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UNITED NATIONS
SOMALIA
TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT

DURABLE SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

2.6M Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

1M Somali refugees in neighbouring countries

12M Estimated total Somali population

40% Urban population

Somalia remains at the epicentre of one of the world's largest displacement crises with an estimated 2.6 million internally displaced people (IDPs). Following decades of conflict and recurrent climatic shocks leading to the protracted displacement of around 1.1 million people, the 2016/2017 drought and floods in 2018 triggered the internal displacement of an additional 1.5 million Somalis. In addition, around one million Somalis have fled to primarily neighbouring countries. Approximately 123'000 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia since December 2014.

The combination of internal displacement and refugee return is exacerbating Somalia's demographic shift from a rural to a predominantly urbanized country. IDPs and vulnerable returnees tend to join existing, congested settlements or establish temporary sites in urban and peri-urban areas seeking safety and assistance. 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 marginalisation and having limited social support networks, livelihood opportunities and coping mechanisms available.

As the majority of IDPs are unlikely to return to areas from where they were displaced, displacement in Somalia has become an inherently urban challenge with major implications for Somali society and the development of the country. Preventing protracted displacement and identifying practical and lasting solutions requires concerted and collective efforts by the government, Somali stakeholders and their partners.

INTEGRATED APPROACH

In recognition of the complex challenges of protracted and urban displacement in Somalia and to promote a shift in how displacement is addressed in the country, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) launched the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) in early 2016. The 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 and with the inclusion of displacement-affected communities themselves. The DSI supports a principled collective approach to durable solutions by all relevant actors and guides the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Somalia and respective commitments made under the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan in regards to the reintegration of refugee returnees in Somalia.

What are durable solutions to displacement?

A durable solution is achieved when displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without

discrimination on account of their displacement. It can be achieved through sustainable reintegration at the place of origin (voluntary return), local integration in areas where displaced persons take refuge or in another part of the country based on their choice.

What is a durable solutions process?

Finding durable solutions entails gradually reducing the short and long-term needs and vulnerabilities of displacement affected communities and enabling displaced persons to rebuild their lives and to become self-reliant through sustainable economic and social re-integration into society either at the location of displacement, the place of origin or elsewhere in the country. Achieving durable solutions is a complex process requiring political leadership and the combination of human rights-, humanitarian-, development-, peace- and state-building approaches of all actors involved.

The DSRSG/RC/HC's Special Advisor on Internal Displacement, and former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs, Professor Walter Kaelin, has supported the DSI with his expertise and guidance since its launch. Prof. Kaelin has travelled to Somalia six times between 2015 and 2018 to meet with government, partners and displacement-affected communities tacking stock of progress and providing recommendations on the way forward.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Since launch of the DSI, a shift in mindset has taken place among government and partners towards a more long-term approach to find sustainable solutions leading to progress at different levels:

Normative Frameworks

National Development Plan (NDP8): Durable solutions are considered a development priority in the resilience chapter and displacement is mainstreamed into several other pillars.

Recovery and Resilience Framework: Internal displacement and durable solutions are highlighted as a key priority in regards to strengthening urban resilience.

HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP): The humanitarian community seeks to create linkages to longer-term efforts on durable solutions.

UN Strategic Framework 2017-2020: The UN in Somalia emphasises its commitment to support durable solutions as part of its efforts to build resilience.

Federal and Sub-Federal Policies on displacement: Several policies are developed at the sub-federal level. The federal government has initiated the development of a federal policy.

Collective Understanding and Methodological Tools

Durable Solutions Programming Principles: A set of agreed-upon principles among partners supports a shared understanding on durable solutions approaches, guide programming and create greater coherence between interventions.

Durable Solutions Marker: The national aid flow mapping identifies development interventions across sectors with potential to contribute to durable solutions providing a better understanding on interventions on the ground.

Linking Humanitarian and Longer-term Efforts: Humanitarian partners declare whether and how interventions under the HRP are linked to longer-term efforts on durable solutions.

Programming, Evidence and Learning

Durable Solutions-Specific Programmes: Comprehensive, government-led and community-driven programmes generate lessons-learned and inform the design of a growing number of durable solutions-focused programmes in support of the NDP as well as innovative approaches to housing and land, livelihoods, Somali-led solutions and involvement of the private sector.

Research and Learning: A growing body of research on displacement-affected populations, their aspirations, on urban displacement challenges, possible solutions and gaps inform durable solutions approaches and the collective work in Somalia.

Coordination & Advocacy

Migration, Displacement and Durable Solutions Sub-Working Group: A specific working group under the national aid architecture (SDRF) enables coordination and yearly work planning in accordance with the NDP by the government, implementing partners and donors.

Durable Solutions Working Group: The UN and NGOs regularly meet to share information, seek complementarity, and develop collective approaches and advocacy positions.

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