

## Drought, displacement and early solutions in Somalia

**IDPs are highly vulnerable to drought** due to their lack of connectedness and so difficulty to borrow and to access markets, little social cohesion and connection to host communities, part of minority clans, etc.

**Although there is a common assumption that ‘drought-displaced’ refugees and IDPs will go back home right after the drought, this is usually not the case** as other factors such as security, access to services and education, are part of displaced’ decision to stay or return. It is therefore critical to address IDPs needs from the onset as the majority of 2011 displaced due to the famine are still displaced in 2018.

It is critical to invest in preparedness and **early solutions to prevent displacement when still possible** and to enhance early response capacity.

Better **targeting of forcibly displaced populations and context analysis** around risks of exclusion must be strengthened to address issues of social exclusion of marginalized communities

It is of paramount **to continue linking immediate relief to long-term development** and **continue to invest in preparedness to prevent further drought related displacement and to support sustainable development complementing humanitarian interventions.**

**Development actors have a critical role to play** to continue to address sustainable solutions to Somalia’ endemic political, security and socio-economic problems and **to strengthen the capacity and leadership of Somali local authorities and FGS to manage drought and displacement and to find durable solutions.**

### Recommendations

#### Use of displacement related data to inform better drought response

- **Urgent need to better understand the profile/ vulnerabilities/ needs and movement** of different groups such as pastoralists, agro pastoralist, riverine, and IDPs to inform better preparedness and targeted response
- **Monitor population movements within and outside Somalia** to better forecast, prepare and respond and to ensure **protection of affected populations**: existing data mechanisms (PRMN and DTM) should work closely with FSNAU to inform joint analysis beyond food and nutrition data only
- **Monitor cross border trends and regional dynamics** – movement of refugees/ pastoralists/ but also supplies – and any other cross border essential information to inform and connect country planning and response
- **Urgent need to use longitudinal data** to better understand displacement trends and patterns to inform programing
- **Urgent need to strengthen measures to address social exclusion of marginalized communities** to ensure that marginalized communities are not systematically excluded from access to assistance
- **Provide solutions in urban contexts** to increase absorption capacity and support urban preparedness as majority of those displaced are moving into urban centres

#### Prevention and management of drought-induced displacement in the search of durable solutions

- **Invest to prevent displacement when still possible and into identified hotspots** to ensure adequate preparedness and enhance early response capacity: based on ReDSS 2016/2017 solutions [analyses](#) in South Central Somalia, the following should take place:

- **Preparedness and early response in larger hubs to increase absorption capacity** of IDPs across Somalia
- **Minimize displacement and when feasible deliver aid as close to the rural population** as possible based on monitoring of access and availability of water and food
- **Include displaced people in scaled up safety net programmes and continue to strengthen community resilience** to prevent further displacement and support social cohesion

**Invest in joint planning and response between humanitarian and development actors under the leadership of the government**

- **Strengthen the capacity and leadership of Somali local authorities and FGS** to manage drought and displacement in the search for durable solutions
- **Humanitarian and development actors must continue to engage in joint planning and identify collective outcomes under the leadership of the government.**
- **Invest in human resource capacity to focus on longer term planning activities through the engagement of development experts** such as urban planners, experts in local government development and community driven development, etc
- **Joint cross sectoral analysis and early actions needed between Durable Solution and Resilience processes** invest in areas based action plans and joint analysis on immediate response and early solutions (medium term) with local authorities.
- There is a need to focus on **developing adaptation strategies – longer-term measures that help communities cope with the impact of recurrent droughts.**