predictable multi-year donor funding (that is not specifically earmarked) to support durable solutions. Somalia pledges to continue support for finding durable solutions for the displaced, including continuing to implement the necessary architecture and legislation. The Somali government is working to support the return and reintegration of refugees and returning IDPs, and to address the root causes of displacement. Somalia also commits to supporting livelihoods through the creation of new jobs in agriculture, light manufacturing, and construction. The Kenyan government is committed to strengthening institutions and community structures that manage asylum, deliver services and provide security in refugee-hosting areas, supporting refugee and hosting communities' education, and inclusion of refugees in CIDPs

ReDSS remains committed to continue working with governments and partners in the region to advance multi-stakeholder approaches to durable solutions and to support a regional approach. In particular in 2020 and beyond, ReDSS and its members intend to focus on four primary themes.

2020: KEY GUIDING THEMES

1. Area-based approaches

Investing at sub-national levels to support durable solutions working groups and local solutions hubs that bring together humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and state building actors to participate in locally led processes and link durable solutions programming to district development plans.

2. Measuring progress towards durable solutions processes

Developing multi-stakeholder approaches to measure durable solutions processes in each country and support greater accountability among all stakeholders contributing to collective outcomes.

3. Displacement financing

Working with all stakeholders to rethink the displacement financing architecture to support both early and long-term durable solutions processes that benefit both displaced and host communities.

4. Regional and cross-border engagement

Working with IGAD and other key stakeholders to support the regional support platform, assist countries to build capacity to address and find solutions to displacement, and foster cross-learning and collaboration; and create similar approaches for the Great Lakes Region by working with the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

ANNEX 1- TANGIBLE EXAMPLES OF HOW ReDSS EVIDENCE AND ANALYSES ARE USED

<i>Data source</i>	<i>Impact: how ReDSS evidence and analyses are used</i>
Use of results and findings from citizen-led discussions on displacement and durable solutions in Mogadishu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) used findings on the need to support the creation of shared spaces (mosques, markets) and events (sports, arts, culture) to inform their designs of the planned social housing project in Heliwa District in Mogadishu. The BRA is keen to use this approach to enhance social cohesion among IDP and host communities at this new residential site. • Building on learning from innovative approaches, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office has replicated the CSAP in Baidoa and Bossaso. • ODI, Ground Truth, and the Somalia NGO Consortium report, <i>The 2017 pre-famine response in Somalia: Progress on reform?</i>, references analysis on community engagement from the CSAP report. • Danwadaag Solutions Consortium partners in Somalia are using the recommendation on crowdfunding from the CSAP report to inform development of the economic development strategy in their programme. They are also using Outcome 3 on increasing the self-reliance of displacement-affected communities through inclusive economic opportunities.
Use of Somalia solutions analyses update for Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Kismayo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danwadaag Solutions Consortium and the Durable Solutions Programme have used the recommendations on government engagement from the Somalia solutions analysis update to inform their engagement with authorities at state, federal member state, and district levels. In particular, Danwadaag has developed principles of government engagement to guide their discussions in the government engagement task team that was established by the consortium in mid-2019. • The new report commissioned by the Durable Solutions Initiative and written by Professor Walter Kaelin, Special Advisor to the Somalia DRSG / HC / RC, cites and references key progress made in Somalia on durable solutions programming derived from ReDSS Somalia solutions analyses. • The new UN inter-agency report written by Dyfed Aubrey uses the findings and recommendations from the Somalia solutions analysis update to inform its conceptualisation of a New Urban Agenda for Somalia. • MoPIED, with ReDSS Somalia technical guidance, has taken on board the recommendations from the Somalia solutions analysis on the need to strengthen capacity for government-led collection of displacement related data. MoPIED has since secured funding from the World Bank to develop a comprehensive national data system. • NCRI has incorporated learning from the report on establishing a long-term capacity development strategy for government, as opposed to one-off training requests. • Refugees International has used the findings from the analysis update to inform their study on how to move forward and capitalise on progress made on policies related to durable solutions for IDPs.

- 2018 Somaliland solutions analysis**
- The Somaliland Ministry of Planning and National Development (MoPND) and the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA), with support from SDSC partners, have committed to undertake an IDP profiling in Hargeisa and Burao to better understand the situation of IDPs and support solutions to displacement. This decision is largely informed by a key recommendation from the 2018 Somaliland solutions analysis on the need to increase the availability of relevant data to inform solutions planning and programming.
 - The MoPND has committed to incorporate a durable solutions component into the current National Development Plan II of Somaliland, based on the recommendation from the solutions analysis and subsequent engagement with ReDSS and SDSC partners. The Somaliland National Development Plan II does not, however, have a focus or chapter on displacement.
 - The NDRA is using the recommendations from Somaliland to inform their 2020 planning priorities. For example, a key priority for NDRA is around better understanding of and capturing displacement-related data on IDPs. The NDRA has committed to work closely with the IOM to ensure the displacement matrix system in Somaliland captures both the numbers and movement of IDPs, and their intentions and aspirations. The NDRA has also prioritised the need to enhance its coordination on durable solutions processes with the various districts in Somaliland.

- Use of ReDSS solutions framework and indicators**
- The World Bank micro data analysis survey for the region includes displacement and solutions indicators from ReDSS in its national poverty assessments.
 - The Internal Displacement and Monitoring Centre (IDMC) has used the solutions framework criteria and indicators during the development of research questions in its study on drought displacement in Ethiopia.
 - The Durable Solutions Initiative strategy for IDPs in Ethiopia references the solutions framework and the core programming principles.

- 2018 Annual report**
- The Mixed Migration Centre review on evidence-based operational responses to mixed migration highlights how ReDSS has supported learning and uptake. The review showcases how ReDSS has invested heavily in areas of consultation and partnership, inclusive and collaborative planning, clear research frameworks, outreach and dissemination as a basis for increasing evidence uptake and application in programmes.

ANNEX 2- CUMULATIVE LEARNING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Country/Region	Description	Total number of participants	Disaggregation by organisations and gender
Learning events			
Regional	Programme learning event	112	49 men; 63 women; 60 organisations
	IGAD/WB/UNHCR/ReDSS durable solutions workshop	55	31 men; 24 women; 25 organisations
Ethiopia	Learning event on self-reliance for displacement affected communities in Jijiga – April	45	40 men; 5 women; 21 organisations
	Learning event on self-reliance for displacement affected communities in Addis - May	47	26 men; 21 women; 29 organisations
	1 research seminar on recent refugee research in Ethiopia co-hosted with ILO - November	32	22 men; 10 women; 20 organisations
	1 programme learning event in Jijiga - November	39	36 men; 3 women; 20 organisations
Somalia	Evidence week learning event- October	202	155 men; 47 women; 69 organisations
Uptake and operational learning workshops			
Somalia	Operational workshop Solutions Analysis (Mogadishu) – January	34	20 men; 14 women; 12 organisations
	Operational workshop Solutions Analysis (Baidoa) – February	32	28 men; 4 women; 21 organisations
	Operational workshop Solutions Analysis (Kismayo) – February	24	19 men; 5 women; 19 organisations
	Programme learning session on CSAP with BRA and partners (Mogadishu) – February	23	17 men; 6 women; 20 organisations
	Programme learning workshop on findings of the Somalia Solutions Analysis and CSAP (Mogadishu) - April	25	16 men; 9 women; 17 organisations
	Joint workshop with the Mayor of Baidoa to discuss findings of the Solutions Analyses - May	35	29 men; 6 women; 18 organisations
	Joint workshop with the Mayor of Baidoa to discuss findings aspirations survey- August	35	23 men; 12 women; 16 organisations
	Joint analysis to discuss findings of the aspirations survey (Mogadishu) - August	21	14 men; 7 women; 8 organisations
	Joint analysis workshop to discuss findings of the aspirations survey (Nairobi) - September	18	6 men; 12 women; 7 organisations



Children in Kakuma Camp. Credit: DRC photo

REGIONAL DURABLE SOLUTIONS SECRETARIAT

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