Local Dynamics and Solutions in [city/town]

Exchange on local solutions to urban Displacement.

Bossaso, Puntland- Somalia.
Bosaso city

Is a city in the northeastern Bari province of Somalia. Located on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden. The city serves as the region’s commercial capital and has a major seaport.

It has an estimated population of around 800,000 people.

The city’s economy focused on the revenue of the port and transporting commercial goods to all regions of Somalia. the city is hosting the headquarter of major telecommunication companies and banks.

Bosaso city affairs are managed by the Bosaso Municipality. Its leadership is appointed by members of the Councils (31 representatives). The municipal authority is currently led by Mayor Abdisalam Bashir, who succeeded Yasin Mire, following an election on September 6th 2018.
The district Map of Bosaso

Urban structure

• Main City in Puntland, which has grown after the collapse of the state
• 16 neighborhoods
• Poor road network
• Needs more infrastructure, building rehabilitation and a new town plan
BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Very diverse composition of the displaced communities – displaced or local families?

Large portion of IDPs have expressed desire to locally integrate

Steady inflows of displaced persons in Bossaso due to:
- Geographical position
- Instability and climate shocks in the country
- Economic opportunities offered by the city
How has displacement affected the city over the last few years (Number of IDPs / IDP settlements, returnees, )

- **Insecurity** in the country: Somalia prone to humanitarian crises because of political, socio-economic and environmental reasons.
- Bossaso attracts large numbers of displaced who are fleeing insecurity and want to rebuild their livelihoods.
- Aspirations of the IDPs: **Bosaso will enable them to gain the resources** which were lost in their original regions.
- In Bosaso, the majority of IDP settlements are situated on the outskirts of the town in the south and in the north-west, old settlements in the east are now part of Bossaso city.
- When IDPs initially arrived in Bosaso, many clustered together on the basis of shared clan/ethnic affiliation or a common place of origin, as reflected by the names of some of the camps.
Bosaso and Urban Displaced Population

- Since 1991 the population doubled in Bosaso has doubled.

- On average 2,000 people migrate into the city every year. The combined total population of displaced people is considered to be 80,542 and growing. At least 1,240 persons arrived in Bari province (June-Aug), 2018.

- Some IDPs remain invisible in host communities, most are based in 39 camps. These host IDPs, asylum-seekers, refugees, Somali refugee returnees from Yemen, urban poor and migrants.

- The nomadic population and their livestock is pushed to urban centers by drought and conflict.

- The rapid growth rate combined with poor urban management has meant that urban services, education, and health care are in a deplorable state. Environmental degradation is one of the most visible problems and is particularly dangerous for the poor.
Bosaso and Urban Displaced Population.....

- Traffic and small vehicle congestion along the main road, illegal dumping, lack of drainage, and water stagnation during the rainy season are some of the most perceptible environmental challenges.
- The continuous inflow of IDPs is a burden on the reception and absorption capacities of local authorities and communities, but also for existing communities of IDPs.
- Bossaso is also a centre for temporary resettlement of those who wish to flee and seek asylum abroad:
  - Bossaso is the most common departure point for boats carrying Somali and Ethiopian immigrants across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and other Persian Gulf states.
- Those who remain, decide to stay because they feel safe and that economic opportunities are more accessible.
THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN REGARDS TO URBAN GROWTH

• The importance of the Port for the city, and to support the decision to move to Bossaso
• Bosaso has a very active private sector telecommunication, hospitality, remittance banks, fishery, agriculture and livestock-related, vocational institutes, private clinics, construction companies, small manufacturers, and a number of small-scale enterprises.
• IDP communities have created a large pool of cheap labour due to the low level of skills and they contribute to the economic development of the town.
• Bossaso has over 40 rural settlements on which the soil allows farming; their products are sold daily in Bossaso markets for local consumption.
• The exports are mainly goats and sheep, followed by cattle, camels, fish, and frankincense. The imports include construction materials, food, fuel, and Kat. In recent years, Bossaso has evolved into a refueling station for maritime transport between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf ports.
Degraded urban environment

- **Displaced** settle along the *periphery of the town*, renting out or occupying un-serviced land from private owners and in the process severely degrading the urban environment.
- A **comprehensive approach to the urban problems of the city** for the benefit of both the host community and the displaced is required. UN-HABITAT has undertaken a series of interventions along this line.
- **Degradation of the urban environment affects all neighborhoods.** Critical issues to be addressed: lack of efficient garbage collection systems, improper disposal of waste from vehicle engines, and contamination by human waste of soil and underground water, which leads to waterborne diseases.
- The **degradation impacts severely life settlements**: frequent disease and fire outbreaks.
- **Livestock facilities are not well developed**, and livestock holding grounds encroach on residential developments. This creates environmental pollution and poses severe health threats to the local population, especially the IDPs and the urban poor living on the eastern side of town.
Sewage and drainage system

- Overcrowded city: the basic services provided by the Municipality became inadequate.
- Solid waste collection is currently one of the most critical services whose quality and coverage has caused serious public outcry – rainy season and spread of diseases, flies breakout in IDPs settlements therefore
- Therefore, Bossaso municipality donated landfill that locates 9km east and west from the city and contracted Alla-Amin company in Bosaso district for Liquid waste collection but does not cover the entire city. Therefore, there are areas outside the urban settlements where wastes are abandoned.
Forced evictions is the main challenge we are dealing with monthly. The reasons causes force eviction are various but below are the main ones in our experience.

1. Mostly the land is inhabited by IDPs, either for free or as rent paying tenants, such disputes may have a negative impact upon their continued tenure. The most likely outcomes for tenants in this scenario are rent increases or evictions.

2. Areas once located on the outskirts of town can, within a few years, become part of the main town itself. This increases the value of the land and the owners may believe that they are missing out on the potential for higher returns by providing land for free or leasing it out for low rents.

3. Land originally agreed with the municipal government for rent-free lease to IDPs was generally located on the periphery of urban areas in Garowe, Bossaso and Galkayo. Although at the time of the lease such land may be marginal and of little worth, the value of the land can quickly increase as a result of increasing urbanization.
Opportunities in Place

• A **two-lane highway**, which was built for the annual livestock shipments to the Middle East and connects the city to Garowe and Mogadishu.

• **Exports**: goats and sheep, followed by cattle, camels, fish, and frankincense.

• In recent years, Bossaso has evolved into a **refueling station for maritime transport** between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf ports.

• The **investments and money from the diaspora and returnees should be strategically channeled into the local economy**. Bossaso is one of the best examples of how Puntland is trying to overcome the social, institutional, and economic breakdown caused by the war; in spite of this, however, unemployment remains very high, and measures still need to be taken to boost the local economy.
Planned development Activities

• Repair and decongest key existing roads.
• Reorganize and clear pathways and small lanes, formalize them into roads, and reconnect them with the main road network.
• Trace new roads in strategic locations, in line with the Bossaso urban development plan.
• Improve and expand the port’s storage capacity, access to the port, and port facilities such as a quarantine area for livestock.
• Support the electricity and water agencies in expanding and maintaining their networks, with the support of the municipality and international development agencies.
• Set up meetings and consultations between local authorities and business people.
• Establish a chamber of commerce and register existing businesses.
• Identify areas with potential for economic development and service them.
• Develop long- and short-term action plans to be implemented in collaboration with all urban development actors, including development agencies.
• Encourage the regional and central authorities to participate in the city’s development.
• Increase the capacity of the water agency.
Planned development Activities. Cont...

- Rehabilitate water wells and boreholes.
- Raise awareness on polluted shallow wells.
- Conduct an awareness campaign on health risks.
- Establish an efficient public-private partnership garbage collection system with the involvement of the municipality, private businessman, communities, and development agencies.
- The strategic development plan of the district proposes an alternative location for livestock-related activities. The area is close to water sources and is easily accessible from the port and the main road.
- Better protection for the displaced from human rights abuses, physical violence, eviction, and fire outbreaks.
- Improve living conditions in existing and temporary settlements, through settlement upgrading, improved access to basic services, and access to immediate income-generating opportunities.
- Provision of durable solutions for livelihoods, resettlement, and reintegration.
Recommendations

• Promote **community integration** support through (re-integration package) support and this will reduce vulnerability and the number of IDPs settlements.

• The main mechanism to **prevent dispute arising in relation to security of land tenure by displaced persons in Puntland** is the durable solutions strategy of local integration through the **allocation of permanent land and housing for family**. This is the preferred strategy of Puntland Government as well as local municipality administrations and displaced people themselves.

• To improve living conditions and put displaced families on the path to self sufficiency, **Bossaso District is planning to relocate IDPs in organized fashion to better sites**.

• The district closely working with mandated agencies, **supported voluntarily returnees to other regions of Somalia** but there are refugees those need repatriation and the district only can’t cover the basic needs of the returnees families.

• Bossaso district mayor suggesting to **improve infrastructure and service** in areas of return in order to help refugees and IDPs home voluntarily.
ACTIVITIES BOSASO MAYOR LAST FOUR MONTHS
OPENING CEREMONY BOSASO SLAUGHTER HOUSE
Community consultation meetings
Sanitation Campaigns
Abdisalaam Bashir Abdisalam
Chairman of Councillor and Mayor of Bosaso City

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THANK YOU