Displacement in Somalia is primarily an urban challenge, with 80% of the estimated 2.6 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) living in informal settlements in urban and peri-urban areas. This urban influx raises many challenges for urban communities and government authorities, including the provision of services, safety and security, livelihoods, and secure access to land for the settlement of IDPs, who are often more marginalised groups. While urbanisation may hold the potential for greater inclusion in Somalia, urban centres have often been the stage for civil conflict. It is essential to invest in durable solutions processes considering the multiple dimensions of integration and inclusion to prevent conflict and support greater social cohesion with urban communities.

The Somalia Humanitarian and Resilience Programme (SHARP) of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) includes a significant investment in durable solutions, through the Danwadaag Durable Solutions consortium.

Recognising that the majority of IDPs want to remain in their current location, Danwadaag works with displacement-affected communities, inclusive of host, IDPs and returning refugees, and with the government of Somalia in four urban areas: Benadir Regional Administration (BRA), Kismayo, Afgooye, and Baidoa, towards local (re) integration.

Danwadaag’s approach is founded on the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) Solutions Framework and the categorisation of critical elements in durable solutions processes as physical (safety and security, protection and social cohesion); material (adequate standard of living, access to basic services, economic opportunities, housing, land and property); and legal safety (access to documentation, access to justice, participation in public affairs). Beyond access to basic services, people need to feel safe and confident that their families can live peacefully and without discrimination, participate freely in community affairs, and feel socially integrated within these new communities.

Given the inherent complexity of the approach, the critical question to address is how to measure progress of durable solutions programming, considering the multi-dimensional and non-linear processes, so as to assess levels of local (re) integration.

As there were limited tools to adequately measure progress towards durable solutions in the context of Somalia, Danwadaag developed and piloted a new approach to measure local integration: the Local (Re)Integration Assessment (LORA). The LORA builds on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) framework for Durable Solutions and the ReDSS Solutions Framework, combining these with localized concepts of integration and aspects relevant for IDPs’ and returnees’ perception of integration. Traditionally, durable solutions programmes have taken a broad approach. However, by attempting to cover the entirety of the needs and elements under the IASC or ReDSS frameworks, we can miss the specificity of displacement related vulnerability and the priorities of the displaced themselves that are uniquely identified in the individual context. As an alternative to

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**Danwadaag (Re) integration Pathway**

The way that IDPs and returnees integrate into their new urban settings is complex. They often arrive with nothing except the will to rebuild their lives in daunting contexts of already vulnerable urban poor. This is complicated not only by the inadequacy of public services in Somalia but also by clan affiliations and other social dynamics that can keep IDPs and returnees marginalised, at best, or victims of violent discrimination, at worst.

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**Context**

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**Figure 1. Danwadaag (Re)integration Pathway**

- Increased (Re) Integration
- Self Reliance & Economic opportunities
- Sustainable Basic Services
- Land tenure security
- Enabling Environment & Government Leadership

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1 2019 Estimate OCHA
2 Danwadaag is led by IOM, with partners; Concern Worldwide, NRC, ReDSS, GREDO, SHACDO and JIba Foundation.
3 ReDSS has operationalized the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs to develop the ReDSS Solutions framework, using indicators organized around physical, material and legal safety to measure durable solutions.
broader access to basic service programming, the purpose of the LORA is to provide the contextualized analysis to focus programming and test innovative approaches to IDP integration.

The LORA assesses how IDPs' and returnees perceive their local environment and prospects of building and maintaining safe and productive lives. It is based on 32 indicators that relate to physical, material and legal safety.

**Establishing the ‘norm’**

The underlying hypotheses are:

- ‘Host communities’ provide a comparison for levels of physical, material and legal safety in the urban areas in which Danwadaag works to enable vulnerability-based targeting;
- and IDPs/returnees’ perception of integration is as valid as whether they achieve the same level against the indicators.

Danwadaag defines integration and self-reliance as based on the prevailing ‘norm’ in these urban poor host communities, which undoubtedly face significant development challenges. Therefore if the host communities indicate that they have safer access to food or more acceptable housing quality, for example, then IDPs and returnees must attain the same level to be integrated for that specific indicator. This allows us to move away from prescriptive standards to identify specific displacement related needs – this is a shift for durable solutions programming as it enables a more targeted approach. While Danwadaag works to decrease specific individual displacement-related needs, it also works towards enhanced self-reliance for the targeted displacement-affected community, including host community members, to ensure social cohesion and conflict-sensitivity.

**LORA as effective tool for programming adaptations**

The LORA is a programme-based tool adapted to the Somali context that monitors progress towards integration and generates analysis to adapt programming and prioritise resources. It provides a ‘road map’ or pathway for moving displacement-affected households and communities towards greater integration.

**Significant factors for integration**

For the baseline, 3,050 households were surveyed in BRA, Kismayo, Baidoa and Afgooye. Respondents were asked to rate their levels of integration based on a collectively developed definition. The data was analysed using a combination of two approaches, both using logistic regression models. For the first, answers given in regard to the perceived integration question were linked to 32 variables in order to determine which are important for perceived integration. For the second method, host community membership was predicted using logistic regression in order to detect inequalities between IDPs and host communities with regards to these same 32 variables. The combination of both methods measures progress towards perceived integration and progress towards reducing inequalities. Results were verified by field-based practitioners. LORA will be an annual survey to measure progress over time for the programme, with an endline to evaluate the programme.

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4 These host communities are not representative of the wider population in Somalia but generally the urban poor in Danwadaag targeted areas.
### Key Factors that Influence Integration

Factors that are relevant for addressing inequalities and perceived integration are displayed in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Sub-Criteria</th>
<th>Specific Variables</th>
<th>High level of Inequality</th>
<th>Important for Perceived Integration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical safety</td>
<td>Safety:</td>
<td>Safe access to food sources</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social cohesion:</td>
<td>Trust in institutions</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children/Youth of different displacement groups interacting</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material safety</td>
<td>Standard of living:</td>
<td>Number of meals consumed per day</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not depending on water trucking/Sufficient water access</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing, land and property:</td>
<td>Housing standards (quality/type)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Land documentation/Lease agreement</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Job creation/ Economic</td>
<td>Adult daily expenditure</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>opportunities:</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal safety</td>
<td>Participation in public</td>
<td>Citizenship documents*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>affairs; Access to effective remedies &amp; justice; Access to documentation:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The variables that demonstrate significant inequalities between IDPs and host communities are not precisely the same as the variables that are relevant for perceived integration levels of IDPs and returnees. For example, ‘trust in institutions’ is very important for IDPs’ and returnees’ perception of integration. By increasing their trust in institution, we can increase how integrated they feel by up to 15%.

However, this variable does not show significant differences between IDPs and host communities. Therefore, we can construe that this is a critical factor to be addressed in durable solutions processes but in an integrated way, as the levels of trust are similar across the displacement affected groups.

Other aspects are highly complicated by social dynamics and perceptions within communities. One surprising finding was that if IDPs and returnees are invited to social events of host communities it has a negative effect on perceived integration: the more IDPs are invited to host communities’ social events such as weddings, funerals, Eid, the less integrated they feel. The opposite is true of children playing together: this has a positive effect on perceived integration.

An explanation from field practitioners suggests that this could be because inviting IDPs to such events is seen as a ‘charitable’ act towards the most vulnerable amongst the urban poor – often IDPs. Being invited therefore does not mean more social proximity to the host, but rather highlights that they are an outsider. As our model assumed that more social interactions between IDPs and host communities can serve as a positive measure for integration, this finding identified the need to look at social cohesion with a more nuanced lens. In summary, while it is necessary to have a common durable solutions framework, it needs to be contextualized by a thorough cultural and situational understanding.

The significant variables for measuring inequalities and/or perceived integration are highlighted in green in the table below. The vertical green lines indicate the point at which variables are significant, which statistically is a t-value of +/−1.96. The LORA baseline report analyses each of these factors in more detail.

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*Note that the overall number of DACs with citizenship documents is very small, so results should be cautiously interpreted.

*This is from the current model-predicted level of 38%.
Moving forward

The analysis from the LORA has provided the evidence for critical reflection within the Danwadaag programme. The findings support the overall displacement-affected community approach and enable us to interrogate further the unique context differences. The results have greatly enhanced our understanding of what makes the most significant impact to displacement-affected households and communities on the pathway towards (re) integration. As a result, Danwadaag has strengthened the programme focus on housing, land and property and enhanced the livelihoods approach including a stronger focus on sustainability and market-based interventions. The livelihoods approach where possible integrates an access to documentation component.

More widely, the LORA provides the ability to look beyond the generic standards and interrogate more closely the factors that influence perceived integration and to identify where there are significant inequalities between the urban poor and displaced groups in a specific context. This enhanced lens has the potential to vastly increase the effectiveness and impact of durable solutions programming, not just in Somalia but also regionally and globally.

LORA is an important step in progressing the discussion on how to measure the end of displacement in Somalia. It is our vision that other durable solutions actors will invest further in the methodology to enhance and improve it.

For more information or a full copy of the report please contact: Danwadaag@iom.int