

BEYOND DISPLACEMENT

Overcoming barriers and building resilience in the Somali Region

May 2025



Long-term safety and security



Challenges

While most IDPs reported a sense of safety in their current locations, security infrastructure remains weak in rural areas. Tensions over land and resources also create a risk of future disputes. Additionally, inadequate infrastructure such as lack of lighting exposes IDPs to wild animal attacks and make women and girls vulnerable to gender-based violence, further compromising safety.

Opportunities

The presence of strong social cohesion mechanisms, particularly through clan-based protection, provides a foundation for a sense of safety. Elders and peace committees play a critical role in conflict resolution, ensuring that IDPs and host communities coexist peacefully. In some locations, community-led safety initiatives, such as the involvement of traditional leaders in resource-sharing agreements, have reinforced stability. Expanding formal security services and investing in community policing could further enhance the security of IDP settlements.

Sitti



In Jedane, IDPs report feeling safe, and relationships with host communities are strong. However, the lack of formal security infrastructure poses challenges, and IDPs have limited mechanisms to address security concerns if they arise.

Fafan



Security conditions vary across sites. While most IDPs feel safe, challenges persist due to resource constraints and remoteness, particularly in Dhurwale, where isolation exacerbates feelings of insecurity. Security concerns are primarily linked to lack of access to services and limited opportunities that encourage a sense of long-term stability, rather than direct threats.

Afder



Security concerns persist, particularly as IDPs live in makeshift shelters with no formal protection. Women and children are especially vulnerable due to poor infrastructure and exposure to risks during daily chores. With no formal security presence, IDPs rely entirely on local mechanisms, which may not be sufficient in the long term.

Shabelle



IDPs enjoy relative safety and strong relationships with host communities. However, the absence of formal security infrastructure means that safety is primarily maintained through community mechanisms. While this has been effective, it may not be sufficient to address external threats or future disputes.



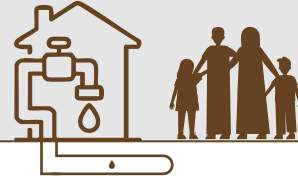
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Adequate standard of living



Challenges

Access to essential services remains a significant barrier across IDP settlements. Many sites lack adequate housing, clean water, and sanitation facilities, leading to health and hygiene concerns. In Dhurwale and Jedane, IDPs have to travel long distances to access healthcare, with reports of deaths due to easily-preventable causes as populations lack access to medical facilities. Educational opportunities are also limited in many locations, particularly for secondary and tertiary students, leading to high dropout rates and limiting future prospects for displaced youth.

Opportunities

Some sites, like Bayahow, demonstrate the benefits of significant pre-relocation investments, whereby water and housing infrastructure were put in place before IDPs arrived. This model could be replicated to improve service provision in other areas. Gradual improvements in access to water, education, and health services have been observed in some locations, demonstrating the potential for incremental progress. However, in sites where the more incremental approach was adopted, IDPs faced significant stress and struggled in the initial months after relocation. Increased coordination between humanitarian actors, government agencies, and donors could ensure a more systematic approach to infrastructure development.

Sitti



In Jedane, major gaps remain in healthcare, housing, and water supply. Houses are neither durable nor sufficient, leaving many families in overcrowded conditions or temporary shelters. The lack of nearby healthcare services forces IDPs to travel long distances, making emergency care nearly inaccessible.

Fafan



Across Fafan Zone, while there is a presence of humanitarian and development organisations, the support has been inconsistent and scattered. As a result, conditions vary across sites. Tuliguled faces significant gaps in adequate shelter and services, while IDPs in Goljano struggle with water access, and Dhurwale's isolation results in limited resources. The lack of consistent infrastructure investments across these areas compounds vulnerabilities.

Afder



IDPs and host communities face severe challenges, including the lack of adequate housing and extremely limited access to food, water, and healthcare. Malnutrition is a serious concern, particularly among children, and the absence of sanitation facilities increases health risks.

Shabelle



While houses have been built and some services are available, significant gaps remain in WASH. Many IDPs face challenges due to inadequate toilet facilities, and access to water relies on a pump that the community struggles to maintain due to high fuel prices. Investments in solar panels for electricity were cited as an urgent need to improve lighting, security, and access to essential services. Health services are also limited, requiring IDPs to travel for treatment.

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Access to livelihoods



Challenges

Limited livelihood opportunities contribute to high levels of aid dependency among IDPs, with many struggling to find sustainable income sources. In sites like Dhirindhir, where displacement is climate-induced, many former pastoralists have lost their means of survival and lack alternative livelihood options. Restricted land access further exacerbates economic difficulties, as IDPs are often unable to engage in farming or livestock rearing. Market barriers, lack of vocational training, and youth unemployment add to the cycle of poverty and dependency.

Opportunities

Despite these challenges, opportunities exist for expanding livelihood support programs. The proximity of some sites to fertile land, such as in Bayahow, creates potential for agricultural interventions if provided with appropriate resources. Skills development programs, including vocational training in ICT and crafts, could enable displaced youth to access employment opportunities. Cash-based support and cooperative business models have shown promise in helping IDPs transition from aid dependency to self-reliance.

Sitti



In Jedane, livelihood options are limited. Although integration with host communities presents potential opportunities for improvement, IDPs expressed frustration over youth idleness and the lack of opportunities for economic engagement. Without targeted interventions, many young people risk long-term economic exclusion and might engage in secondary displacement in search of better opportunities elsewhere.

Fafan



Livelihood opportunities are limited across the zone. In Goljano, Tuliguled, and Dhurwale, IDPs identified the lack of access to land for productive purposes as a major barrier to achieving self-reliance. In many cases, humanitarian assistance and inconsistent daily labor remain the primary source of income.

Afder



Livelihood opportunities are extremely scarce, leaving IDPs heavily reliant on assistance from host communities for survival. Many IDPs were formerly pastoralists but lost their livestock due to drought and have no alternative sources of income. Without intervention, they remain trapped in extreme poverty and aid dependency.

Shabelle



Livelihood opportunities exist, particularly in agriculture and trade, but are currently underdeveloped. IDPs are eager to restart farming activities but require essential resources such as agricultural equipment, seeds, and market access. Without these, self-sufficiency will remain a challenge.

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Restoration or Compensation for Housing, Land, and Property (HLP)



Challenges

Many IDPs lost their homes and property due to conflict and have little hope of reclaiming them. Customary land ownership systems make it difficult to secure formal tenure in host communities, leading to disputes and instability. Additionally, most IDPs lack documentation for their allocated land and housing, leaving them vulnerable to eviction or future displacement.

Opportunities

Local integration initiatives, particularly those that align with existing land tenure systems, offer a pathway to secure housing and stability for IDPs. Negotiations between government authorities and traditional leaders have facilitated land allocations in some areas, setting a precedent for future efforts. Expanding legal aid and documentation support as well as developing skills on collaborative dispute resolution methods could help IDPs formalize their housing and land rights, ensuring long-term security.

Sitti



In Jedane, IDPs have received houses but are still awaiting land deeds, which are crucial for ensuring long-term recovery and stability. It remains unclear whether IDPs are formally recognized as owners of the houses they have received, and this ambiguity should be explored to ensure long-term security and prevent future disputes or displacement.

Fafan



Goljano's IDPs have received houses but lack access to land for productive use. Tuliguled and Dhurwale face similar challenges, with little progress made in securing land rights. Without land, IDPs remain economically vulnerable.

Afder



No efforts have been reported to provide access to land or housing for IDPs in this zone. IDPs have not received land allocations and have only built modest shelters made of wood and cloth on land informally provided by the host community. However, this arrangement is entirely dependent on the goodwill of local residents, making their tenure highly insecure and leaving them vulnerable to eviction or future displacement.

Shabelle



IDPs lack access to land deeds, hindering their long-term stability. Without legal recognition of their housing, they cannot invest in long-term improvements or claim ownership.



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Access to documentation



Challenges

Lack of identification documents remains a major barrier for IDPs, limiting their access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and financial support. Many displaced persons have lost their documents during displacement, while others never had them due to administrative challenges. Without proper documentation, IDPs struggle to secure land tenure, employment, and social protection benefits.

Opportunities

Ongoing humanitarian efforts have improved access to kebele IDs and birth registration in some areas, demonstrating progress. Strengthening mobile registration units and expanding awareness campaigns could further enhance access to documentation. Collaboration between government agencies and humanitarian organizations could ensure that all IDPs receive the necessary legal identification to rebuild their lives.

Sitti



IDPs in Jedane have better access to kebele IDs and birth registration, supported by ongoing initiatives from humanitarian organizations. However, issues remain regarding land deeds and legal ownership.

Fafan



Documentation efforts remain uneven across the zone. While some IDPs have access to kebele IDs, gaps persist, hindering freedom of movement and access to services. The lack of personal documentation remains an issue in Tuliguled.

Afder



Documentation remains a significant gap, with many IDPs lacking kebele IDs and other essential records. Without these documents, IDPs might struggle to access humanitarian aid, education, and basic services. Humanitarian actors have initiated some efforts to improve documentation, but coverage remains inconsistent.

Shabelle



Significant progress has been made with kebele IDs, improving access to services. However, land documentation remains a major gap, and many IDPs still lack vital records such as birth certificates, which could pose future barriers to accessing education and other rights.

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Family reunification



Challenges

While family separation was not a widespread issue in most sites, logistical and financial barriers prevent some displaced families from reuniting. In cases where displacement occurred over long distances, the cost of transportation and lack of communication networks hinder reunification efforts.

Opportunities

Family tracing services and targeted cash assistance programs have successfully supported reunification in some cases. Strengthening community networks and leveraging technology for family tracing could further improve reunification efforts. Investing in transport assistance programs for displaced families could help reconnect separated individuals.

Sitti



Efforts to support reunification in Jedane have included cash assistance and family tracing services, which have facilitated the process for affected families. However, for those who are still separated, logistical and financial barriers remain, particularly in cases where displaced family members reside in distant locations.

Fafan



Family separation has not emerged as a primary concern in Goljano or Dhurwale. However, Tuliguled requires more formal systems to support reunification efforts for those who are still separated from family members.

Afder



Family separation has not been reported as a significant issue, as most families chose to leave together. However, there are no formal mechanisms in place to facilitate reunification for those who may have lost contact with extended family members.

Shabelle



Not a major concern in this zone, as few IDPs reported separation during displacement. However, for those who were separated, there are no formal mechanisms in place to facilitate reunification.



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Participation in public affairs



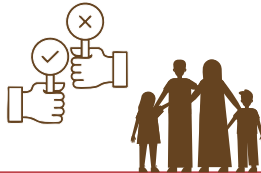
Challenges

IDPs face structural barriers to participation in decision-making processes, limiting their influence over policies that affect them. In many settlements, displaced persons are excluded from local governance structures, reducing their ability to advocate for their needs. Women and minority groups are particularly underrepresented in public affairs.

Opportunities

Some communities have established IDP representative committees, creating pathways for displaced persons to engage in local governance. Strengthening these committees and ensuring their inclusion in municipal decision-making processes could enhance IDP representation. Expanding civic education programs could empower displaced populations to participate more actively in public affairs.

Sitti



IDPs in Jedane are actively engaged in decision-making through committees that include representatives from both host and displaced communities. However, their participation is largely informal and lacks structured mechanisms for long-term inclusion.

Fafan



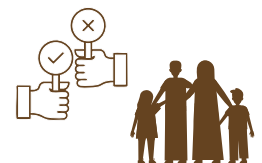
Some progress has been noted, particularly in Goljano, where local leaders and host communities actively engage in discussions with IDPs. However, participation remains sporadic, and IDPs remain excluded from formal governance structures.

Afder



Participation is limited, largely due to the remoteness of sites and the absence of formal structures for engaging IDPs in decision-making. IDPs have little to no representation in local governance, reducing their ability to advocate for better conditions.

Shabelle



IDPs are increasingly included in local decision-making processes, with support from community leaders. However, their participation remains informal and dependent on goodwill rather than structured inclusion in governance mechanisms.



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Access to effective remedies and justice



Challenges

Legal aid services are often inaccessible to IDPs, particularly in remote areas. Disputes over land and property are common, but IDPs lack the resources to navigate formal legal systems. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, while widely used, may not always be fair or impartial.

Opportunities

Expanding mobile courts and legal aid services could improve access to justice for IDPs. Strengthening partnerships with local universities and justice bureaus could enhance awareness and availability of legal support. Community-based mediation programs, if properly structured, could provide accessible and culturally appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms.

Sitti



In Jedane, local mechanisms for resolving disputes are available and accessible, with community leaders playing a key role in mediation. However, gaps in formal justice systems continue to pose challenges, particularly for IDPs dealing with land disputes or legal recognition issues.

Fafan



Limited awareness of available legal services and the distance to formal justice mechanisms remain significant barriers to accessing effective remedies. Informal dispute resolution mechanisms are widely used but may not provide equitable outcomes for all IDPs.

Afder



Access to justice is minimal, hindered by significant barriers such as distance, lack of knowledge, and resource constraints. Informal dispute resolution through clan structures remains the primary avenue for justice.

Shabelle



Access to justice is hindered by the distance to formal legal services in Gode for both IDPs and host communities. Traditional dispute resolution remains the primary mechanism, which, while effective in some cases, may not always provide fair or rights-based outcomes.

