



IOM staff assisting Faduma who just arrived at Baidoa IDP site © IOM Somalia 2019

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia, characterized by both natural and man-made factors, is one of the most complex and longstanding emergencies in the world. Due to decades of poverty, marginalization, armed violence, insecurity, political instability, natural hazards and lack of development, the humanitarian situation remains critical in the country. Prolonged drought conditions have been devastating for Somali communities and continue to drive displacement, while ongoing conflict impacts protection and human rights, reduce resilience and hinder access to basic services.

To address overall migration challenges in Somalia, IOM works closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, regional

authorities, the UN, donor governments and civil society by implementing programmes through three pillars: (1) Preparedness and humanitarian response; (2) Long term recovery and durable solutions; and, (3) Migration governance and development. Since 2006, IOM has delivered frontline services to crisis-affected populations, while steadily developing models and partnerships for longer term recovery and migration governance. With over 350 staff, IOM Somalia operates from a newly constructed main office in Mogadishu and seven field offices, as well as the Nairobi Support Office in Kenya.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Late and erratic 2019 Gu' rains coupled with low river levels, in some areas, and flooding and significant damage to crops in others, resulted in the poorest cereal harvest since data has been collected (1995), inferior even to that of the 2011 pre-famine Gu' harvest and 70 per cent below average, mainly in southern areas. The poor 2019 Gu' season, the third driest in 30 years and the second consecutive below average rainy season for a country yet to recover from the impact of the prolonged 2016/17 drought and affected by ongoing conflict, threatens an already fragile food security situation, where, without humanitarian assistance millions of people risk acute malnutrition and food insecurity, with dire consequences especially for marginalized and displaced communities. Swift donor financial contributions to the Drought Impact Response

Plan (DIRP) launched in May enabled aid agencies to scale up assistance currently reaching almost two million people per month in crisis and emergency phases of food insecurity. (Source: [OCHA Humanitarian Dashboard: August 2019](#))

HIGHLIGHTS (AUGUST 2019)



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

- 245 individuals entered into IDP sites in Kismayo, 48 exited
- 208 individuals entered into IDP sites in Doolow, 0 exited
- 2,468 individuals entered into IDP sites in Baidoa, 70 exited



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

- 29,878 movements were observed at flow monitoring points. A 34 per cent increase in movements compared to July



MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION

- 41 health clinics (27 Primary Health Care Centres, 10 Mobile Medical Teams, 3 Transit Centres, 1 Migration Resource Centre) supported
- 34,280 clinical consultations conducted



RECOVERY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- 5 socio-economic infrastructures completed
- 4 ongoing socio-economic infrastructure projects
- 136,000 beneficiaries of completed socio-economic infrastructures



MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- 17 returnees were assisted from Libya and Niger
- 121 Ethiopian migrants were assisted to return back to Ethiopia



LABOUR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- 33 diaspora experts and 24 local experts working at hospitals, educational institutes and ministries
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CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Baidoa Relocation

In June and July 2019, 1,000 households (6,116 individuals) were relocated from temporary settlements on private land to the Baidoa public relocation site (Barwaqo 2 section) and were provided with shelter reinforcement materials.

At the new site Barwaqo 2, dedicated outreach teams are now in place to closely monitor and report services and gaps and organize community consultations. In August, the primary concern from site residents is the provision of livelihood support. Planning is ongoing for the second phase of the Baidoa relocation in the coming months. The new site will accommodate 2,442 households.

IOM continues to ensure access to clean safe water for the 1,000 newly relocated IDP households (6,116 individuals) in Barwaqo 2, Baidoa. In August a total of 8,100,000 litres of clean safe water were trucked in to the site. The water trucking is

seen as a temporary measure to ensure the continuous supply of safe clean water to residents due to the low yield of the borehole. Additionally, IOM is constructing a health centre at Barwaqo 2.



Construction of the health centre in Barwaqo 2 © IOM Somalia 2019



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

SAVE LIVES AND ALLEVIATE SUFFERING IN CRISIS-AFFECTED POPULATIONS



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM's CCCM teams improve the living conditions and protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in sites and settlements and ensure equitable access to services and assistance of all persons in need in the regions of Kismayo, Doolow and Baidoa.

Baidoa

A large number of IDPs continued to arrive in Baidoa IDP sites in August 2019 (2,468). The arrival rate has however decreased by half compared to July 2019, while an increasing number of individuals are leaving the sites (70, compared to 15 in July 2019). The key driving factors for displacement to Baidoa were a shortage of food due to a poor performance of the Gu' rain and insecurity in area of origin.

A joint verification exercise was carried out in Baidoa as part of efforts to monitor the number of IDPs and IDP sites, led by the CCCM cluster. According to the results there are now a total of 435 IDP sites hosting a total of 51,322 displaced households (359,994 individuals). This marks an increase of 44 IDP sites and 3,449 households since the last verification conducted in January 2019.

The IOM team continued to build the capacity of community leaders in August with the training of 250 individuals (45 per cent female) in camp management, GBV mainstreaming and referral pathways, leadership, coordination with stakeholders, and fire prevention. Efforts were also undertaken to improve the hygienic conditions at 11 IDP sites through a cleaning campaign that gathered more than 350 volunteers.

Communication also plays a critical role at IDP sites with a total of eight information centres operating in Baidoa. These centres are the main hub for receiving complaints and feedback from the community, regarding all areas of services provided. In August, 40 complaints were received with 37 resolved by the end of the months. Meanwhile at the new IDP site, Barwaqo 2, the CCCM team closed two cases pending from July and assisted with closing five out of eight cases reported in August.



Community consultations in Baidoa © IOM Somalia 2019

Doloow

An increased number of individuals arrived to IDP sites in Doloow in August with 208 entries and 0 exits; 62 per cent increase over July. Most new arrivals (68%) came to Doolow from Ethiopia due to insecurity. The current total population of both IDP sites in Doolow is 50,932 individuals.

The IOM team was focused on WASH in August with an urgent need to provide clean drinking water to sections of the Qansaxley and Kabasa IDP sites as people were consuming unclean water from the Dawa river. The WASH cluster was contacted to assist in finding a rapid solution. In an effort to better identify shelter gaps in Doolow the S-NFI team conducted interviews with 72 IDPs and identified 500 households to receive upgraded shelters.

The communities were also engaged in hygiene sensitization activities in Kabasa and Qansaxley sites with the goal of improving hygiene practices and to inform community members about services available. Outreach activities are vital in ensuring that the population is aware of available services provided at no cost, and to inform them on the complaint and feedback help desks available. These hygiene activities are planned to continue on a monthly basis.



Enumerators interviewing an family arriving in Doloow © IOM Somalia 2019

Kismayo

Movement monitoring continued in Kismayo in August with 245 entries and 48 exits recorded in August. This is a significant decrease in arrivals compared to July (546) and a six fold increase in exits. The majority of those displaced to Kismayo cited a shortage of food and insecurity in their home areas. The quarterly site verification revealed a total population of 53,467 IDPs in Kismayo as of August, this is a reduction of nearly 6,000 individuals since the previous site verification was completed.

Communication with community members remains a top priority for the IOM team in Kismayo and is facilitated by the complaints and feedback mechanism. A session was held with the community to inform them about the complaint and feedback mechanism desk in order to encourage more reporting. In August, a total of 114 cases were received, while 26 cases were still open from July. The majority of cases received were related to food security and livelihood, followed by water and sanitation and shelter concerns. A total of 101 cases were addressed while 39 are still pending.

Perhaps among the most pressing concerns for IDPs in Kismayo is the risk of eviction for those living temporarily on privately owned land. In coordination with the Jubaland Refugee and Internal Displaced Agency (JRIA), IOM ensured IDPs have an existing agreement to minimize evictions. In August, several households were notified that they could face eviction. In response the IOM team in Kismayo followed up to secure the land or to convince the landowners to extend the agreement.



Evicted site in Kismayo © IOM Somalia 2019

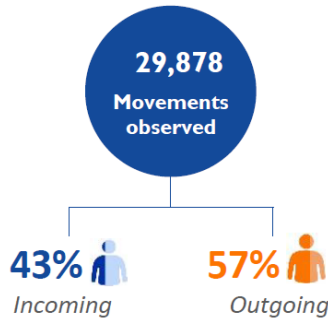


A session with community leaders in Kismayo © IOM Somalia 2019



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM Somalia's Displacement Tracking Matrix strives to provide localized, up-to-date information on the basic needs of the target population, cross border mobility, displacement figures and trends in drought-affected areas.



In August 2019, a total of 29,878 movements were observed at Flow Monitoring Points. This represents an increase of 34 per cent in comparison with July 2019 when 22,228 movements were observed.

CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS – SOMALIA
AUGUST 2019 [DOWNLOAD](#)



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Adequate access to WASH is essential to prevent dehydration and reduce the risk of water-related diseases. Moreover, good hygiene practices reduce the risk of diarrhoea, cholera and other disease outbreaks. The provision of WASH interventions is usually one of the highest priorities following the onset of any crisis, whether sudden or protracted, following a natural disaster or complex situation. IOM Somalia's WASH emergency programmes are focused on the immediate provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene services to affected populations across Somalia.

Water continues to be a huge need for displaced individuals and surrounding communities, especially in drought affected areas. In August, IOM delivered 51,210,000 liters of water. Beyond the distribution of water, 119,694 individuals had sustained access to safe clean water from the IOM constructed or rehabilitated water sources in Gedo, Banadir, Hiiraan, Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.

IOM WASH team partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to provide emergency humanitarian relief assistance from June to August 2019, in Awdal, Shil, Hirshabelle and Gedo regions, due to drought induced crises. A total of 1,595 households (9,570 individuals) received a monthly food basket and each household was provided with two goats as part of restocking efforts. The food baskets provide a lifeline

for individuals struggling to find enough food to eat to be healthy, consisting of sorghum, maize, beans and cooking oil to provide 2,100 kilocalories that are required per person per day.

IOM also conducted hygiene and sanitation promotion activities throughout Somalia targeting areas severely impacted by drought and climatic shocks, with the aim to avert the escalation of WASH related diseases mainly Acute Watery Diarrhoea/Cholera. In August 94,740 individuals were reached with hygiene and sanitation messages. Hygiene kits were also distributed to 2,500 households (15,000 individuals) in Gedo region, Luuq and Belethawa, locations affected by escalating AWDs and cholera cases.



Distribution of goats © IOM Somalia 2019



MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION (MHD)

The Migration Health Division delivers and promotes comprehensive, preventive and curative health programmes which are beneficial, accessible, and equitable for migrants and mobile populations. MHD, in close collaboration with partners, contributes towards the physical, mental and social well-being of migrants, enabling them and host communities to achieve social and economic development. IOM Somalia aims to deliver basic health care services for migrants and mobile populations who face many obstacles in accessing essential health care services due to a number of factors including the reoccurring drought and continuous conflict.

IOM continues to provide emergency primary healthcare and nutrition service across 41 health clinics (27 Primary Health Care Centres, 10 mobile medical teams, 3 transit centres, 1 Migration Resource Center). A total of 34,280 consultations were conducted. The largest number of individuals that sought treatment were females over the age of five (39%), and males over the age of five (23%), followed closely by girls and boys under the age of five (20% and 18% respectively). The most common morbidities were acute watery diarrhea, respiratory infections, and urinary tract infections. The facilities are spread across Somaliland (Hargeisa, Berbera, Sanaag, Sool), Puntland (Dhahar, Sanaag, Sool, Garowe, Galkaayo), Benadir (Mogadishu), Lower Shabelle (Sabiid/Canole), Lower Juba (Dhobley, Kismayo), and Gedo (Bardhere, Dollow).

The health unit built the capacity of the mobile medical teams in Barire to provide effective and efficient health services with a five-day training in August. Additional mobile medical teams were established in Yonton and Dalsan (Kismayo) and an emergency medical team in Bardhera district for drought affected individuals at IDP sites. An additional three mobile teams were launched in support of the new relocation site, Barwaqo 2 and two IDP sites within Baidoa town. The team in Baidoa discussed the communities health needs with the Minister of Health in Southwest State and how, through IOM's support, both the IDP and host community could receive assistance.

Bullagadud and Gobweyn now include outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTP) support. Malnutrition rates in Somalia are extremely high, exacerbated by the ongoing drought. OTP provides treatment for children under five years of age with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). After enrolment into the OTP, children are provided with ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), specifically a peanut-based paste called plumpynut and take it daily. The RUTF is rich in essential nutrients and helps the child rapidly gain weight. The child visits the OTP every week for monitoring, care, treatment of malnutrition-related illnesses, and supply of RUTF. IOM integrates OTPs into its primary healthcare centres, enabling easy linkage from clinic to OTP of children diagnosed with SAM, stronger clinical management of the child's malnutrition, and easier follow-up after the child is cured and discharged.

The IOM health team conducted official monitoring visits of 10 health facilities and mobile health teams located in drought affected communities, in close coordination with government officials. IOM assessed the medical services provided and provided on the job capacity building for staff. The findings of the monitoring missions will be used to improve the services provided.





SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEM (S-NFI)

The Shelter team continues to consult with internally displaced people and local authorities on the provision of shelter and non-food items (NFI) to vulnerable populations. Depending on the affected community's vulnerabilities, assets, capacities, and preferences, identified populations are either provided with transitional shelters or more permanent structures where appropriate.

Drought continues to displace individuals in Somalia, most recently in Gedo region as seen by the increase in displaced person in Baidoa. The IOM shelter and non-food item team is responding to the needs of these individuals. Additional support is being provided to newly relocated households in Baidoa through the provision of essential S-NFI items through Cash-Based Intervention. This means that individuals will be able to select the S-NFI items they need for their household based on a set amount of money provided.

A Cash-Based-Intervention response assessment was completed in Bay and Gedo regions. The assessment included a look at available vendors, the market place and beneficiary's wants and needs. Focus group discussions and questionnaires were used in gathering information from the local community, authorities and beneficiaries. Cash-Based-Interventions are seen as a way to create a more beneficiary driven and durable response to displacement situations.

Notably in August IOM released the IOM Contingency Stock Guidelines. These guidelines mark a significant step in the ability to quickly and clearly communicate the availability and proper use of contingency stock in Somalia. In recent years, the speed

of responses has been a major setback in shelter/NFI responses to emergencies. To address this, IOM Shelter/NFI Unit and the Shelter Cluster established a pipeline mechanism to improve the timeliness of emergency shelter responses.



STABILIZATION & TRANSITION

ESTABLISH FOUNDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS



DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)

The DDR Unit works with marginalized youth at risk in Countering/Preventing Violent Extremism (C/PVE) and social cohesion, and supports the Federal Government of Somalia's National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants.

To enhance efforts in countering violent extremism, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS) has taken initiatives to decrease the number of participants in various armed groups and specifically identified the issue of disengagement combatants as an area of concern. Consequently, together with IOM, the FGoS embarked on a process to develop a National Program in 2012 with the aim of establishing a comprehensive process that allows for low-risk and low-level disengaged combatants to reintegrate in communities and become productive citizens. This led to the establishment of Rehabilitation Centres in Baidoa and Kismayo where disengaged combatants can rehabilitate and gain skills that will allow them to successfully reintegrate into community.

The Baidoa Male Rehabilitation Center currently hosts 45 disengaged combatants. They receive electrical, tailoring,

masonry and welding vocational training. Literacy and numeracy classes are also taught at the centre to beneficiaries ranging from beginner's classes to intermediate classes. In August 2019, IOM rolled out a new start and improve your own business curriculum, which will support beneficiaries looking to start their own business, join an existing business, or form a cooperative to generate livelihoods after graduation.

IOM is currently constructing a new rehabilitation centre for male disengaged combatants in Southwest State. On 6 August DDR team conducted a day monitoring mission from Mogadishu to Baidoa to monitor the progress made on the construction of the new Male Transition Center (BMTc) in Baidoa, Somalia. The construction is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration services continue for 150 project participants in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa. This includes case management, religious and psychosocial counselling, literacy and numeracy education, and access to livelihoods initiatives. Social workers finalized individual case plans for participants. These case plans identify the personal priorities and goals of participants and assist IOM and implementing partners to better assist them to find appropriate courses, services, and activities. As a result of completing these case plans, a clear socio-economic context

emerged in each location and household. In Baidoa, individuals showed an interest in social events and identified making Somali sweets and biscuits as their strength. In Mogadishu many participants had a preference for poetry and music and new business ideas. And in Kismayo, individuals were most interested in access to medical support. The information gathered in the case plans provided a glimpse into gendered societal expectations in Kismayo, Baidoa, and Mogadishu, and will continue to guide IOM's women empowerment programming.



RETURN, RECOVERY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS (RDS)

The IOM RDS Unit works to bridge humanitarian, development and peace/state building efforts and operationalize a paradigm shift from aid-agency driven modalities to one where the government and community co-design and lead their nationally aligned and owned programming. The RDS Unit activities promote: durable solutions for returnees and IDPs; increased social cohesion; improved government capacities to lead on durable solutions at Federal Member States and district levels in urban and peri-urban areas. Currently, IOM RDS programming is operational in Jubaland, South West State, and Hirshabelle.

As part of the government-led and community focused approach, RDS infrastructure projects are part of the Community Action Plans (CAP). The Community Action Plans are the result of an inclusive, consultative process, bringing different groups of the community together with local authorities and government officials. CAPs reflect the community priorities for stabilization and early recovery and reflect the outcome of a five-day inclusive process/ workshop with a diverse group of individuals. Projects included in the CAP are aimed at government-led inclusive access to basic services, conflict reduction and peacebuilding. The development and review of the Community Action Plan is supported by Core Facilitation Team (CFT) who are the government focal points for the community, guiding the community members in risk mapping, activity prioritisation, needs assessments as well as analysis on community capacity and drivers of conflict and displacement.

Once a CAP has been developed, the government authorities invite all actors to a CAP launch event to provide a platform for validation from the broader community on the contents of the plan. When the implementation of the projects that were included in the CAP begins, the government will invite the actors to a ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the initiation of the construction. Similarly, a handover event is held when the project has been finalised. The ground breaking and handover ceremonies are attended by dignitaries as well as community members who are directly benefitting from the project. The events aim at creating transparency and accountability to the state government officials who are leading the process as well as building trust between people and agencies involved in the CAP and their trust to the CAP process.



The RDS team finalized several building projects in August, namely, the health centre in Bulagudud (Jubaland); Mataban market hall; Balad hospital; and shallow well and latrines and a livestock market in Afmadow. As a result, 16,677 individuals will now have access to health services, trading and the ability for improved water and hygiene conditions.

Construction continues at the women's centre in Adale. Once completed the women's centre is expected to provide an open meeting place for the women and girls in the community to voice their concerns and discuss their priorities, run awareness campaigns and provide skills training. The centre will serve 3,424 women who live in Adale.

Children in Bulaburte will soon enjoy the new Wadajir school and increased educational programmes. A ground breaking ceremony was held in August and attended by the Vice-President of Hirshabelle, Mr. Ali Hussein Gudlawe, the Deputy Ministers for Education and Public Works, and members of parliament. Until today, Buula Bari village, with a population of around 22,000 people, did not have any school facilities. The town is divided by the Shabelle river. If there was flooding, the children of Buula Bari were not able to go to school on the other side of the river.



Groundbreaking ceremony in Buula Bari © IOM Somalia 2019

An opening ceremony was also held in Bay region in South West State, where the Bay Haw hospital gravel road will be constructed. Officials participated from the Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Interior, the Bay Governor's office and the Baidoa municipality. The road is expected to facilitate a safer and quicker travel for community members attempting to reach the hospital. IOM supported the rehabilitation of 1 km from Bay Haw hospital, and UNHABITAT has pledged to complete the remaining part to the relocation site. Bay Haw road connects several settlements including host villages, IDP Camps (both Hanano & Bay Haw IDP clusters). The road allows members of both host and IDP communities to access the larger Baidoa town while seeking basic services such as: health, education, markets (both livestock and vegetable) which are all located within the main town. The road also provides better access to security patrols that have increased as a result of the rehabilitation, providing increased security for both IDPs and host communities in the area. Baidoa is one of the largest growing urban centres in Somalia as a result of displacement affected communities and refugee returnees from neighbouring countries, construction and rehabilitation of infrastructures such as roads will ease congestion and facilitate delivery of municipal services to the people.



MIGRATION GOVERNANCE & DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCE THE WELLBEING OF SOCIETY AND MIGRANTS THROUGH STRONGER MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)

IOM's Immigration and Border Management programme supports the Government of Somalia in promoting safe and orderly migration, securing borders and building the capacity of immigration officials.

An IOM regional planning workshop was held in Nairobi for Better Migration Management (BMM) programme focal points to discuss Phase II. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the achievements and challenges encountered during Phase I of the project and to jointly define key parameters for regional activities conducted in BMM Phase II.

In line with the needs and priorities identified in the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND) Strategic Plan (2018-2019) and in support of government's efforts to combat irregular migration and protect vulnerable migrants, construction began on the land border post in Ras Kamboni. Supported through funding from Japan this border post should be completed in four months and will aid the government in enhancing its capacity to monitor and control borders more effectively.

 IOM Somalia

· August 23 ·

The border post in Elberde was officially opened and handed over. IOM supported the construction of the post and provided equipment.

"The new border post in Elberde will help us to ensure legal border crossings, as well as better and safer control movement of people and goods. It will also enable us to create awareness and better understanding of the importance of regular migration in the community. We are certain that this new border post will act as a milestone for the activities at the Ethiopia-Somalia border", said Abdi Ibrahim, a Immigration Officer. The project was funded by the Norwegian Government.





MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE (MPA)

IOM MPA division provides technical expertise in areas of migration policy, administrative and operational practices, procedures for countering human trafficking and smuggling, and direct assistance to migrants.

In coordination with government officials and partners, IOM assisted 17 Somali migrants to return home to Somalia, 12 from Libya, and an additional five returnees from Niger. The IOM health team provided medical screening, care and support to the 12 Somali returnees from Libya at the transit centre in Mogadishu. All returnees received a comprehensive medical assessment, two were provided with immediate medical care while two others received referrals for treatment.

A total of 121 Ethiopian migrants in Bossaso, Somalia were assisted to return back to Ethiopia, including 91 males, 11 females, and 19 unaccompanied migrant children (UMC). Additionally, IOM assisted with the registration for the assisted voluntary return of 97 Ethiopian migrants (47 male, 26 female, 24 UMC).

The IOM team in Hargeisa held discussions with an diaspora expert working on gender based violence (GBV) issues related to challenges around gender based violence and services available to vulnerable female migrants. Discussions centred on access to and availability of the Rape Crisis Centre of the Hargeisa Group Hospital, especially for Yemeni and Oromo migrants. They also reach out to the Women's Action Advocacy Progress Organization (WAAPO) a Somaliland based NGO to provide assistance to abused women. Psychosocial support will soon be available at the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs

(NCRI) in Mogadishu as IOM selected a construction company to build psychosocial support rooms.

Finally, IOM supported a basic IT-training for 25 returnees. This is part of the general reintegration assistance to provide returnees with a range of skills to ensure a successful and sustainable reintegration. IOM and UNDP are preparing to provide an advanced IT training through the Somali Technology Association Center (SOMTAC) in Mogadishu.



Ethiopian migrants boarding the plane to return back to Ethiopia © IOM Somalia 2019



LABOUR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (LHD)

The Labour Mobility and Human Development (LHD) programme focuses its interventions on promoting pathways of labour migration, enhancing coordination for diaspora engagement, strengthening institutional capacity and, mitigating the drivers of irregular migration.

On 14 August, the fifth Steering Committee Meeting for the diaspora and national expert programme funded by Finland, took place in Hargeisa and was attended by representatives from the Embassy of Finland, IOM, and the Somaliland Ministry of Health Development. The meeting focused on the recruitment of diaspora (15) and national experts (25). In conjunction with the steering committee meeting an informal session was held with the international and national experts to enable direct discussions on the programme.

The IOM LHD team organized the Somaliland Hospital Quality of Care Improvement meeting, which was attended by the Ministry of Health Development (MoHD), 15 government hospital directors, four private hospital directors, as well as different UN Agencies and International NGOs which work closely with MoHD. The sessions focused on increasing the quality of services in a fragile health care system, the competencies and structures that are required to achieve a quality health care system, and MIDA FINNSOME IV project updates. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the Ministry of Health officials to discuss and agree on MIDA FINNSOM IV recruitment priorities. With the hospital directors.

The new Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) is a step closer to being a reality as the first training was held for 28 participants. The training was conducted by the SIDA MIDA funded diaspora advisor who was recruited to set up the ECC. After being opened by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and the Director General. The training provided an overview of the general emergency management circle, including an organigram of the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC). The session further covered different stakeholders, partners, ownership, structure and competencies required in a national emergency coordination centre. The differences between the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) was clarified for the participants. As a result of the training it is clear that there is a need for national policies and legislation to formalize the role of the ECC, including where it will be located and operated.

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

A MOTHER'S DESPERATE PLEA



“Our fate now lies in the mercy of the clouds; all I pray for is that this rainy season doesn’t fail us as well”

It is estimated that there are around 323,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) currently in Baidoa, Bay region of Somalia. Drought has been one of the primary causes of displacement. With no water, there is a severe shortage of crops and livestock, leading to loss of livelihoods or even starvation.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)’s Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) team interviewed Faduma upon her arrival to Baidoa.

Faduma comes from Tubay village in Bakool region and is a mother of six children. The family has spent their lives as pastoralists who herd animals and tend to small rain-fed farms. Faduma says she has suffered from hunger and now has a malnourished child. After their last cow died, everyone in the family knew that the children would be next to perish if they stayed. The family was determined to survive so they left Tubay village and walked for 90 kilometers to reach Baidoa town in search for assistance.

Every day new people migrate to Baidoa in hope of easing their suffering; however, many families have no idea about the reality of what is waiting for them upon arrival. In many cases, they get stranded in a camp with no food, water or any humanitarian assistance. **“If help doesn’t come soon, we will be burying people because there is no way we can survive,”** Faduma says, explaining their situation.

Feeding her six children is a challenge that Faduma faces every day. At this point, she only finds enough food to feed them one meal a day.

“We are living one day at a time, my children are getting weaker and weaker day by day. There is nothing that I can do, except go and beg for help from the town. We pastoralists know all too well about a harsh life.”

The long walks to fetch water, to find pasture, the cold nights and the windy storms are all things that Faduma is used to. **“But this!”** she says. **“This is way beyond what we can handle.”** Faduma carries the burden of not only her own survival but that of her six children. Their situation is dire and she says she feels hopeless as she has to watch her children sleep with an empty stomach with no end in sight and all survival options exhausted. It is a pain that no parent should have to bear. **“We have heard of people who received food aid but we have not received any help. Our fate now lies in the mercy of the clouds; all I pray for is that this rainy season doesn’t fail us as well.”**

The situation has now also become extremely urgent as Faduma has a baby girl suffering from severe acute malnutrition. She is making a desperate plea for help from donors and well-wishers to assist her child.

Even though humanitarian partners are stepping up assistance to drought-affected populations in Bay and Bakool regions, the need for urgent life-saving relief in form of food, water and cash assistance is still desperately in need.

When asked about her future plans, Faduma insists she is not planning to return back to Tubay village any time soon due to insecurity in the area and the depletion of their assets due to the drought. She further explains, **“I would like to stay in Baidoa town mainly because we will have access to education and better services for all of us including my children.”**

IOM is providing multi-sectoral support to IDPs in Baidoa through funding from DFID, ECHO, Japan and USAID.

DONORS



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