Terms of reference

Durable Solutions analysis on socio economic inclusion and self-reliance for refugees and host community in Dadaab- Garissa county

Background
The majority of Somali refugees in Kenya reside in the Dadaab refugee camp complex in the Garissa county of North East Kenya. 217,511 refugees live there, the majority are of Somali origin and many have been there for years and decades. The living conditions in the camp are appalling and illustrate the limitations of the camp model. In spite of humanitarian assistance being provided for decades, most refugees live on the edge of extreme poverty with no or restricted opportunities to access work and eventually become self-reliant.

More than a quarter century since it was first established, Dadaab has morphed into a permanent home for many people locked in a cycle of waiting and waiting. The majority of refugees who arrived to Dadaab from 2011 and onwards opted to return as they have stronger networks that can help them in return. Therefore, one of the reasons for refugees still in Dadaab not to return is in part due to their lack of familial and wider support. As the government ceased registration of refugees in Dadaab, there were 15,213 unregistered asylum seekers at the end of 2019, many of whom are dependent on the support of family/networks and, without recourse to any authorities, at risk of exploitation.

Encampment, coupled with the protracted refugee situation in Dadaab leave thousands of men, women, and children living in limbo, resulting in wasted human capacity and deprivations of human dignity. Research found that refugees are dismayed by their dependency on inadequate aid, and express diminished self-worth due to their inability to better their situation or to escape from the conditions of camp life.

Most refugees in Kenya do not enjoy the right to work formally, access to financial institutions, or freedom of movement. Kenya has no national asylum policy, and neither the Refugees Act, 2006 nor its 2009 regulations stipulate refugee rights to financial inclusion. Regulatory frameworks in the telecommunications and banking sectors fail to recognise refugees’ documents for account registration. Many host communities are pastoral societies with limited access to secondary and tertiary education, formal banking and financial services, business and other technical skills training, and with limited digital literacy and access to online services.

At the same time, refugees hosting counties are located in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya, whose populations are suffering from extreme climatic conditions with drought-flood cycles on an increasingly frequent basis (from every 10 years to every 3 years). Tensions with local communities are present, fueled by a perception of unfair treatment and neglect, although somewhat mitigated by shared cultural identity. Early in 2018, the distorting impact of the camp on host communities became apparent with a flare-up of tensions amongst the host community concerned about the reduction of humanitarian operations and the potential deprivation, which may follow once they are bereft of the camp economy.

In the current context, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and locusts’ invasion in East Africa is likely to place additional pressures on already scarce resources and exacerbate existing inter-communal conflict and stressors in the borderlands as people lose livelihoods and face food insecurity.

The government of Kenya has often reiterated their intention to eventually close Dadaab refugee camp. However, recent movement monitoring suggests that 46% of Dadaab residents have no future return.
intentions and a further 36% are unlikely to return or would only consider future return if certain conditions were met such as improvement in the security situation, improvement in access to services and livelihood opportunities. While the 2019 Refugee Bill presents some opportunities to discuss refugee self-reliance within the formal economy, political economy and area-based understanding need to inform the development of a new policy agenda in Kenya, focusing on policy implementation at the county levels considering sub-county variations and exploring viable alternatives with favorable outcomes for both refugees and host communities.

A recent World Bank review on Self-reliance in Kenya showed that the socio-economic lives of the refugees and host communities are interdependent. Although some tensions with local communities exist due to perceptions of preferable treatment towards refugees, these are somewhat mitigated by shared cultural identity particularly in Garissa. Several studies documented that refugees can make more positive contributions to host economies, if positive interactions between hosts and refugees are facilitated. Recent discussions started in 2019 on the development of a Garissa Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (GISEDP), represent a unique alternative to encampment and the associated long-term dependence on external actors. Similar to the Kalobeyei Socio Economic Development Plan, this model is envisioned to use an area-based approach that encompasses refugees and hosts, the local ecology and local market systems and opening up economic opportunities for private sector involvement.

Displacement is a political issue and therefore influencing decision makers and institutional practice with evidence requires an explicit focus on power and politics – seeking ways to promote positive change in a highly complex policy environment. Political economy and area-based understanding need to inform the development of a socio-economic integrated approach in Dadaab, focusing on policy implementation at the county levels and considering sub-county variations in regulations that govern the economic lives of refugees and hosts. There is a window of opportunity in the current context to rethink and explore viable alternatives to encampment to support greater socio-economic inclusion with favorable outcomes for both refugees and host communities through area-based planning and investment in social cohesion and inclusion to leave no one behind.

Consultancy objectives
Building on existing evidence and practice, ReDSS seeks to commission a consultant to conduct a Solutions analysis to inform self-reliance programming and policy for refugees and host communities in Dadaab - Garissa county. More specifically, the solutions analysis will look at:

- How to navigate ambiguity and create opportunities for refugee inclusion and self-reliance based on practice?
- What are the current incentive structures around which refugee policies are being made at national and Garissa county level and how can actors navigate county versus national level politics on refugee inclusion and self-reliance?
- What are the barriers and enablers as well as critical success factors to support self-reliance and inclusion for both refugees and host communities in Dadaab context today?

Note: the above questions are suggestive and not exhaustive hence they will be further developed with the selected consultant during the study inception phase.

Methodology
The methodology will be anchored on participatory and consensus building approaches guided by a technical committee. This operational research will be conducted in five phases as highlighted below:

- **Phase 1- Inception phase:** Develop a methodology and analytical framework for the analysis
- **Phase 2 - Desk review:** desk review of existing literature and comparison and lessons learnt from other refugees’ contexts
● **Phase 3 – Key informant interviews online and analysis:** Key informant interviews and consultations online with a wide range of stakeholders at national and Garissa/Dadaab level

● **Phase 4 - Webinar to discuss preliminary findings and inform recommendations:** Webinar with key stakeholders to present and discuss key findings and develop joint recommendations

● **Phase 5 - Final report:** Final report and executive summary based on feedback and recommendations from the operational workshops published

● **Phase 6- Dissemination and uptake:** Learning webinar organized to support dissemination of the report and uptake of recommendations to inform programming and policy dialogue

### Expected deliverables

- Inception Report (with power point presentation) outlining the consultant’s understanding of the TOR, methodological approach, agreed analytical framework, ethical considerations\(^1\). The inception report will also outline the work-plan and a list of individuals and/or types of organizations the consultant will be interviewing for presentation to the research technical committee.

- Based on desk review and stakeholder consultation, draft a solutions analysis (30 pages maximum without annexes) including:
  - Table of contents, glossary of key terms, list of acronyms,
  - An executive summary (maximum 3 pages), introduction highlighting the objectives of the study, the rationale, methodology used, scope and limitations, theory of change
  - Outline of literature review and stakeholder consultation
  - Conclusions, and concrete recommendations based on findings - focusing on the HOW
  - Annexes including but not limited to list of key interviews, bibliography, documents reviewed
  - A short PowerPoint presentation highlighting the key questions, methodology, key findings and recommendations (15 slides maximum)

- Summary notes from of key informants’ interviews

- Webinar with key stakeholders to present key findings and develop recommendations collectively

- Final revised report and powerpoint presentation based on inputs received from key stakeholders and technical committee.

- Participation to an online launch and webinars’ discussions

### Management and timeframe

The consultant will report to the ReDSS Kenya manager and will be guided by a technical committee composed of ReDSS members and key stakeholders. The study will be conducted over a period of 25 consultancy days across 3 months starting mid-June. If required, due to COVID-19 movement restrictions, the consultant might be supported with additional capacity to ensure remote and online engagement.

### Required skills and experience

- Master degree in international relations, development, political science or economics

- Minimum 10 years’ proven experience in conducting similar analyses in East and Horn of Africa contexts

- Strong knowledge of the region and the socio-economic and political dynamics affecting it; more specifically on displacement trends within the Horn of Africa region

- Strong analytical and writing skills with proven experience in producing high quality research with ability to present complex information in a simple and accessible manner

- Fluency in written and spoken English

\(^1\) Refer to Ethics of conducting research in conflict settings. Conflict and Health, 2009

[http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/3/1/7](http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/3/1/7)