ReDSS' role as learning partner in DFID Consortia/ Somalia

The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) was created three (3) years ago with the aim of maintaining a focused momentum and stakeholder engagement towards durable solutions for displacement affected communities in Somalia. The Secretariat is not an implementing agency, but a coordination and information hub that stimulates forward thinking and policy development on durable solutions. It seeks to improve joint learning and programing, inform policy processes, support capacity development and coordination.

Importantly ReDSS will ensure cross programme learning between the Danida funded Durable Solutions Programme, REINTEG and this programme (& other relevant programmes). This will facilitate a collaborative approach to lessons learnt and promote an open culture of learning across durable solutions initiatives inclusive of the FGS, FMS, district and local authorities, UN, NGOs and displacement affected communities themselves enabling us to do more of what works and less of what doesn't.

Outcome 4: Durable solutions programing and decision making processes at national and regional level are informed by knowledge and evidence generated by the program

The fourth outcome led by ReDSS will focus on ensuring learning from the programme is utilised by key policy and practitioners in Somalia. ReDSS will ensure the lessons learnt are shared across the wider community of practise around durable solutions in Somalia and the East Africa Region.

ReDSS is the knowledge management and capacity development partner within the consortium and across the different NGOs led durable consortia. DFID proposal is therefore based on emerging good practices and lessons learnt from both EU REINTEG and DSP programing.

ReDSS is playing an essential role in creating a space for learning and exchanges bringing governments, humanitarian, development and policy makers together to support a common understanding and vision on durable solutions processes.

Written publications will have limited effect in terms of sharing learning and building knowledge unless they are accompanied by other methods to provide a platform for dialogue on solutions related issues. ReDSS will continue to bring them together to support peer learning and facilitate constructive local problem-solving, combining technical knowledge on durable solutions with politically smart ways of working.

Displacement is a political issue so political economy understanding and locally led approaches need to inform durable solutions processes in Somalia. Politically smart approaches are crucial especially in a context of state building.

At the same the knowledge management and adaptive learning activities will contribute to improve the standardization, disaggregation and availability of displacement related data collected over time to better inform displacement planning and programing through dashboard, longitudinal aspiration surveys, an annual evidence week to collectively reflect on progress and challenges and support research and analysis uptake and to adapt strategies accordingly. The four core principles that will underpin this program are:

- **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 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.

Furthermore, in order to support social cohesion and social inclusion of displaced in urban context, in addition to Displacement Affected Communities (DAC) led plans, ReDSS will develop and implement together with local authorities and municipalities a public communication campaign using art and culture to address myths and perception around displacement and support better social integration in each of the 3 cities.

And in order to better understand and address displacement drivers, root causes and DAC aspirations over time, a longitudinal aspirations survey will be conducted over the 4 years. Once or twice a year, the survey will be conducted in the same DAC communities in each location to be able to have better disaggregated data and information over time to improve our targeting and programing strategies.

Output 4.1: Capacity development, peer learning and technical support to policy makers and practitioners to sustain locally led durable solutions processes

There is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian and development programme staff, as well as of policy and decision makers at regional, district and municipal levels. Addressing displacement and solutions are first and foremost political processes, albeit with important humanitarian dimensions. A first step is to work with national and local authorities to strengthen their capacity, knowledge and expertise on durable solutions processes for displacement affected communities, so as authorities will have the capacity to provide adequate leadership and coordination role. This is not through one of training but by investing in long-term coaching and mentorship learning processes while being able to demonstrate learning impact translated into comprehensive programing and policies. Peer learning bringing municipalities and local authorities together will also be an essential component.

In terms of approaches, it will be important to go beyond supporting economic activities to integrate wider displacement needs, and to effectively integrate host community relations and social integration as a core part of local integration strategies.

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.

Output 4.2: Evidence and learning on durable solutions is generated, easily accessible and used

It is essential to support displacement-affected communities through a richer understanding of their perspectives and roles in relation to networks and institutions important in shaping their lives in displacement. ReDSS will act as a resource and information hub promoting a culture of learning and reflection to facilitate the implementation of durable solutions processes focused on self-reliance and integrated programming for displaced and host communities. It will do so by organising learning events in Somalia in partnership with local authorities and practitioners, by addressing knowledge gaps and ensuring availability of displacement related data and analyses through dashboard, online tutorial and other tools.

Adaptive learning will be at the centre of the action, ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to changing contexts and needs through the following:

- Improve the standardization, disaggregation and availability of displacement related data and knowledge collected over time to better inform displacement planning and programing of authorities and practitioners through: ReDSS dashboard/ longitudinal aspiration surveys/ lessons learnt processes/ studies and analyses to address operational knowledge gaps
- Annual reflection week to collectively reflect on progress and challenges to inform real time adaptation and decision making processes and to adapt strategies accordingly
- Adaptive learning and adaptive management to support real time adaptation and longer term processes
- Provision of timely, digestible and relevant information and analysis through user-friendly channels and systems to increase information uptake and application
- Availability of relevant research and analysis, increasing its reach, accessibility and uptake

Output 4.3: Support to policy processes and development of policy briefs based on evidence

Learning and evidence from this program will be used to inform and support policy processes based on iterative, adaptive approaches. Political economy analyses will be ongoing and one pager issues briefs will be developed on regular basis.