



# Durable Solutions

## CONTEXT

Somalia remains at the epicentre of one of the world’s largest displacement crises, with over 2.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Somalia has been affected by recurrent disasters, including conflict, droughts, flood, locust infestations and more recently, the devastating impact of COVID-19. A reported 92,297 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia since December 2014.

The large population movements put additional pressure on already scarce resources and limited services in urban areas. Rapidly growing cities such as Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo face enormous challenges in creating urban livelihood opportunities, providing safety, access to basic services, justice and securing housing, land and property rights. Forced evictions are one of the most severe and prevalent protection threats for IDPs, returnees and poor households. IDPs – particularly women and girls – continue to be among the most vulnerable in Somalia living in precarious conditions, often facing exclusion and marginalization and having limited social support networks and livelihood opportunities available.

## INTEGRATED APPROACH

The Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) is based on the premise that durable solutions to displacement can only be attained through strong government leadership and collective efforts from humanitarian, development and state-/peace-building partners, with the inclusion of displacement-affected communities themselves. The DSI supports a principled collective approach to durable solutions by all relevant actors. It guides the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Somalia and other commitments made under the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan with regard to the reintegration of refugee returnees in Somalia.

## WHAT IS A DURABLE SOLUTIONS PROCESS?

Finding durable solutions entails creating an enabling environment for persons in forced displacement to reduce their vulnerabilities, increase self-reliance and promote equal access to rights and opportunities in a location of choice, whether it be at the place of displacement, in the area of origin or anywhere else in the country. Achieving durable solutions is a complex process requiring both high-level institutional commitment through a whole of government approach, and grassroots engagement through a whole of society approach. Durable Solutions sees displacement-affected

women and men as partners and drivers of reintegration processes. These communities must be supported by broad partnerships promoting human rights, peacebuilding, humanitarian and development priorities for them.

## COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY

Social Development Pillar Sub-Working Group on Durable Solutions: A specific sub-working group under the national aid architecture enables coordination and yearly work planning in accordance with the National Development Plan by the Government, implementing partners and donors.

Durable Solutions Working Group: Co-chaired with the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, the UN and NGOs regularly meet to share information, seek complementarity and develop collective approaches. A separate Durable Solutions Working Group was also established in Somaliland in collaboration with OCHA and other UN partners. Key priorities include joint field assessments and support to upcoming durable solutions-related frameworks.

## NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS

National Development Plan: Durable solutions are considered a development priority and were defined as a “cross-cutting” imperative for Somalia in 2019.

The National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS 2020-2024) was developed and successfully launched in March 2021. The strategy serves as a guiding framework for durable programming in Somalia.

Centrality of Protection Strategy and Humanitarian Response Plan: The Durable Solutions Unit is working closely with the humanitarian community to create linkages to longer-term efforts on durable solutions.

UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025: The UN in Somalia commits to resolve internal displacement and promote sustainable urbanization. Durable Solutions are a prominent Social Development collective outcome, and are mainstreamed also in the Justice and Economic Development pillars.

Federal and Sub-Federal Policies on displacement: the Government of Somalia passed in 2019 a National Policy on Refugee Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and is in the process of developing legislation to honor the obligations of the Kampala Convention which was ratified in early 2020.

## FACTS AT A GLANCE

**2.9 M**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

**1 M**

Somali refugees in neighbouring countries

**15.7 M**

Estimated total population of Somalia

**40%**

Urban population

