

Objective: The Migration, Displacement and Durable Solutions Sub-Group under the Resilience Pillar Working Group endorsed core programming principles for durable solutions (See text box). The collective outcomes principle highlights that interventions do not need to address all aspects of durable solutions in order to contribute to a comprehensive approach. What is essential is coordination to jointly pursue collective outcomes across government and non-governmental actors, including civil society, the affected communities themselves, the private sector, research bodies and academia, and the international community.

Achievements: what works?

There are three key achievements upon which to build in 2019/2020.

Integrating a durable solutions learning partner

In 2016, a regional review of durable solutions in East Africa highlighted the benefit of regional durable solutions initiatives – such as ReDSS – to enhance collaboration between actors. One of the specific challenges raised in the 2016/2017 solutions analysis is the need to find “strategic entry points to ensure that durable solutions are not just agreed to verbally, but put in practice”.²⁷ A concrete application of this has been the endorsement of ReDSS as the main learning partner across three of the donor-funded durable solutions consortia: EU RE-INTEG, Danwadaag Solutions Consortia and the Durable Solutions Programme.

The role of ReDSS has shaped a way forward with all durable solutions consortia using the IASC framework as a foundation for their work. In particular, ReDSS has shaped joint monitoring frameworks, which now need to be operationalised. While not all partners use the same logframe or measure progress with the same indicators, discussion on joint monitoring indicators under EU RE-INTEG has allowed for regional initiatives in South West State, Jubaland and Benadir to be better linked. ReDSS has created a durable solutions learning space that facilitates the exchange of research and evidence to ensure that learning feeds into planning and implementation at both programmatic and policy levels.

Bringing together UN, NGO and government actors to contribute to collective outcomes

The UN, NGOs and the Somali government have joined forces to work on durable solutions for Somalia. This is exemplified in the work undertaken by the EU RE-INTEG projects, and the DFID-funded Danwadaag Solutions Consortia, which is led by the IOM, UN-Habitat, the Norwegian Refugee Council and ReDSS in support of the government. This partnership has ensured the capacity to innovate by linking humanitarian and development with peacebuilding programmes. With the previous Midnimo project led by the IOM, and the continued work of the Somalia Stabilisation Initiative, the IOM is now in a position to link durable solutions programming with stabilisation and statebuilding efforts.

Technical working groups, such as such as the Migration, Displacement and Durable Solutions sub-group, have been established and are led by the Somali government, with representation from the UN and NGOs. State-level coordination meetings also take place regularly under the leadership the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the mayor in Baidoa, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Kismayo and BRA in Mogadishu. These changes indicate a move beyond NGOs working for donors or the UN as implementing partners to more equal partnerships building on the strengths of each actor. This can lead to a better division of tasks and responsibilities in a collective conversation about outcomes. More work needs to be done so that all NGOs feel equally valued (including in consortia, such as EU RE-INTEG). According to feedback received for this report, some stakeholders indicate that there is a continued lack of flexibility and a limited sense of ownership at the consortia level.²⁸ Nonetheless, progress to date suggests a transformation in understanding the positive value of collective outcomes among durable solutions actors in Somalia.

Aligning and adapting programming

The EU was the first donor to support durable solutions with multi-year programming in 2016, building on previous IDP solutions initiatives. Since then, other donors have developed this approach to scale it. The fact that donors are working to align their efforts and to build upon one another’s programmes and initiatives has paved the way for a gradual progression to new models of working on durable solutions. One of the lessons learnt from the EU RE-INTEG project is the lack of coherent community engagement approaches. Building on the strength of the Midnimo approach to Community Action Plans, for example, the Danwadaag Solutions Consortia consequently focused on the latter and also integrated a stronger peacebuilding component in their durable solutions work.

Moving beyond humanitarian to development funding has allowed multi-year programming and long-term outcomes to be established. This shift also has enabled a longer inception phase to better plan for durable solutions. This has contributed to the growing space for dialogue and coordination, often happening bilaterally (between consortia) or more comprehensively under the leadership of the government or the UN Resident Coordinator Office.

Programme design is also being adapted to include environmentally friendly solutions geared towards societal benefits that may be engendered in the long run. Examples of clean-up campaigns or recycling efforts accompanying the construction of new infrastructure are a testimony to adaptation. More can and should still be done to ensure that proposed models or approaches take into account environmental and social impacts. This can be an effective way to bring on board larger numbers of private sector actors dedicated to provide safe water, solar energy and recycling efforts in a context where such public goods cannot yet be single-handedly delivered by the government (at any level).

Challenges: what obstacles need to be addressed in 2019/2020?

There are four primary obstacles to address.

Lack of coordination structures adapted to durable solutions planning

There is still an overlap of activities with duplication of efforts by stakeholders. In key informant interviews, challenges around coordination structures and information sharing are raised as essential hurdles to overcome. Feedback from ministerial counterparts indicates a perceived lack of understanding on how coordination is conceived. Gaps include the lack of a platform or tools for coordination, targeting issues and risks of duplication of beneficiaries, and the lack of geographic coverage outside urban centres.

Lack of shared data and joint analyses

At the operational level, agencies still rely on different sources of data and different indicators to assess needs. This is evident in commissioning overlapping studies (most prominently in the case of market assessments) and by conducting traditional needs assessments for projects rather than using an area-based approach for collective outcomes. Efforts by ReDSS to develop common indicators and by the Ministry of Planning in Kismayo to vet studies should contribute to greater coordination on data standards. The next step is to ensure that robust data informs joint analyses, which can improve joint area-based planning. There is also a lack of joint tools and harmonised processes to ascertain the contribution of durable solutions and other programmes to broader collective outcomes. Whereas durable solutions consortia partners have operationalised the IASC/ReDSS Durable Solutions Framework through their programmes, efforts are needed to have more clarity on an aggregation process to show evidence of collective outcomes from the various durable solutions programmes that are being carried out.

Lack of disaggregated data fit for durable solutions programming and policy – availability and access

Assessments are many: there is no lack of data but there is a lack of displacement-related data suitable for durable solutions, and of data sharing. Market assessments follow different methodologies and are of varied quality. For instance, in the Jubaland Solutions Consortium, on the one hand, the Norwegian Refugee Council has commissioned labour market assessments in Kismayo while on the other Concern Worldwide has commissioned economic inclusion assessments. Jointly planning these assessments would not only ensure coordination but also lead to more resources, time and better quality results. The next phase of implementation needs to rely on a stronger understanding of economic systems and value chains to build a contextualised approach to TVET. The limited time and opportunities for intra-consortium learning and sharing of practices is also a hurdle. Consortium partners should be able to allocate funds for value chain assessments, diversified training plans and a skills audit among all DACs, including men and women; hosts, IDPs and returnees; youth and elders.

Lack of standards on secondments

Secondments have multiplied in Somalia. While the World Bank functions through the creation of programme units within ministries, durable solutions actors have seconded staff to government offices. Some key informants interviewed for this report raise concerns over the lack of standards on secondments, citing issues that range from salary scales, duration and terms of reference to a lack of capacity development strategies to frame the secondments. In other words, a strategy for supporting the government should come first and requests from the government should likewise help shape decisions related to secondments (see below).

Opportunities: areas to prioritise investments in 2019/2020

There are four investment priorities.

Linking durable solutions with development and statebuilding programmes

The World Bank plans to expand an urbanisation review to reinforce the demand side of the economic well-being equation, with a focus on DACs. This creates key opportunities to link durable solutions work with ongoing stabilisation efforts, in particular in Baidoa and Kismayo (see Case Study 5). The World Bank plans to have all infrastructure constructed in a labour-intensive manner, hiring former UN-Habitat and IOM staff to set up an equitable beneficiary selection process that includes DACs. In particular, these plans consider how IDPs, returnees, women and youth can engage in short-term employment opportunities.

Opportunities also include working more closely with stabilisation programmes, whether they are Transition Initiatives for Stabilisation Plus (TIS+) or Somali Stability Fund-supported programmes or the IOM Somalia Stabilisation Initiative (SSI). In interviews with these actors, they acknowledge that where the Somalia Stabilisation Initiative is strong on youth-focused centres and social outcomes, partners are still needed to support the livelihood/economic component. Where the Somalia Stabilisation Initiative has a strong social media and civic dialogue initiative, this can be strengthened through the social accountability initiatives implemented by ReDSS. TIS+ works closely with the IOM on water infrastructure rehabilitation and construction of mother and child health (MCH) centres for displacement-affected communities in Baidoa.

CASE STUDY 5. STABILISATION LINKAGES WITH DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND RESILIENCE

Stabilisation-funded initiatives can be aligned with durable solutions efforts to contribute to collective outcomes. In many ways, they are already addressing the lessons learnt around the gaps in current durable solutions programming; for instance, adopting a whole-of-market and value chain approach in Kismayo, rather than simply a TVET approach. They are also testing incubator and entrepreneurship programmes for youth. There can be a space for mutual learning and joint resource sharing to ensure that matching funds are provided or complementary efforts are planned, where relevant.

Through the Somalia Stability Fund, a level of trust exists as programmes have been prioritised, vetted, funded and implemented. One programming cycle later, commitment from committees and communities is strong. This can provide an opportunity for durable solutions actors to build on the same committees or improve their composition to include more IDPs. An entry point for aligning durable solutions with the resilience components of stabilisation efforts is identifying members who are active in both groups. In the three locations under review for this solutions analysis, two such members are African Development Solutions (ADESO) and the American Refugee Committee (ARC).

In Kismayo, ADESO is part of the Somalia Resilience Action (STREAM) consortium led by Acted. In Baidoa, ADESO is funded by the Somali Stabilisation Fund to implement innovative economic development approaches in DACs. In both contexts, ADESO works directly in DACs with clear linkages and lessons learnt for durable solutions consortia. Under the Baidoa District Stability, Employment Skills and Entrepreneurship Strengthening project, ADESO and ACH (a local service provider with experience in integrated training support in DACs) have led the creation of an all-inclusive committee with representation from a wide range of stakeholder groups (e.g. local government, leaders, hosts, IDPs, returnees, the private sector, youth, women and minority clans) to promote business and entrepreneurship development. The project takes a classic TVET approach, aimed at job placements and apprenticeships. It also provides support to young people and potential local entrepreneurs, with a focus on an academic or private sector job/growth hub. These hubs offer an enabling environment, access to training services and networking. In 2019, ADESO intends to identify ten enterprises, five of which will receive start-up capital, matching grants, advisory support and links to relevant financial services.

The ARC is also funded by the Somali Stability Fund to undertake a youth and women-inclusive economic empowerment project in Jubaland, in collaboration with the private sector and the state government. The approach builds on strategic value chains for institutional strengthening and infrastructure support to increase employment opportunities for women and youth members of cooperatives. ARC also establishes community-level committees to ensure transparency, fair targeting and the inclusion of marginalised groups. Both ARC and the community, working together, are responsible for verifying the beneficiaries before they are registered to ensure inclusivity.

The ARC project is implementing four innovations in Kismayo. First, it supports technical skills development for fisherfolk designed to enhance practices for fishing cooperatives. This skills training covers the management and governance skills that are necessary for cooperatives to function well and focuses on improving fishing techniques. Second, after the training, the working groups engage in campaigns to promote local fish consumption and secure fishing. Third, cooperative members are then further trained on ecological management systems in order to better understand the importance of marine resources. They also receive further training on microfinance practices, including financial literacy, information about loans they can access and preparing them to access financial services. Finally, the project is establishing a strategic link with Mombasa, Kenya following the cross-border trade conference held in the Kenyan port city in 2018. It also supports the development of private sector involvement in the fisheries sector.

The outcome of such combined effort is geared towards increasing the fishing trade. In turn, this can boost the socio-economic growth of the fishing sector and enhance livelihood opportunities, thus contributing to regional economic stability.

Undertaking joint assessments, analysis and knowledge management

The data challenge can be turned into an opportunity for pooling resources and expertise in joint assessments and knowledge management. At the top level, the UN Resident Coordinator Office, under the leadership of Walter Kaelin, has developed a durable solutions marker to be integrated in the National Aid Flow Mapping exercise. The marker allows for the identification of programmes that directly engage with durable solutions and DACs to improve collective outcomes and coordination.

The World Bank has begun a microdata analysis of forced displacement in Somalia. With the inclusion of IDPs in the 2017 High Frequency Survey, the World Bank is finalising an analysis of poverty and vulnerabilities among IDPs in Somalia, highlighting key trends and recommending ways forward. The draft microdata analysis illustrates that the situation of IDPs is worse when compared to the rest of the population, across the majority of IASC indicators. The data is limited to IDPs and would benefit from providing similar information about the situation of refugee-returnees to help towards targeting under area-based approaches. The involvement of World Bank data analysis remains a key achievement in documenting displacement-related vulnerabilities. This is data that the durable solutions consortia and the government can use to guide area-based planning. The next steps should include disaggregated data by location.

Improving joint communication on vision and collective outcomes

The perceived lack of DAC inclusion in processes can be addressed through greater communication efforts. Similar to the recommendation at the data level, outreach to communities should be a joint effort. Joint sessions should clarify the added value of different activities and the longer-term contributions they are hoped to make. They should also highlight how programming is adaptive to the needs and requests prioritised by DACs; and to the differing experiences of hosts, IDPs and returnees.

Capitalising on CSOs to strengthen community capacity

CSOs are needed to support government access to communities and to support the capacities of the communities to prioritise their own needs. CSOs that already work across stabilisation–resilience programmes in DACs can play a critical role. While in 2016 a missing link had been identified, and recommendations made to localise durable solutions through the support of civil society organisations, in 2018, the context has gradually improved, with the growing involvement of CSOs in early solutions. In Somalia, the role of civil society in support of the government (see next section) and in terms of outreach to DACs is recognised and capitalised upon. The strong CSO base across a range of programmes is both an achievement and an opportunity for synergies beyond durable solutions. Through CSOs, access to communities, community engagement and sustainability of efforts can be enhanced. At the same time, the involvement of CSOs across peacebuilding, resilience and durable solutions means that area-based planning can be better sustained.

Investing in area-based collective outcomes

To capitalise on the momentum created through the government-led coordination on durable solutions processes at the both FGS and FMS levels, as well as the concerted efforts by durable solutions consortia partners, there are opportunities to continue to invest in area-based collective outcomes. The starting point for this is to work with local authorities and DACs at the local level jointly to define mutually agreeable priorities and how to achieve these at scale. The leadership at the municipalities in the three locations can be seen as ready entry and lead coordination focal points. In addition, creating systems to monitor progress towards these outcomes will also create mutual accountability and effectiveness of durable solutions interventions with much greater chances to sustainably support communities to end their situation of displacement.



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