

Objective: The Federal Government of Somalia, regional administrations and local authorities have primary responsibility for DACs. These responsible parties need to be supported to play a leadership and coordinating role at three levels: at the federal level in support of the implementation of the displacement pillar under the National Development Plan; at the state level through support to local government representatives; and at the municipality level.

Achievements: what works?

There are three achievements upon which to build in 2019.

Stronger governance: leadership on durable solutions by state and municipal authorities

Local governments in Somalia have begun to set up systems, laws, policies and other frameworks, including specific policies to address land disputes and settle conflicts (see Table 2). The Durable Solutions Unit in the BRA office has developed clear targets: by 2023, no more IDPs in informal camps.²⁹ To achieve this, critical steps need to be taken, with continued support for the development of BRA structures and administrative capacities. The EU RE-INTEG has been a crucial support in this regard but more engagement is necessary from other durable solutions consortia and donors to further support district level planning. ICT and communication are a gap to address, as this is crucial for better data and knowledge management. ICT and communication are also essential for proper coordination and information sharing, both among durable solutions actors and with DAC members.

Support from the international community has allowed sectoral gains to be made in key sectors. Renovation of government buildings has begun, with projects undertaken by UN Industrial Development Organization and the Norwegian Refugee Council, among others. TVET centres, such as the Kismayo Technical Institute, also have been built to provide a sustainable resource for a larger number of beneficiaries. In terms of institutional support, a primary achievement is the contribution to police reform and accountability, along with the construction of new police stations; for instance, in Midnimo village (outside Kismayo). Overall, government capacity to ensure the safety and security of programmes (for example, by providing security escorts) has led to greater access for partners. Relative to sustaining access, one of the important gains is the increase in government–community linkages and joint participation in meetings.

Secondments and the provision of salaries for civil servants have filled in a critical gap in supporting local government. The UN-Habitat urban secondment, to the planning department, has enabled the drafting of land laws. Judicial collaboration by various partners on HLP and civil documentation have allowed for land-based solutions and HLP programming to improve, especially in Kismayo and Baidoa. Through EIDACS, support to the state Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has enhanced its monitoring capacities by engaging them in project steering committees and project monitoring activities. For example, the EIDACS have supported the ministry to establish a six-person monitoring team.³⁰ Finally, support from UN-Habitat to the Baidoa municipality has helped address financial capacity gaps in the mayor's office.

Increasing resettlement and improving land tenure security

In Kismayo and Baidoa, local government has provided public land for shelter and committed to provide land with security of tenure to IDP households. On 22 January 2019, the mayor of Mogadishu and the governor of Benadir Region officially signed a letter allocating public land to IDP families that benefit from the EU RE-INTEG funded programme in Mogadishu to be resettled in Heliwa district.³¹ In a key informant interview with Dr Hodan Ali, director of the BRA Durable Solutions Unit, she explains: “The current allocation covers 300 families and this public land allocation will be followed by additional land allocation as part of the BRA's vision towards ending displacement and reaching durable solutions by 2023.”

Administrative and legal improvements have been made, with new registration and data systems for processing land deeds. These require greater support during 2019.

29 BRA (2019). Internally Displaced Person and Refugee Returnees Policy.

30 ReDSS (2018). Emerging Good Practices and Lessons Learnt in the EU RE-INTEG Programme.

31 UNHCR (2019). Somalia Operational Update, 3; see: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68142>

CASE STUDY 6. GOVERNMENT, NGO AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT ON LAND ISSUES

Land tenure has progressively improved in Baidoa, with steps taken by the mayor in the south and north of the city. A task force has been established through the IOM Camp Coordination and Camp Management platform and partners have rallied to address land tenure security, especially for IDP and refugee-returnee communities. Land legislation is ongoing, with a land law being drafted under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Works. This is an achievement in terms of land allocation and security of tenure.

At the same time, policy dialogue continues with landowners and camp committee members to ensure that IDPs are not evicted but resettled after consultation. The Norwegian Refugee Council is supporting the government through its information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA) programme by facilitating access to land tenure documentation including title deeds, which provide both permanent and temporary leases (five to ten years) improving access to land. The mayor has issued 6,000 households with permanent land titles, with caveats or conditions; for example, not selling the land or handing it out to another person. Further allocations are now pending until the draft land law is available. To date, efforts oriented to sensitisation, dialogue and joint coordination have reduced evictions. Government efforts to develop a resettlement plan also have allowed for a planned approach to relocations. Negotiations by the government have been effective in cases of evictions.

In Jubaland, the government is drafting an IDP law and shelter policy that recognises the rights of IDPs, returnees and other affected communities, emphasising their HLP rights. The government is working through the state land authority, in cooperation with a private company, to create a masterplan for the old and new Kismayo. Steps are being taken to avoid land grabbing. Systems are being developed for the registration of private land and for land allocation based on a proposed grid and sub-block system. Inhabitants of the city are requested to bring in their title deeds and any other relevant documentation to register in the system. The registration work is done by a private company, Milestone, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and the Office of the Vice President. To date, 500 land titles have been issued in the new city of Kismayo. The masterplan considers camps and IDP settlements, along with government wishes to issue more land for IDPs and returnees, supported by shelter programmes.

Despite this progress, there still remains a critical challenge as there is no coordinated approach to urban displacement settlements in relation to durable solutions. At present, different actors are liaising with the authorities and making investments, such as the World Bank ring road project, the AfDB water project, the DSP water provision partnership with Juba Water and Milestone's Kismayo Master Plan. All these efforts and investments are not, however, coordinated. The continued demand by local authorities for agencies to build two-room shelters remains expensive and untenable in comparison to the huge displaced populations within Jubaland.

Increasing collaborative opportunities with multi-partner investments

Across all locations, the introduction of multi-year development funding has allowed for a more predictable relationship and greater interest in durable solutions. Strong coordination by the state Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in both South West State and Jubaland on durable solutions programming and planning is noted. The ability of both state ministries to convene partners, including resilience and durable solutions actors, is recognised as being a positive step towards area-based planning.

Challenges: what obstacles need to be addressed?

There are four primary obstacles to address.

Lack of financial capacity

As one state government official notes in a key informant interview, "The money is with the UN and NGOs. Nothing goes to our accounts." Most of the budget that the federal government has goes to security needs, with little left over for service provision and staff salaries. Gaps in infrastructure projects exist, notably on roads, water, education and healthcare. The government cannot afford the salaries of all the staff it requires for projects in durable solutions locations nor does it have sufficient staff to cover all locations. The number of projects planned in Kismayo and Jubaland, for instance, requires staff who can travel and supervise the work that is being conducted. Moreover, government plans also require staff to cover coastal areas. The level of staffing needed for all this work is not sustainable without external project funding. NGOs and donors are requested to set aside funding for staff purposes.

Although multi-year funding has improved coordination and engagement, the levels of need require more than a three-year perspective to set short, medium and long-term targets with the government. Funding and engagement timelines need to go beyond the current three-year funding cycle. Emergency or contingency funds are also needed. In conversations in Kismayo, for instance, it is noted that humanitarian actors currently operate on behalf of the government in emergency situations.

Uneven understanding of and technical capacity for durable solutions

There is an uneven understanding of durable solutions. While municipalities and planning entities have strong knowledge, other counterparts – from line ministries or departments – are newer to the durable solutions conversation. Trainings are needed at government and community levels, including education sessions on durable solutions. Local government interviews highlight the need for capacity assessments to be undertaken of their offices to help them identify progress, gaps and ways forward, and to offer donors concrete capacity development plans.

Need for government engagement and monitoring plans

More policy dialogue with government is needed to enhance accountability to DACs and to ensure better case management. Implementing agencies need to support local authorities to monitor collective outcomes, integrating government in joint monitoring. There is currently a limited understanding of monitoring requirements and processes. These require further training and mainstreaming.

Need for clear and transparent communication by durable solutions actors

Various levels of engagement by durable solutions consortia with government have created confusion. There is a need for durable solutions actors to enhance transparency and improve the quality of their government engagement.

Opportunities: areas to prioritise investments in 2019/2020

There are four investment priorities.

Conducting capacity assessments

Robust capacity assessments that review existing skills and competencies, equipment and infrastructural requirements, and financial and human resources are needed at regional and district levels. These capacity assessments should have explicit implementation and monitoring and evaluation plans, with multi-year targets. The areas of support could include policy and planning, legal frameworks for housing and land, coordination and communication, preparing for future displacement, and overall reinforcement of data and coordination systems. In Mogadishu, BRA needs to collaborate with other neighbouring regions, such as Hirshabelle and South West State.

Standardising secondments and contracting practices

Practices of secondment are well acknowledged by stakeholders with issues around the need to now standardise contracting practices, payment structures and other parameters, given the number of agencies actively involved in offering secondments, both in and outside durable solutions initiatives. The lack of coordination among stakeholders around how to engage and support local authorities means that different organisations have their own engagement strategy. There is a need for better coordination of resources and information sharing on key gaps and challenges in order to support local authorities in meaningful ways.

Enhancing CSO engagement

In Mogadishu, CSOs have been instrumental in creating and establishing linkages between the local government and communities. Partnership building between CSOs and government can benefit from the core programming principles of durable solutions: learning by doing; peer support; and local guidance. These are all elements in need of enhancement.

Investments in the capacity of government should also include CSO representatives to develop a common base of understanding about durable solutions and related priorities, as well as to ensure that multiple actors speak a common language. Local stakeholders can jointly develop how-to notes for durable solutions actors so that they can better engage with local communities, local authorities and CSOs. One of the key priorities for government-CSO partnerships is around the establishment of grievance mechanisms and referral systems. If communities consider local government to be a relay for their concerns and needs, government credibility will improve.

In Mogadishu, participants in the operational workshop raise the need to establish an innovation hub for the BRA to host its vast network of advisors and experts, who lack meeting points to brainstorm and design innovative ideas. The innovation hub could also serve as an idea hub, where local actors, experts and DAC members can work

together to develop solutions that can make the 2022 vision possible. The same process can be launched in Kismayo and Baidoa, with local CSOs and local government serving as co-chairs.

Filling public service delivery gaps through private sector engagement

The private sector has been engaged and contracted to provide key services – water, electricity, telecommunications, and strengthening and rehabilitating canals – thereby filling in many of the current public service delivery gaps.

To be transformative at scale, engagement with the private sector requires greater cooperation between different levels of government to define the most suitable types of public–private partnerships. If investments are to be made, this will be the remit of the local authorities, with federal government. At present, these connections suffer from government fragmentation on durable solutions at the federal level.

CASE STUDY 7. PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT

Discussion about durable solutions now needs to move towards the capacity of the private sector to support and engage with the government in DACs. The education, financial and energy sectors are three entry points.

Education: business incubators

Initiatives are being planned to establish business incubators. One is led by the University of Mogadishu. This entails developing a model for business incubation that is overseen by a board of private and public entities, including the municipality of Mogadishu and companies such as Hormuud, local TV companies and Coca Cola. The Mogadishu business incubator intends to look at how IDP businesses can thrive. It also plans to address the challenges IDPs face in terms of access to services: how can the business incubator best support the development of businesses that serve both IDPs and host communities? There is some engagement, although the terms have not yet been structured.

There are several different angles that can be taken, depending on the context. For instance, partners could establish a conversation in Kismayo on education services that brings together private sector educators, local authorities and the aid community. In terms of vocational skills training, partners could work with local business institutions to provide training for youth, at their business centres. In Baidoa, conversations could be established with the private sector to contribute an improved access to basic services as a large part of the water supply is provided by the private sector.³² The objective then becomes twofold: to generate work and build the capacity of the private sector, while linking this sector with future workers.

Financial sector and saving schemes

Progress has also been made in the financial sector, in particular to work with women to open group bank accounts and build their savings. STREAM partners in Kismayo have entered into an agreement with Amal Bank to support model Income Generating Activities (IGA) groups with group accounts and access to banking services, and an overall graduation model. To date, 46 IGA groups in Kismayo have signed an MoU with Amal Bank. The aim of the MoU is threefold: 1) to open up group accounts in locations where grants are channelled; 2) to provide the groups with access to banking services; and 3) to open up opportunities for financial inclusion through business credit services for the groups. A fourth foreseeable benefit is to scale-up banking services for individuals whose businesses grow to maturity or individuals who need to grow their businesses for greater financial success.

With a shared bank account, the members provide social and financial guarantees for credit services, hence making credit more easily accessible. All groups have started saving money in their joint accounts. Groups save different amounts per day or month, with a majority saving USD 1 per day per member. That comes to an average of USD 300 to 450 per month, depending on the number of members in the group. Groups are then able to make joint decisions on how to reinvest their savings. Often, members decide to make loans to other group members so that they can expand their businesses. The bank has also issued loans to individual group members, along with education sessions on how to manage their businesses.

32 SWS / UN-Habitat / IOM (2017). Baidoa Urban Profile Working Paper and Spatial Analyses for Urban Planning Consultations and Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises.

Energy sector

Private sector electricity and water companies are involved at two levels. The first is the provision of electricity grids and water supplies in DACs. Conversations between public and private partners are conducted to see how best to ensure that water prices remain constant, to avoid price fluctuations during times of high demand and to make such services affordable for both IDPs and hosts. The private sector also plays a role in the maintenance of water infrastructure but arrangements are currently ad hoc. If communities can sign direct agreements with private companies (for instance, annual maintenance on their water infrastructure), this would ensure sustainability.

Overall, and based on the interviews conducted for this report, private sector willingness to engage in DACs reveals itself in various capacities: provision of skills; support to social and recreational activities; set up of business groups and centres for women and youth; access to financial services; and hiring staff or workers directly from displaced populations.



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