LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EU RE-INTEG DURABLE SOLUTIONS CONSORTIA (2017- 2020)
OVERVIEW OF CONTENT

- About the EU REINTEG programme
- Rationale objective and methodology
- Overview of EIDACs, JSC, and SDSC Programmes
- Areas of learning focus
- Key lessons learned
The EU RE-INTEG Programme (Enhancing Somalia’s responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows) seeks to support sustainable re-integration of refugee returnees and IDPs in Somalia.

The programme also seeks to enhance the capacities of the Somalia government and local authorities to assume their primary responsibility for facilitating durable solutions through an increased accessibility to basic services and creation of livelihoods.

The programme has three result areas:

- **Result 1:** Closing gaps in the management of refugee and returnees
- **Result 2:** Enhancing the rule of law by improving and implementing policies and legal framework for IDPs, refugees and returnees
- **Result 3:** Increased access to basic services and creation of realistic livelihood opportunities in the main access areas of return and departure.
They are multi-year programmes that straddle the humanitarian-development nexus, that have the specific aim of contributing toward the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees.

They incorporate a set of four common outcomes, as well as 10 outcome indicators from the IASC Framework and the ReDSS Framework, which are intended to be used as a means of measuring progress project contribution towards (re)integration.

EIDACS, SDSC and JSC interventions have...

- Helped to increase engagement between displaced and host communities, and between displacement-affected communities (DACs) and government representatives.
- Supported displaced populations to obtain land documentation, and communities are better equipped to deal with land disputes.
- Improved the identification of, and response to, actual and potential forced eviction incidents.
- Made investments in water and sanitation, health, and education infrastructure for DACs, and service providers have been equipped with new skills.
- Provided individuals and groups with training and support that has helped them to access loans, obtain employment, and start new businesses.
RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVE

To document learning and promising practices from the EU RE-INTEG NGO-led programmes

Programme strategy and approach, including the use of the IASC indicators

Consortium governance structures and coordination within/between consortia

Engagement with critical durable solutions stakeholders, particularly government representatives and displacement-affected communities

Learning & programme adaptation
### METHODOLOGY

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<th>Phase 1: Development of criteria/key questions</th>
<th>The three consortia programmes are broad multi-sectoral interventions implemented by, and engaging with, a wide range of actors. Determining the scope and criteria for gathering lessons learned therefore required some careful prioritization, balancing breadth of focus with depth of analysis. Key criteria were agreed upon with technical committee members.</th>
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<td>Phase 2: Desk review</td>
<td>Key documents were reviewed, including: the <code>RE-INTEG real-time documentation</code> for 2018, project proposals and reports, M&amp;E plans, monitoring data, project reviews/mid-term evaluation reports, and minutes of Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings.</td>
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<td>Phase 3: Key informant interviews</td>
<td>A total of 20 KIIs were held with the key programme stakeholders, including RE-INTEG implementing and learning partners, the EU, representatives of government, and partners from other durable solutions consortia.</td>
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<td>Phase 4: Development of case studies</td>
<td>Three case studies, which explore a specific sector/activity of each of the three programmes in greater depth, were developed.</td>
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<td>Phase 5: Development of lessons learned</td>
<td>This report presents key lessons learned from the implementation of the three programmes, based on an analysis of data from KIIs and desk review.</td>
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<td>AREAS OF LEARNING FOCUS</td>
<td>Questions</td>
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<td><strong>Strategy and approach</strong></td>
<td>• How can effective area-based approaches be adopted?</td>
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<td>• What are the challenges in measuring (re)integration?</td>
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<td><strong>Consortia governance and management</strong></td>
<td>• What is the value-add of a consortia approach to durable solutions programming, and how should consortia be constructed?</td>
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<td><strong>Community engagement</strong></td>
<td>• How can programmes support the meaningful participation of DACs in durable solutions processes?</td>
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<td><strong>Government engagement</strong></td>
<td>• How can programmes support and empower government stakeholders to lead durable solutions programmes?</td>
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<td><strong>Learning and adaptation</strong></td>
<td>• How can programmes learn and make adaptations, based on reflection/feedback on programme activities, approaches and processes, as well changes in the external environment?</td>
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1. Durable solutions programming can enable a coordinated approach to addressing displacement which spans the humanitarian-development-peace/state building nexus.

2. Durable solutions programming should work in complementarity with resilience programming in rural areas, and should promote both local integration in urban areas and, where feasible, safe and dignified return and reintegration in rural areas.

3. Durable solutions-focused programmes should develop a clear theory of change during the design stage, which outlines a causal pathway for advancing (re)integration and addressing vulnerability across DACs.

4. There is a lack of evidence and consensus among durable solutions actors on what works and what does not in the process of measuring and monitoring progress towards (re)integration.
1. Working as a consortium enables agencies to deliver comprehensive, multi-sectoral responses to displacement, and implement area-based approaches in displacement affected communities.

2. Adequate investment is required in consortium management structures to ensure harmonization of approaches across agencies, cross-learning, and robust monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

3. Space needs to be created for the meaningful involvement of national/local humanitarian and development organizations in the design and implementation of solutions-focused programming.
1. Durable solutions programming should seek to utilize and build upon existing community groups and plans.

2. Programme design should incorporate participation and flexibility so as to enable interventions to be driven by community priorities.

3. Durable solutions programming should create the space and opportunities for communities and key stakeholders to engage in dialogue, collaboration and joint planning.

4. Accountability to displacement-affected communities must be established through prioritizing a two-way flow of information.
1. Early engagement at all levels of government, especially during the design phase, is essential to secure government buy-in and ongoing engagement.

2. Achieving durable solutions is dependent upon different levels of government having adequate capacity, willingness, and resources to lead durable solutions processes.

3. Government leadership and oversight needs to be encouraged and supported throughout implementation through a variety of approaches.
1. Processes for **learning and adaptation** should be embedded into project design, with roles, responsibilities and processes clearly defined.

2. The **inclusion of a learning partner in consortia** can add significant value in terms of generating learning, building capacity, and creating the space for dialogue on durable solutions.

3. Multiple approaches should be adopted for **capturing and applying learning** in durable solutions programming.

4. **Flexibility should be built into programme design**, in order to ensure that learning can lead to effective and appropriate adaptation of programmes.
Increasing access to savings and loans for DACs

1. **Access to savings and loans is a critical aspect of durable solutions:** Participation in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has improved the ability of IDPs and returnees to integrate in DACs, through improving their standard of living and increasing access to services.

2. **The establishment of SHGs can build social cohesion:** In adopting an area-based approach, the SDSC formed SHGs comprised of IDPs, returnees, and host community members. Through working together collaboratively, group members were able to build relations across different population groups in DACs.

3. **Support provided during the establishment of SHGs is critical to their future success:** Significant amounts of time need to be set aside for the processes of group formation, training, and the development of rules and regulations for each group.

4. **The SHG model needs to be scaled up in programme locations:** Many individuals in programme locations would benefit from the SHG approach, and there is a clear need for investment in additional groups. Future programming should also focus on grouping SHGs together in a federated structure, as well as building linkages between SHGs and banks and micro-finance institutions.
Support to small businesses for DACs (Baidoa & Afgoye)

1. **Economic empowerment must play a critical role in future durable solutions programming:** Efforts to integrate IDPs and (re)integrate returnees must prioritize economic interventions as a means of anchoring the population and helping them to find a durable solution.

2. **Communities must have ownership of economic empowerment activities:** The DAC Fora determined the focus of economic activities under the programme and led the beneficiary selection process. This ensured fairness in the process and gave DACs a sense of ownership of the economic empowerment activities.

3. **Beneficiaries should be representative of needs within the community and not confined to one displacement group:** The DAC Fora is a representative body composed of IDPs, returnees, and host community members; this ensured fairness in the selection of beneficiaries and that beneficiaries were selected from across populations groups.

4. **Future durable solutions programming should be informed by a more robust market and value chain analysis:** This will enable economic empowerment activities to fill gaps and create linkages with local markets, as well as support local economic development planning in displacement-affected communities.
Protecting Housing Land and Property for DACs

1. **HLP is a critical component of durable solutions programming in Somalia:** Programming must focus on improving security of tenure and reducing the threat of eviction. (Re)integration is not possible without secure access to land and therefore government-led efforts to identify suitable land for voluntary relocation should be supported and services and assistance should be provided in these locations.

2. **Government leadership is imperative in advancing HLP objectives:** Increasing government engagement in addressing evictions leads to positive outcomes: eight in ten eviction prevention initiatives have been successful as a result of direct involvement of the local municipality.

3. **Developing the HLP policy and legal framework in Somalia is critical to ending displacement:** Durable solutions programming must be informed by a strong understanding of the legal, policy and institutional environment, and support policy development and the capacity enhancement of relevant state institutions.

4. **Localized alternatives for the protection of HLP rights should be prioritized:** Informal and customary mechanisms remain critical in the management of community relations and disputes, especially so given the limited capacity and reach of the formal justice system.