

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Achievements, challenges and way forward**  
JANUARY - DECEMBER

“ Displacement is a development issue with humanitarian components so it is essential to ensure complementarities and synergies between humanitarian, development, peace and state building programming to inform collective outcomes ”



An IDP camp in Baidoa, Somalia.  
Credit: Save the Children

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## List of acronyms

ACF	Action Against Hunger
ADSP	Asia Displacement Solutions Platform
ARRA	Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
DAC	Displacement-affected communities
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DSI	Durable Solutions Initiative
DSP	Durable Solutions Platform
DSWG	Durable Solutions Working Group
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid
EU	European Union
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
GRF	Global Refugee Forum
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative
HLP	Housing Land and Property
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IHL	International Institute of Humanitarian Law
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ITC	International Trade Centre
JSC	Jubaland Solutions Consortium
LORA	Local (Re)Integration Assessment
LWF	Lutheran World Relief
MOPIED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (Somalia)
NDSS	National Durable Solutions Strategy
NCRI	National Commission for Refugee and IDPs (Somalia)
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
RCK	Refugee Consortium of Kenya
ReDSS	Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat
RSRI	Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies
UK FCDO	United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WBG	World Bank Group

## The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat

The [Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat \(ReDSS\)](#) is a coordination and information hub created in 2015, that acts to catalyse forward thinking and policy development on durable solutions for displacement affected communities. ReDSS seeks to improve joint learning and programming, inform policy processes, enhance capacity development and facilitate coordination in the collective search for durable solutions. It is comprised of 14 organisations (ACTED, CARE International, Concern Worldwide, DRC, IRC, INTERSOS, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, RCK, Save the Children, World Vision, LWF, and ACF) working together to maintain focused momentum and stakeholder engagement towards durable solutions for displacement-affected communities in the East and Horn of Africa region.

### Acknowledgments

ReDSS work and achievements are made possible through the active engagement and generous contributions from its members and funding partners (UK FCDO, EU, 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.

## ReDSS core elements to inform solutions planning and programming

**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 play their leadership and coordinating role
- 4 Developing area-based solutions approaches is paramount to ensure integrated and comprehensive programming for host and displaced populations
- 5 Community engagement is critical to inform (re)integration analysis and programming 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 programming to inform collective outcomes

## Learning strategy

### 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

## 2020 in figures



**704** participants from over **218** organisations attended **13** learning events (compared to 140 organizations in 2019)



**3** operational research studies, **7** policy briefs (**4** on COVID-19 adaptation), **8** thematic analyses and **5** policy strategies



**169** practitioners and policymakers trained in **6** sessions (2 regional, 2 Somalia, 1 Ethiopia, 1 Kenya)



**11** staff covering ReDSS country units in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and at the regional level



Over **22,223** views on the website (with 5,000 new users and 2000 more views from 2019)



**1,526** followers on Twitter



1 online tutorial on understanding **Housing Land and Property in Somalia** (with more than 1000 users)



Women fetching water in Kabasa IDP settlement in Dollow, Somalia. Credit: DRC

## Introduction

### Context analysis and trends in 2020

Displacement in the East and Horn of Africa region<sup>1</sup> is consistently high, protracted, and dynamic. A combination of factors including conflict and violence, cyclic climatic shocks and the growing threat of pandemic diseases are major triggers to displacement. Additional factors such as poor governance, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and poverty, underpin displacement in the region making it highly complex. The region currently hosts [more than 11.8 million people who are displaced](#). This includes 3.9 million refugees and 7.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). The majority of the displaced people continue to live in protracted displacement and for many, durable solutions prospects such as returning to their home, being integrated into their host communities or settling elsewhere are out of reach. This continues to place an extraordinary burden on host countries and communities.

The year 2020 has been a particularly unique year for individuals, organisations and other entities worldwide, owing to the impacts of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic continues to have far-reaching impacts in the East and Horn of Africa region and specifically on displacement affected communities (DACs) who lack access to basic services and economic opportunities. Refugees and IDPs are often outside of government responses and they face challenges accessing social protection services and safety nets. The health crisis is exacerbating an already dire situation, combined with the desert locust invasion, natural disasters such as flooding in Somalia, and conflicts in various parts of the region.

In 2020, the durable solutions agenda was highly constrained. There was a lack of momentum on the post Global Refugee Forum (GRF) commitments, with many competing priorities and lack of capacity to be able to address both the search to durable solutions while responding to increasing humanitarian needs. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Support Platform has yet to be operationalised, one year later. Humanitarian and development partners are focused on COVID-19 and current emergencies and not linking their GRF pledges to opportunities that could be leveraged to address structural displacement issues and displacement-affected communities' underlying vulnerability. While prioritisation to life saving refugee response is essential, it is important to also retain the gains made over the past few years in supporting both refugees and host communities through a longer-term lens, and with multi-year flexible development funding. This is also about accountability to communities and countries where commitments were made to support them – 'you host we pay'.

With regard to internal displacement, it continues to increase in its variety and complexity in the region. Despite global initiatives such as GP2020 and the UN High Level Panel on Internal Displacement, alongside an increasing number of organisations focused on the IDP agenda, genuine progress in finding durable solutions for IDPs in the region has been slow and ad hoc. Challenges remain, for example, in finding suitable responses which can be locally relevant, yet based on learning from elsewhere. Sensitivities surrounding population movement can also hinder where, how, and with whom agencies respond to internal displacement.

The need to comprehensively address long-term displacement needs and solutions for displacement-affected communities, cannot be overemphasised. In the current context, coordination between the political, development and humanitarian sides of the international community are even more important – to maximise and strategically invest limited resources in a much better coordinated and accountable way.

It will be critical to continue to discuss and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 financial crisis on funding available to displacement in 2021, to be able to fulfil commitments which were made over the past few years to host countries and displacement affected communities (DACs).

In Ethiopia, 2020 has seen many significant developments which have impacted the displacement context. Chief among these has been the emerging conflict in the Tigray region, which has led to significant and ongoing internal and cross-border displacements, increasing humanitarian needs in areas currently inaccessible to actors, and limited

<sup>1</sup> The Horn of Africa region consists of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

communications and information on the situation as it unfolds. The ongoing conflict has created challenges and limited the availability of key actors in the Ethiopia displacement response at all levels to engage on solutions-related issues, including in Addis Ababa and Jigjiga.

As of December 2020, [Ethiopia had more than 125,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with over 1,900 deaths](#). Beyond the immediate health impact, the pandemic has also had broad socio-economic impacts on communities across Ethiopia, with displacement affected communities particularly hit hard. The Government of Ethiopia instated a five-month State of Emergency from April-September 2020, which limited the ability of persons to travel and gather in person.

Border closures and restrictions on movement (both due to COVID-19 mitigation as well as the ongoing conflict) have limited the ability of persons seeking asylum to enter the country, for DACs to travel, and actors to provide services to them. Both conflict and climate induced internal displacement have increased across much of Ethiopia in 2020. With agencies focused on emergency response, incorporating the solutions agenda has been complex and at times sensitive. The above developments have served to significantly reduce focus and momentum on solutions processes, including the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and IDP Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI).

In Somalia, displacement is driven both by conflict and disasters, with climate-related disasters the primary driver of the dramatic increase in internal displacement since 2016. Displacement is also a key driver of rapid and haphazard urbanisation, with the majority of the 2.6 million IDPs living in informal non-camp settlements in urban and peri-urban areas. This urban influx raises many challenges for municipal, regional, and federal authorities, including the provision of secure access to suitable land for the settlement of IDPs. Somalia is urbanising at a rapid pace, with an estimated 45% of the population living in urban areas as of 2018 and the urban population due to exceed rural population by 2026. The displacement trends in Somalia in 2020 were defined by several factors: the COVID-19 pandemic, the desert locust invasion, armed conflicts and the cyclone Gati in northern Somalia. The desert locust invasion posed a significant threat to food security and led to a rise in displacement to urban areas, while conflicts increased population movements in different parts of the country. The economic impact of the pandemic on urban areas was exacerbated by lockdowns and resultant loss of incomes due to business closure. There was a spike in protection concerns particularly for women and children. Displacement therefore is not a peripheral challenge for Somalia. Meeting the rights and needs of displaced people, and addressing the root causes of displacement, are fundamental to Somalia's political, economic and social progress.

The National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS) has been finalized under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic development (MoPiED), while the IDP Act is in its final stage under the leadership of the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI). In 2021, it will be essential to ensure that the urban and durable solutions agendas complement each other, while working with the government to operationalise the National Durable Solutions Strategy to set collective targets and track progress, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals objective to leave no one behind.

In Kenya, the refugee operation has continued to be impacted by the political developments and humanitarian situation in the region with the double impact of COVID-19 pandemic and locust invasion putting food security and livelihoods under threat. As of October 2020, it was home to [499,000 refugees and asylum-seekers](#).

At the national level, Kenya is a signatory to various regional and global policy frameworks advancing refugees' self-reliance and inclusion. However, despite opportunities for progress at county levels, fundamental policy barriers remain in place. The Refugee Bill 2019 is still undergoing review in parliament and is yet to be tabled for the last reading before submission for Presidential assent. The Government of Kenya has also renewed discussions on the CRRF plan of action within the inter-agency committee set up to develop the plan. It remains to be seen how this plan will support the operationalisation of the Government's regional and global commitments for refugee self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion. Urban refugees continue to face dire situations, with COVID-19 socio-economic impacts coupled with limited humanitarian support further compounding their existing vulnerabilities.

At county level, the development of the Garissa Socio-Economic Development Plan is now underway despite delays resulting from COVID-19 emergency response at the start of the year. The plan is set to be finalised in February 2021 and launched soon after.

## Overview of key achievements, challenges & opportunities

ReDSS aims to improve programming and policy in support of durable solutions processes so that displacement-affected communities live in safety and dignity in East and Horn of Africa. ReDSS has continued to support its members and partners in ensuring that durable solutions programming and decision-making processes at both national and regional levels are informed by knowledge and evidence.

Over the past few years, responses to forced displacement have gradually shifted in many countries in the region. The international community (including humanitarian and development organisations and donors) has recognised the need to transition from short-term humanitarian aid to long-term durable solutions programming, acknowledging that displacement is a political and development challenge requiring long-term investment that complements humanitarian response. While many gains have been made in the broader durable solutions agenda, in 2020 ReDSS identified [five key issues](#) to continue to focus on especially with the new challenges faced due to the pandemic: (1) political dynamics and IDPs: how to maintain a principled response; (2) protection at risk in development programming; (3) urban displacement, housing and forced evictions; (4) displacement financing architecture; and (5) measuring return (re)integration and self-reliance processes.

The durable solutions agenda continues to require multi-stakeholder engagement to support effective humanitarian-development-peacebuilding coordination to prevent displacement and find and sustain solutions to protracted displacement. It requires continued political resolve, long-term investments and a sectorial, rights and needs-based programming approach to work towards prevention and solutions to reduce displacement levels in the region.

In support of advancing multi-stakeholder engagement to find and sustain solutions, ReDSS members commit to work together and to be collectively held accountable for the implementation of their joint agenda. Those commitments will guide ReDSS work while the actions will inform the development of the next ReDSS Strategy (2021 – 2023) and work plan for the years to come. It is one vision implemented by ReDSS members through joint learning and collective outcomes. ReDSS work is informed by its [2020 strategy](#), [learning strategy](#), [common programming principles](#), and its [regional policy strategy](#).

### Commitments

- 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).



A woman fills up a jerrycan at a waterpoint several kilometers from the town of Dollow, Somalia. Credit: DRC/ Tobin Jones

## ReDSS pillars review

Between 2018 and 2020, ReDSS work has been 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.

The next section presents an overview per ReDSS pillar of key achievements, challenges and opportunities to work on in 2021.

## Pillar 1: Research and knowledge management

ReDSS seeks to contribute to an agreed-upon and shared evidence-base to inform coordinated responses, and to facilitate the measurement of progress towards durable solutions. The role of ReDSS focuses on supporting a collective agenda, investing in a few well-researched, quality products that support technical practitioners and policy makers to improve programming and policies.

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.

### Key achievements

In 2020, ReDSS produced and disseminated three operational research studies, one article and four learning event reports with concrete actions to take forward.

#### Publications

**Informing a common agenda on land, urbanisation and displacement in Somalia:** Following the key findings and recommendations from the 'Land Governance Study' which was developed by the Rift Valley Institute and supported by the World Bank and Durable Solutions Consortia partners (Danwadaag, Jubaland Solutions Consortia and Durable Solutions Programme), a series of webinars were organized for practitioners and policy – makers to agree on a common agenda moving forward. Professor Ken Menkhaus facilitated these discussions and a collective [roadmap](#) on urbanization, land and displacement was agreed upon, with short, medium and longer terms objectives.

**Towards a common research agenda in Ethiopia- A research synthesis paper:** This [synthesis paper](#) is designed to inform future policy making and programming in relation to Ethiopian government and international support to refugees. Specifically, it aspires to enable the development of a common narrative among the key refugee stakeholders in Ethiopia about how best to support displacement and durable solutions processes in the country, informed by evidence drawn from existing literature. This process was conducted in partnership with the Rift Valley Institute and it was guided by a technical advisory group that included the Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Bank, the British Government, the European Union, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Action Against Hunger (ACF) and School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The study was funded by the European Union.

**Aspirations survey: Listening to displacement-affected communities over time in Somalia:** The [aspirations survey](#), conducted by Impact Initiative, seeks to examine the multiple dimensions of vulnerabilities and sense of belonging among IDPs in four major Somali cities, through disaggregated data focusing on access to jobs, safety, social cohesion, housing and forced eviction. The analysis compares different groups of IDPs (those living in and out of settlements, displaced by conflict and climate-related reasons, in male and female-headed households, recently displaced and in protracted displacement, displaced once and multiple times), as well as host and non-host communities in urban areas. A dissemination workshop and an [online webinar](#) were held to discuss program adaptation for durable solutions partners in Somalia, based on the study results. Phase two will start in January 2021.



**Multi-stakeholder approach to urban displacement in Somalia:** ReDSS in partnership with the Baidoa municipality and Danwadaag Solutions Consortium published [an article](#) in the Forced Migration Review that illustrates how actors 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 upcoming durable solutions programming.

In addition to these, ReDSS has been working on addressing knowledge gaps on a number of key issues, on which publications are expected in early 2021, such as on displacement financing and political economy analysis for Dadaab, Kenya.

**Displacement financing:** As the numbers of displaced people continue to grow and the protracted nature of their displacement mostly further entrenched, humanitarian financing needs to be complemented by different types of development funding and other types of innovative financing to be able to sustainably respond to displacement challenges and needs. ReDSS recognized the need to re-think the displacement financing architecture, which comes at a time of the COVID-19 pandemic and its far-reaching consequences on displacement-affected communities and the durable solutions agenda.

In order to re-think the displacement financing architecture and to be able to use different types of funding instruments to respond to different types of needs and challenges, ReDSS in collaboration with key stakeholders, [commissioned an operational study on the displacement financing architecture in the Horn of Africa](#). The study includes an analysis of the current financing modalities that exist (both within and outside the displacement sector and within the Horn of Africa region and globally). Through a series of country specific case studies (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia), the research is exploring the current displacement financing modalities being used in each context as well as the political economy analysis related to aid financing between donors and the host country.

The study will recommend for each country, appropriate financing modalities to address the specific displacement related needs and operational context. ReDSS hopes that the country level analyses, developed through multi-stakeholder consultative processes, will be used by donors, national governments and humanitarian and development partners to inform the use of different types of displacement financing models and partnerships to respond to specific displacement related vulnerabilities. ReDSS expects to have the final country case studies and overall report at the end of January and looks forward to engaging with partners on the operational recommendations. A regional workshop to discuss the analysis and recommendations will take place mid-February 2021.

**Durable Solutions analysis on socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance for refugees and host community in Dadaab – Garissa:** The analysis, currently being conducted in Kenya, will provide a better understanding of the political economy and political sociology related to refugee socio-economic inclusion in Garissa County. A Technical Advisory Committee made up of DANIDA, DRC/DDG, EU, EUTF REF, ITC, ILO, Mercy Corps, NRC, RCK, Samuel Hall, UK FCDO and World Bank is guiding the research and analysis process. The analysis will be finalized in January 2021 and ReDSS will focus on targeted stakeholder sessions early 2021 to use the findings and recommendations to inform a common context understanding in order to improve programming and policy dialogue among key actors in Dadaab, Garissa and more broadly in Kenya.

## 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. ReDSS learning events have engaged actors from across the region, including NGOs, UN agencies and government entities. In 2020, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, ReDSS adapted to the situation and in partnership with its members and partners, brought together over 700 participants from more than 200 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 a significantly high number of organisations represented in the learning events, as compared to 140 organisations in 2019. The 2020 events focused on social accountability, self-reliance, durable solutions planning and programming, and area-based approaches.

Such broad participation has created a shared language and conceptual understanding, which has enabled diverse actors to have more productive conversations and find common ground to push the durable solutions agenda forward.

### COVID- 19 webinars

**How to effectively communicate and protect displacement affected communities (DAC) during COVID-19 emergency response in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia:** In April, ReDSS organized an [online webinar](#) with the objectives to discuss lessons learnt from Ebola response on community engagement to inform COVID-19 plans and responses and how to communicate effectively and address fears, misinformation and stigma. The webinar was attended by over 180 participants and the compilation of key take-aways has been really useful to inform and adapt ReDSS members and partners' work.

**Integrated programming for COVID-19 response as part of long-term focus in Ethiopia:** In June, ReDSS Ethiopia organised [a webinar](#) to support members and partners to discuss how to manage the COVID-19 pandemic as a broad-based humanitarian emergency that goes beyond a health crisis with long-term social-economic impacts. The key issue discussed was how-to address emergency needs within longer-term durable solutions programming.

**Integrated programming for COVID-19 response as part of long-term focus in Somalia:** In May, ReDSS Somalia organised [a webinar](#) focused on how to mitigate displacement related vulnerabilities that would be exacerbated by COVID-19 in urban settings. The key focus was on learning from early solutions and resilience programming to inform the current response.

**Integrated programming for COVID-19 response as part of long-term focus in Kenya:** In June, ReDSS Kenya organised a programme learning webinar to discuss key learnings and share examples of how actors have managed the COVID-19 pandemic as a broad-based humanitarian emergency.

### Thematic webinars

**Research and evidence to inform CRRF programming and policy in Ethiopia: focus on the right to work directives and economic engagement:** In September, ReDSS Ethiopia organised a webinar focused on the 'Right to Work Directive' developed by ARRA. The webinar focused on the scope, timetable and implementation for the directive. Representatives from several economic engagement projects in refugee-hosting areas shared learning from their perspectives, intended to identify opportunities and challenges for economic engagement approaches moving forward.

**Labour market webinar:** In October, ReDSS Ethiopia organised, together with ILO and UNHCR, [a webinar](#) focused on sharing key research findings from a range of ongoing work on analysis of local labour markets in refugee hosting areas. ReDSS facilitated a discussion with key partners to identify opportunities and challenges for economic engagement approaches moving forward based on learning.

**Advancing self-reliance in East Africa:** the role of measurement: In June, ReDSS in partnership with Refuge Point and the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) co-convened [a webinar](#) on the role of measurement in advancing refugee self-reliance in East-Africa based on lessons learnt from different actors and self-reliance approaches and tools. ReDSS will continue to engage with Refuge Point and other actors to provide trainings on [the self-reliance index](#). This is even more critical while partners are responding to COVID-19 and planning for its longer-term socio-economic impacts on displacement-affected communities.

#### *Use of online tools and social media*

**Use of website:** the ReDSS [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 partners. In 2020, the website had more than 22,000 views with close to 8,000 users. These figures represent a slight increase in engagement from 21,000 views with more than 6,000 users in 2019. The ReDSS homepage was the most viewed page in 2020 with over 7500 views. A majority of users however spent more time on the research and knowledge management page and its subsidiary links.

**Use of bi-monthly updates:** the ReDSS external mailing list comprises 1,600 subscribers. In 2020, ReDSS sent out [3 regional updates](#). Country-specific updates for Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia were also sent out on a bi-monthly basis. In 2021, ReDSS intends to send updates that are more specific and thematic, as well as re-structure the format of the updates. This will also serve to more widely disseminate information and evidence.

Twitter engagement: as at December 2020, the ReDSS Twitter account had over 1,500 followers, a slight increase from about 1,200 followers in 2019. In 2021, ReDSS will focus on engaging more strategically on Twitter, to generate a more regular stream of content and increase its audience reach through this platform.

### **Key learning to inform 2021 focus and priorities**

In 2021, ReDSS will expand from agenda setting to include practical guidance on “what works” in order to transition from “what” to “how”. ReDSS will prioritise curation and utilisation of the existing body of research, rather than continuing to expand it. In revisiting the wealth of knowledge ReDSS has generated with its members and partners, it will aim at translating it into operationally relevant tools for members and partners. Additionally, in order to support uptake of its research, ReDSS will strive to ensure that research explicitly informs its training and coordination efforts.

## **Pillar 2: Programme support and capacity development**

ReDSS objective under this pillar is to provide high quality support to members and partners on program development and design; collective monitoring and learning. Participatory and consensus building approaches have been ReDSS mantra and this has supported greater ownership by members and partners who have participated in trainings and program development processes. There is now a deeper and more nuanced appreciation of durable solutions across the region.

Training was one of the early building blocks of ReDSS success. Reports from 2018 and 2019 focus on third generation training and training for government counterparts. As presented in the external evaluation, many members value the impact and benefit this focus has created. But they have also raised their own needs. Many have requested for ReDSS to go back to basics with the members, especially for operational teams.

The level of awareness and knowledge of durable solutions across ReDSS membership is variable. In this already diverse and complex landscape, international humanitarian NGOs also suffer from high turnover. The situation calls for a model of training cycles, rather than a maturity model. Basics (initial trainings, workshops, tools) are still perceived as useful by ReDSS members and partners. There is an expectation that ReDSS will continue to address the inevitable learning gap due to high turnover, and between members.

In 2020, key outcomes and outputs under this pillar focused on how ReDSS has supported programme learning and adaptation during COVID-19, monitored progress towards durable solutions processes and lastly developed relevant tools to inform better solutions programming.

### **Key achievements**

#### **Trainings**

**Development of an area-based training curriculum:** Following the development of an [area-based training package](#) which was piloted with policy-makers and practitioners in Jijjiga, Ethiopia in March 2020, ReDSS developed a training guide and [curriculum](#) for this training, which can be adapted and used in various contexts. The training was attended by 31 participants from 24 organisations. It is expected that this training curriculum will enable practitioners and policy makers to be better equipped to lead and take part in area-based solutions planning for displacement affected communities.

**Self-reliance index training:** On November 30, ReDSS in partnership with the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) and the Regional Economic Inclusion Working Group organised a training on the [Self-reliance index](#). The training helped participants to gain a better understanding of the relationship between [the self-reliance index and the durable solutions framework](#), as well as how to apply the self-reliance index for self-reliance programming and impact measuring. This training was attended by 67 participants.

**Development of a training of trainers for Somali authorities:** ReDSS at the request of the National Commission for Refugee and IDPs (NCRI) and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPIED) – Durable Solutions Unit, with the support from the durable solutions partners, started a process to develop a durable solutions training of trainers’(ToT) package for authorities in Somalia. The objective is to develop a training curriculum for a pool of selected trainers to sustainably strengthen the capacities of the Somali authorities to lead and plan for durable solutions. A technical advisory committee - composed of NCRI, MoPIED, IGAD, Durable Solutions Platform (DSP), Danwadaag Consortium, Somalia Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), UNHCR, IOM, NRC and CWW- are leading the development of the Training of Trainers (ToT) package. The ToT package will be finalized in February 2021 and the pilot training will take place in March. A training plan will then be developed together with durable solutions actors to roll out the trainings at regional levels.

**Durable solutions mainstreaming half-day training in Ethiopia:** This training is intended to support members and partners to integrate solutions into existing and new programmes. The aim is to demonstrate how durable solutions can be mainstreamed in both emergency response and development programming, and provide participants with tools to support integration in key sectors. The training will be rolled out in 2021 and will be open to all ReDSS Ethiopia members and partners.

### Online tutorials

**Online tutorial on understanding Housing Land and Property (HLP) in Somalia:** ReDSS with the support of NRC developed a [seven-minute white board animation](#) focusing on the basic concepts related to HLP rights; the relevance of HLP in relation to durable solutions and practical actions aimed at informing HLP intervention in Somalia. In addition to NRC, technical support was provided by IOM and UN HABITAT. A Somali version of the animation is also available.

**Internal displacement course at San Remo - Department of International Refugee and Migration Law of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL):** ReDSS has been asked to develop an online session on durable solutions for course participants at the Sanremo Department of International Refugee and Migration Law of the IIHL.

### Program learning and thematic analyses

**ReDSS locally led approach:** ReDSS developed [a strategy](#) to support locally-led durable solutions processes. The strategy has a result framework with indicators to monitor under each of the ReDSS pillars. In 2021, ReDSS will be working with its members to monitor the implementation of its commitments to inform and support better accountability to locally led processes.

**Protection dimension of durable solutions:** In order to support its members and partners to better address the protection dimension within durable solutions approaches, ReDSS developed a presentation which was used by various government authorities in various forums. On September 28, ReDSS alongside representatives from Somalia's Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development was invited to speak during a webinar jointly convened by the [GP20](#) and the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) on the lessons learnt from the use of the IASC framework and the protection dimension; where [this presentation](#) was also used.

**Local (Re)Integration Assessment (LORA):** To address the need for tools to adequately measure progress towards durable solutions in the context of Somalia, the Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium developed and piloted a new approach to measure local integration: [the Local \(Re\)Integration Assessment \(LORA\)](#). The LORA builds on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) framework for Durable Solutions and the ReDSS Solutions Framework, combining these with localised concepts of integration and aspects relevant for IDPs' and returnees' perception of integration.

**Multi-stakeholder approach to produce evidence and learning to inform better programming and policies - value for money example:** ReDSS demonstrated value for money through the multi-stakeholder approach of generating evidence on land governance issues. ReDSS in partnership with NRC/Jubaland Solutions Consortium (JSC) and the World Bank and with co-funding from UK FCDO, DANIDA and the EU finalized a political economy analysis study – 'Contested Land: study on land governance, urbanization and forced displacement in Somalia – Baidoa, Kismayo and Mogadishu'. The study is being used to inform better durable solutions programming within the Danwadaag consortium and in various targeted policy processes at both Federal Government (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS) and at municipality levels in Somalia.

**Lessons learned from the Regional durable solutions platforms in East Africa, Asia and Syria:** ReDSS, the Durable Solutions Platform (DSP) and the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) which covers displacement across Asia - with a specific focus on the Afghanistan and Rohingya displacement axes, developed a joint analysis to provide an overview of the three platforms and to share key learning, challenges and opportunities to work across stakeholders in the search for durable solutions. This analysis was used during EU DS Platforms Seminar in Brussels in February 2020.

**Investing in adaptive management:** 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. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, getting feedback, and crucially, making adaptations and course corrections, as necessary. Throughout the year, ReDSS supported its partners consistently to adapt their programme activities based on emerging evidence and analysis but also due to fast changing context and the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic.

**Cross country IDP learning and experience sharing initiative - Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan:** ReDSS identified opportunities for cross-country IDPs programming and policies processes learning and experience sharing, leveraging on the expertise of partners in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. In 2021, ReDSS will provide learning and capacity development opportunities on early solutions programming with specific focus on: conflict sensitivity, area-based approaches, government engagement, peace building and measuring durable solutions processes.

**Providing solutions expertise to ReDSS members and partners during the development of solutions-oriented programming:** The ReDSS Ethiopia country unit began engaging in a new space within the Ethiopia IDP context. ReDSS also worked with members to develop a programme priorities document, which has been used to engage the donor community on opportunities to support IDP DS programming in Ethiopia. More broadly, ReDSS facilitated discussions with stakeholders from the Humanitarian and Resilience Donor Group on donor engagement and programme priorities to advance the IDP durable solutions agenda in Ethiopia, and to the [Refugee Donor Group](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on the CRRF in Ethiopia. ReDSS also held bilateral discussions with key research actors as a key informant, including Asylum Access, Samuel Hall, UNHCR Academic Network, Migration Policy Institute, among others. Following each of these discussions, relevant documentation and resources developed by ReDSS were shared with the stakeholders, so as to inform the development of their work.

### Key learning to inform 2021 focus and priorities

In 2021, ReDSS will further refine the focus of this pillar, with clearer objectives and indicators to measure its technical support and its impacts as part of the development of the next ReDSS strategy.

ReDSS will also continue to develop different levels of training on durable solutions, so as to play a role at all levels of members' engagement continuing to offer them a co-hosting role depending on interest and expertise. By doing so, ReDSS will also address the various learning gaps that exist on durable solutions issues as a result of high turnover. More resources will also be dedicated towards measuring and understanding how various training initiatives affect ReDSS members operations.

### Pillar 3: Policy Dialogue

The overall objective of ReDSS Policy dialogue pillar is to “facilitate and undertake constructive and influential policy dialogue with key local, national and regional policy actors and processes in the East and Horn of Africa”. As demonstrated in the external evaluation, ReDSS has had an undeniable and significant impact on the policy of durable solutions in East and Horn of Africa. ReDSS is uniquely positioned to provide a trusted platform for policy-focused discussions. Its credibility and impartiality make it widely respected among diverse actors.

Policy engagement is different in every country: displacement situations are different and governments are not open to the same degree to durable solutions. ReDSS has deftly navigated these nuances, engaging differently depending on the local need and opportunity. In Somalia, ReDSS policy work has largely contributed to the creation and drive of the Durable Solutions Secretariat. In Ethiopia, ReDSS provided a platform for policy-focused discussions which would have otherwise not been possible, with clear linkages as to how research/evidence can and should inform policy. In Kenya, the situation is more challenging. There, ReDSS can play a catalyst role.

There is a wide agreement that one of ReDSS most important contributions is to support and carry a collective voice for the NGOs on durable solutions. ReDSS has managed to get a seat and a voice into different policy processes based on its various roles and the evidence it has produced. Its influence has been felt in the IGAD Nairobi process, National Durable Solutions Strategy formulation, and Regional Administrations Durable Solutions Strategy development process, among others.

In 2020, key outcomes and outputs under this pillar focused on the development of ReDSS policy strategies at regional and country levels, engagement in critical policy processes and development of policy briefs.

#### Key achievements

##### ReDSS policy strategies at regional and country levels

The ReDSS [regional policy strategy](#) was finalised in the last quarter of the year. The updated strategy was developed to guide ReDSS collective engagement to address forced displacement in East Africa and the Horn of Africa region. It is an update to ReDSS previous [Agenda for Humanity and SDGs \(2016\)](#) and is meant to serve as a more comprehensive reference to ReDSS overall joint regional policy strategy (2021 – 2023). The strategy will inform collective annual work plans at regional and country level in the years to come. It will also serve as a resource to guide ReDSS and members around core commitments to find and sustain solutions and potential to create stronger mutual accountability for ReDSS GRF pledge. The strategy will also be instrumental in supporting coordinated and strategic messaging by ReDSS members and key partners, in various regional platforms and fora.

The regional team also supported the development of country level policy engagement strategies in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya to guide strategic engagement by ReDSS and its members and partners in priority policy processes. Templates and processes to support review and updating with ReDSS members in 2021 are in place.

In Ethiopia, ReDSS worked closely with members and partners in 2020 to engage on policy issues in a number of ways. A policy workshop held in March 2020 helped ReDSS to develop IDP and refugee policy engagement strategies for ReDSS Ethiopia, both of which have been shared and discussed with a range of actors. In addition, ReDSS has developed and contributed to a number of policy documents, including policy briefs on the [Refugee Right to Work Directive](#) and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on DACs in [Ethiopia. Position papers and key messages on IDP durable solutions](#) have also been developed with the support of ReDSS Ethiopia and endorsed by the Federal Durable Solutions Working Group, Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team, and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group.

Working together with its members and partners, the ReDSS Kenya unit developed a three-year policy strategy focusing on socio-economic inclusion and area-based approaches. The strategy has informed ReDSS engagement with key actors including the World Bank, UNHCR, donors, various private sector actors and the government.



A peace caravan session in Dollow, Somalia. Credit: DRC

## COVID-19 policy briefs

[COVID-19 policy briefs](#) were developed at the regional and country level and disseminated widely. These were used in key engagement opportunities with external stakeholders to influence their responses and programming.

## Influencing plan

ReDSS finalised an influencing plan template to support better inclusion of influencing objectives and planning on how ReDSS research and analysis will target key audiences. The influencing plan templated focuses on the 'how' of influencing and research dissemination.

## Engagement with strategic partners

ReDSS continued to engage with key actors (IGAD, UNHCR, WBG, Durable Solutions (DS) donors, ReDSS members, and research partners) to try to preserve the space for durable solutions linked to specific opportunities and events such as; the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the political situation in Ethiopia and the Somalia donor stocktaking event. Various ReDSS research processes including the Displacement Financing Study, Dadaab Solutions Analysis and Somalia Contested Land Study, provided further opportunity for engagement.

### Key learning to inform 2021 focus and priorities

Despite the achievements at the regional level in 2020, a few challenges were also encountered. ReDSS members, partners and key external stakeholders continued to be engaged in COVID-19 and other emergency responses. The region also continued to be impacted by the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia. As such, preserving the space and maintaining momentum to address long-term displacement issues continued to be a key challenge.

Additionally, the IGAD GCR Platform and many national policy processes stalled. ReDSS and other partners in the durable solutions space will have to restart the discussions at regional level, concerning the operationalisation of GRF pledges at country level.

There is also urgent need to rethink displacement financing architecture and support for early solutions and long-term durable solutions processes as the impact of COVID-19 continues to contribute to overall reduction in funding.

- Despite lack of momentum, ReDSS remains a critical actor in the durable solutions policy space with IGAD, UNHCR and donors, reaching out to maintain partnership; and ReDSS members wanting the Secretariat to continue to "speak on behalf of the coalition".
- Continued opportunities at country level to link emergency responses such as COVID-19, to solutions through supporting early solutions/solutions mainstreaming approaches and highlighting implications of structural displacement issues that impact vulnerability of DAC to emergencies.
- ReDSS strategic use of ongoing research processes and common research agendas to continue to create space to bring stakeholders together and discuss longer-term durable solutions issues. Aligning research questions to policy priorities to ensure relevance and support more granular understanding of incentive structures to support policy dialogue. ReDSS increasing engagement in programme support ("how") to strengthen the use of evidence and learning to inform policy engagement
- More actors engaged on IDP agenda and opportunity for ReDSS to build on strategic relationships and support regional IDP discussions which can help members navigate the space and support cross-learning.

## Pillar 4: Internal and external coordination

In 2020, ReDSS continued to act as a coordination and information hub contributing to improve joint learning and programming.

ReDSS Ethiopia developed and launched its [country unit web page](#) in 2020, where members and partners can access resources developed and updates provided related to the work of ReDSS Ethiopia. In addition, ReDSS research team developed an online Ethiopia refugee research database, where actors can access all research carried out related to the Ethiopia refugee response in a platform that is simple and interactive. ReDSS Ethiopia also continued to support existing coordination structures, including the ongoing CRRF coordination in Somali Regional State, providing monthly briefings in the Refugee and Humanitarian INGO fora (RINGO and HINGO), as well as the IDP Federal Durable Solutions Working Group.

ReDSS Somalia has continued to support and engage with the existing coordination structures including co-chairing of the monthly Durable Solutions Working Group together with UN RCO. The Somalia team also continued to participate in the South West Durable Solutions and Urban Resilience Technical Working Groups, the Jubaland Durable Solutions and Resilience Technical Working Group.

The ReDSS Kenya unit continued its engagement with the Refugee Sub Group and to provide regular updates on the durable solutions agenda and landscape of Kenya at the working group meetings (composed of Kenya refugee NGOs country directors). ReDSS also organized three core group meetings and shared two quarterly updates with over 120 refugee practitioners in Kenya.

In the span of five years, 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, humanitarian and development actors and donors contributing to a shift in addressing protracted displacement in the East and Horn of Africa. The fact that ReDSS is an NGO only structure allows it to be independent and flexible, while working closely with all relevant stakeholders.

In 2020, key outcomes 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; pursuing strategic partnerships with other coordination platforms and stakeholders and lastly enhancing ReDSS secretariat management and coordination approaches.

### Key achievements

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

- Quarterly meetings at regional and country levels
- 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
- 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

- Dedicated country support for Ethiopia; Kenya and Somalia (one staff for Kenya, three staff covering Somalia based in Mogadishu and Nairobi; and three staff in Ethiopia based in Addis Ababa and Jigjiga)
- Replicated 'regional learning hub' at country levels in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia
- 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 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

### 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 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. UK FCDO, DANIDA, Switzerland, the EU, USAID to ensure that it can influence their solutions strategies

### Pursuing strategic partnerships, collaboration, and relationship building

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

#### Key learning to inform 2021 focus and priorities

A wide range of actors continue to find themselves in need of coordination at a time when durable solutions are becoming politically feasible. As such, many members appreciate the benefit of ReDSS coordination including: access to a wide and efficient network of organisations working on similar issues and access to knowledge. ReDSS will therefore continue to build relationships with governments, donors and other key actors across the region as well as remain accountable and loyal to its membership base, sustain member engagement, and strive to effectively leverage member expertise on durable solutions issues.

In addition to the pillar review, this report also presents highlights of management processes that ReDSS engaged in in 2020, to ensure that ReDSS remains fit for purpose, namely the ReDSS external evaluation and a communications audit.



Women carrying jerry cans in Somali Regional State, Credit: Poonwai Nang, Oxfam Hongkong

## ReDSS external evaluation

In 2020, ReDSS commissioned an external evaluation to review the strategy, governance structure and membership to inform its next strategy development process. The evaluation was evidence-based, participatory, included lessons learned, and focused on understanding ReDSS' success factors.

The evaluation covered two key areas: (1) governance and membership and (2) strategy and achievements, and provides lessons learned and recommendations. The external evaluation is based on extensive literature review, 35 interviews, 67 surveys and 22 stories of the most significant change. These stories represent the impact ReDSS has created over the years, which stakeholders believe to be of particular importance. Results from the stories of change reveal that ReDSS has had the highest impact in the area of policy dialogue with 60% of the stories focused on actual change at the policy level.

[A full report of the evaluation](#), which also includes the stories of change as an annex as well as a [summary of the findings in PowerPoint format](#); have been published on the ReDSS website.

## ReDSS communications audit

A key area of focus for ReDSS in 2020 was to improve its communications and, by extension, its evidence uptake. A communications audit was thus commissioned to take stock of ReDSS communications channels and to explore how its current communications systems, structures and protocols can be optimised to support them.

The communication audit reviewed strategic documents and communication policies and guidelines as well as the ReDSS website, social media and database metrics. A range of research, policy and training outputs were also assessed and a 'communications health-check' was undertaken to gauge internal capacity, systems, processes and partnerships.

Based on the findings, a detailed communications evaluation report was produced with key recommendations such as the need to develop a communications strategy for ReDSS, to streamline ReDSS brand guidelines and to use ReDSS digital platforms more strategically. The recommendations will begin to be implemented in 2021, as considered feasible.

## Conclusions and way forward

Although 2020 has been a year full of unprecedented challenges, ReDSS members and partners' commitment to working towards durable solutions and to adapt to the changing environment has been invaluable. This year has been about adapting to rapidly changing and unpredictable political context and responding to COVID-19 pandemic consequences on displacement affected communities, while finding ways to maintain momentum on the durable solutions agenda. The space to discuss protracted displacement issues has shrunk drastically and the re-prioritization of multi-year funding to short term COVID-19 response will have long term repercussions on our collective ability to address chronic social and economic issues faced by displaced populations.

This reminds us of the value add of ReDSS and why it was created in the first place, to support members and partners' engagement on long term displacement issues to unlock solutions. The quality of its learning events and other learning artefacts – such as area-based training tools and resources for government counterparts – has made ReDSS an increasingly respected and credible voice. In turn, this allows it to influence effectively. ReDSS has been able to create a trusted space and ways of working for discussing sensitive issues.

Now more than ever, it is essential that ReDSS continues to focus on this agenda, creating the space and to discuss solutions, socio-economic inclusion and economic development to address the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on displaced and host communities. 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.

As ReDSS strategy comes to an end in 2020, it will be crucial for ReDSS to engage with its members and partners to articulate its strategic direction for the next three years and provide a framework for collective work and accountability. Using the recommendations from the external evaluation, the process of developing ReDSS 2023 strategy will start in January 2021, a critical opportunity to reflect on the learning from the past few years to adapt to new challenges and opportunities, while ensuring that ReDSS will remain fit for purpose.

ReDSS focus in 2021 will expand from agenda setting to include practical guidance on "what works" in order to transition from "what" to "how". ReDSS will also prioritise curation and utilisation of the existing body of research, rather than continuing to expand it. In revisiting the wealth of knowledge ReDSS has generated, it will aim at translating it into operationally relevant tools for members and partners. Additionally, ReDSS will reduce the thematic focus to two to three themes at the regional and country-level to ensure that these themes are translated through the four pillars in each country and at regional level. This will provide a good platform for targeted commitments from members.

In 2021, ReDSS work at the regional level will focus on local (re)integration- inclusion and protection, self-reliance and politicisation of population movement. In Somalia, ReDSS will focus on measuring durable solutions processes and collective outcomes as well as urban displacement, inclusion and protection. Ethiopia's focus will be on area-based approaches, protection-oriented and principled responses to displacement. The work in Kenya will mainly focus on social and economic inclusion – including self-reliance and graduation approaches.

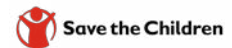


Displacement affected families in Somalia. Credit: DRC





The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) is a coordination and information hub that acts to catalyse 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 in the collective search for durable solutions. It is comprised of 14 organisations working together to maintain focused momentum and stakeholder engagement towards durable solutions for displacement-affected communities in East Africa and the Horn of Africa.



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