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Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in Sudan and Somalia

Samundra Acharya
Summer Fellow on Internal Displacement, University of London
Independent Researcher
Nepal

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Abstract

Sudan and Somalia have come a long way in managing the crisis of internal displacement that affects each of the two countries. This study therefore examines how are durable solutions operationalized in Sudan and Somalia from the perspective of security, Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights, policies and coordination structures, as well as the translation of these policies into projects. The study finds that IDPs in these countries show some similarity in attaining durable solutions, notably that IDPs prefer to remain in urban locations despite improved security situations in rural areas of the countries. Both countries have distinct vulnerabilities for HLP-related matters. In Sudan, especially in Darfur, HLP issues are dealt with through the customary tenure that does not guarantee the full protection to concerned parties, whereas in Somalia forced eviction is a major issue for HLP-related matters. Furthermore, the study finds that Somalia has rolled out relevant policies and rules for IDPs and durable solutions, establishing coordination systems that run across all relevant ministries and humanitarian counterparts. As a result, numerous projects and activities are implemented in Somalia along with the development of learning and accountability framework.

Keywords

IDPs; Africa; Urban; Conflict; Durable Solutions

Author Details

Email: acharyasamundra@gmail.com

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1. Introduction

Internal displacement in Sudan and Somalia are complex and protracted humanitarian crises. Both countries have experienced a series of armed conflicts, generalized violence, militia activities and natural disasters that have claimed the lives of thousands of civilians and forced millions of people to move from their place of origin or habitual residence. Around 300,000 people are estimated to have lost their lives due to the Darfur war that started in 2003 (Copnall, 2013). In Somalia, around 500,000 people are estimated to have lost their lives since the start of the civil war in 1991 (White, 2012). Therefore, in such circumstances people are forced to move from their place of origin or habitual residence, but many nonetheless remain within their own country. They are identified as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).¹ There are respectively 2.2 million IDPs in Sudan (IDMC, 2020), representing 5% of the total population and 2.9 million in Somalia (IDMC, 2020a), representing 18.8% of the total population.²

By 2019, Sudan was on the verge of economic collapse with the sharp rise in food prices,³ oil and unemployment rates and the devaluation of currency (OCHA, 2020).⁴ The country's GDP fell from 57.8 billion USD in 2010 to 26.11 billion USD in 2020 (World Bank, 2020). Protests were held against this situation across the country in 2019 which toppled the Bashir regime, and the transitional civilian-military government was established in the country in 2019. Additionally, this government signed the noteworthy Juba Peace agreement with the major rebels in 2020 (OCHA, 2020). These political changes and the reforms in Sudan brought the opportunity for peace and prosperity for all Sudanese nationals including IDPs.

Similarly, Somalia underwent a political vacuum with the exile of dictator Siad Barre in 1991 (Linden, 2019). War lords, Islamic Insurgents and Islamic courts ran the country for more than a decade. The support from international organizations, foreign governments and their armed forces enabled Somali political parties to return home to finally encourage the electoral process that allowed to form the government in 2016 (Gathara, 2021). This was one of the most significant moment for Somalia towards peace, good governance and overall security. However, instead of holding democratic elections, this government was formed through nominations and recommendations. While full swing elections through people participation were supposed to take place in 2020 (Harper, 2016), they were however postponed due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, and ultimately only held on 10th October 2021.

¹ According to Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement, "IDPs are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border" (global protection cluster).

² As of 2019, the total population of Sudan was 43.8 million while the total population of Somalia was 15.4 million (World Bank, 2021).

³ The average inflation rate in the country reached to 254%

⁴ In November 2020, 1 United States Dollar = 250 SDG.

Both countries have set their feet in the path of peace and finding solutions for the displacement-affected communities. The three traditional ways of finding durable solutions are:⁵ Return at the place of origin; Local integration in areas where IDPs take refuge; Sustainable integration in another part of the country-resettlement (OCHA, 2004). However, in order for a durable solution to be achieved, these options must be ‘feasible, viable and enduring’ (Elzarov, 2019, p. 56). Very often the government authorities and relevant stakeholders implement durable solutions programming from the perspective of single solutions or singular movement (Hammond, 2021). This itself is detrimental to the success of durable solutions as IDPs tend to pursue multiple options of durable solutions. An IDP family may for instance choose both options of return and local integration, while certain family members return to their place of origin and others yet remain in urban locations. Such practices are called pendular movements. Similarly, the notions of spatial planning or urban planning are also emerging towards durable solutions of IDPs (Clercq and Valbuena, 2020). The IASC has thus identified eight criteria for durable solutions.⁶

This article therefore analyses the implementation of durable solutions for IDPs in Sudan and Somalia from the perspective of security, Housing Land and Property rights, policies and coordination structures, as well as the translation of these policies into projects and activities.

2. Security

It is difficult to analyse the complexity of the conflicts affecting Sudan and Somalia, that both cross over competition for resources, religion, tribal and ethnic issues, beliefs and good governance. Yet, for the purpose of this research, three levels of these conflicts are analysed from the perspective of security (Said, Yenigun and Albasoos, 2021), namely local, national and regional. The table below presents these three different levels in Sudan and Somalia.

Table 1: Level of conflict in Sudan and Somalia

Sudan	Somalia
Local Level: Presence of local militia, armed tribal groups and Arab groups and their fighting	Local Level: Presence and operation of Al-Shabaab (armed militant) in the rural part of South-

⁵ According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, a durable solution is considered achieved “when IDPs no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement”.

⁶ The eight criteria for Durable Solutions of IDPs are: Long term safety and security; enjoyment of adequate standard of living without discrimination; access to livelihood and employment; effective mechanism for restoring housing land and property; access to personal and other documentation; family reunification; participation in public affairs without discrimination; access to effective remedies and justice (University of Bern, 2010).

<p>have resulted in killings and forced displacement of civilian population in Darfur (Kansara, 2021).</p> <p>At local levels, a number of clashes have erupted in Darfur; predominantly in West Darfur followed by South and Centre Darfur. For the period of January 2021-July 2021, around 105,099 individuals were displaced due to series of inter-tribal conflicts and generalized violence among Arab and Massaliat ethnic groups and other groups in West Darfur (IOM, 2021). In the month of May only 125 people were killed in the same state (Egeland, 2021).</p> <p>Similarly, seven Sudanese were killed and 16 others were wounded in the first week of August in South Darfur (Reuters, 2021).</p> <p>On 5th of June, clashes between Arab and Falluta tribe took the lives of 36 people in Um Dafuq of Center Darfur (AfricaNews, 2021).</p>	<p>central Somalia (Gathara, 2021).</p> <p>Despite the increased drone attacks from US army in Somalia, the fact that they don't need high level approval from their parliament (vetting process) translates to militants operating swiftly by avoiding working in large groups and carry out attacks in several parts of the country (Oladipo, 2019).</p> <p>On 10th of July 2021, Al- Shabaab launched a car bomb attack in Mogadishu targeting the police chief who escaped, but five other civilians were killed and many more severely wounded (Aljazeera, 2021a).</p> <p>On 28th June 2021, 30 people died in Somalia due to the attack launched in the town of Galmadug state (Reuters, 2021a).</p> <p>On 14th September 2021, nine people were killed due to the suicide bomb attack in Mogadishu. Al-Qaeda linked al-Shabab armed group claimed this attack (Aljazeera, 2021b).</p>
<p>National Level:</p> <p>The conflict took place between the rebel groups and the leadership governing the country (Said, Yenigun and Albasoos, 2021).</p> <p>The installation of a transitional government and the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) among rebel groups and the government were significant steps in ensuring peace processes in the country.</p>	<p>National Level:</p> <p>Al-Shabaab is supported by the intelligence group called Aminyat who works across the country and is a key unit to plan attacks (BBC, 2019).</p> <p>Protests were observed in Mogadishu regarding the delay in holding elections.</p>

<p>However, on 25th October 2021 the military seized power from the civilian government and arrested leaders, which undermines the overall stability of the country.</p>	
<p>Regional Level:</p> <p>Sudan’s relationship with Ethiopia is deteriorating and tensions could escalate in no time because of border disputes and the construction of a famous dam which will have adverse effects on Sudan and Egypt (Rhodes, 2021).</p>	<p>Regional Level:</p> <p>With the withdrawal of American and foreign troops in Afghanistan, the Islamic insurgent group in Somalia celebrated the arrival of Taliban and felt more empowered (Byaruhanga, 2021).</p>

Sudan’s previous regime used different factions of armed groups, both formal and informal to leverage its position to rule the country (Gebrehiwot and Detzner, 2020). The regime systematically downgraded the military professionalization. As a result, many militia groups, primarily Janjaweed or Rapid Support Forces (RSF), strengthened their power to exercise control over areas, people, as well as strategic resources for extracting gold and collecting taxes (Gebrehiwot and Detzner, 2020; Tubiana, 2021). Some of these groups are still active in Darfur (Tubiana, 2021).

The presence and active operation of militia groups, especially the RSF, is therefore downgrading the overall security situation in Darfur, already deteriorating following the withdrawal of UN mission in Sudan. Some of the Arab armed groups are willing to be integrated into regular forces but this little hope is also shattered because RSF, the biggest armed group, refused to be integrated with the army (Tubiana, 2021). The leader of RSF is currently the Vice President of Sudan and as such, losing control over his forces could result in his overthrow by army generals (Tubiana, 2021).

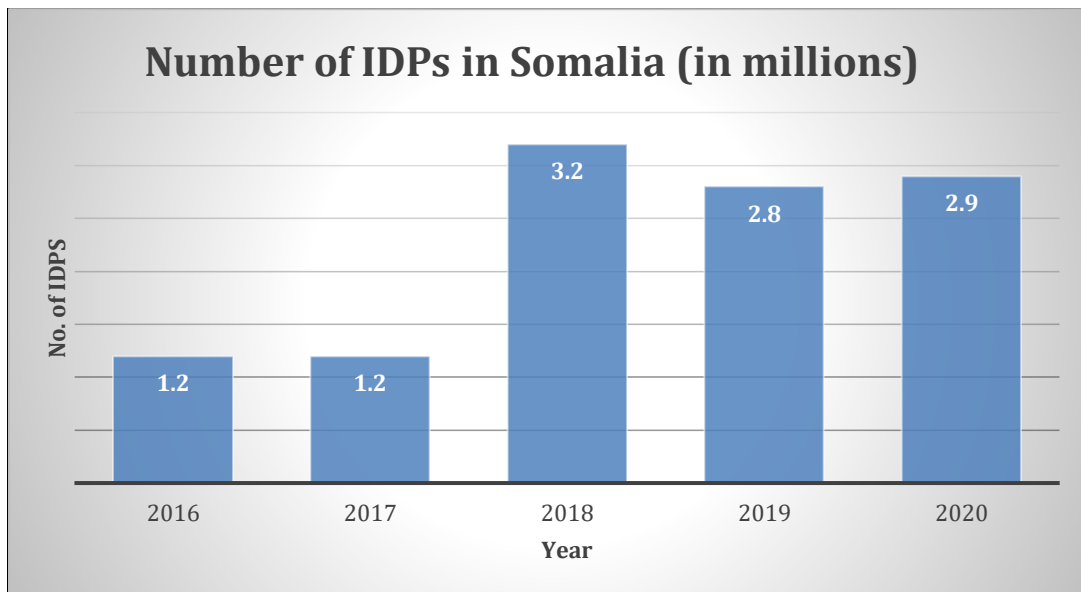
In the case of Somalia, the country shows some similarity with Afghanistan, as both countries underwent “the foreign-led nation building experiment” (Gathara, 2021). As a result, in 2007, the African Union Mission, together with western governments, have deployed their troops to fight against Al- Shabaab (Gathara, 2021). Despite years of continued efforts and investments of huge resources, Al- Shabaab remain in control of rural parts of Somalia and continue their atrocities across the country (Gathara, 2021). One of the reasons towards this failure is that the current government of Somalia is not able to showcase the sense of ownership, inclusiveness and accountability towards their own people, since the government was established through a nomination system, as previously mentioned (Harper, 2016; Gathara,2021). Besides, the delay in

holding democratic elections that guarantee the participation of Somali citizens is derailing the overall governance issue, which in turn adversely affects the security situation.

IDPs in Sudan largely remain in the Darfur region, Blue Nile and in South Kordufan which are mostly rural settings. On the one hand, with the deteriorating security situation in the country, it is very likely that many IDPs would not return to their place of origin. On the other hand, the study conducted in 2016-2017 by the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) in North Darfur, at a time when the state was relatively safe and secured, revealed that around 50% of IDPs prefer to remain in the urban or peri urban locations (JIPS, 2019). This suggests that IDPs prefer to remain in urban locations regardless of the safe and secure environment in their place of origin.

Likewise, the chart below shows that the number of IDPs in Somalia for the year 2017 was 1.2 million. That number then rocketed to 3.2 million in the year 2018 because of conflict, drought, flooding and heavy rainfalls (IDMC, 2020a). According to a survey conducted by OCHA, 90% of IDPs preferred to remain in their current location, not desirous to return, even for the purpose of seasonal farming, and this despite the improved security situation (OCHA, 2018; DSI, 2019). IDPs’ willingness to remain in urban or peri urban locations is obvious because of the number of factors related to services, employment and security to name just a few. Therefore, it is important to consider the flight of IDPs through the lens of urban planning. Such notion is also expressed by Clercq and Valbuena (2020) who explore the notion of durable solutions for IDPs through human settlement or spatial planning.

Figure 1: Number of IDPs in Somalia showing sudden change in their number



3. Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights

Proper implementation of Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights are one of the keys for successful durable solutions for IDPs. HLP rights can be exercised through various tenure systems such as private ownership, public or private rentals, lease, occupation or rent in informal settlements and through customary ownership (UNHCR, 2019). Land tenure system for IDPs in Sudan is divided into three parts which are statutory, customary and informal land tenure (UN-Habitat, 2020).

Table 2: Land tenure system in Sudan

Statutory land tenure system	Customary land tenure system	Informal land tenure
<p>1) Registered free hold land: Free hold land that does not require to pay any sort of rent or fees.</p> <p>2) Registered lease hold land: Government lease the land to the party for a certain period of time (20 to 50 years) with payments.</p>	<p>The land ownership is divided into three tiers which are:</p> <p>1) Tribes (dar groups)</p> <p>2) Small group within same tribe (Hakura)</p> <p>3) Family (housh) and individuals of same tribe</p>	<p>The informal land settlements also called “Ashwey” are found in urban area or in peri-urban areas. They are in the form of slums and squats and are mainly found in the Darfur region.</p>

Statutory land tenure system is mostly practiced in the Khartoum area near the Nile river for commercial agriculture, and in some areas of Darfur. Only 1% of the land in Darfur is registered (UN-Habitat, 2020). Most of the land in Sudan, including Darfur, are under customary land tenure system. The native administration system comprising of Sultan (chief) and Sheikh, verbally distribute land as per needs and demands, in the presence of witnesses and with limited or no paperwork involved (Land Links, n.d.). Therefore, the returnee families who can show their tribal connections ideally have access to land for both housing and agriculture purposes. A very high proportion (around 94%) of returned refugees and returned IDPs reported to have access to land for farming in Central Darfur (UNHCR, 2021).

Yet, customary land tenure system has its own setbacks as the Sudanese government can retain the land at any time to exercise its national interest. The Sudanese government had promulgated acts such as the unregistered land Act 1970 and civil transaction Act 1984, which allow them to retain the customary land at any time (IGAD, n.d.). These laws are created to nationalize the

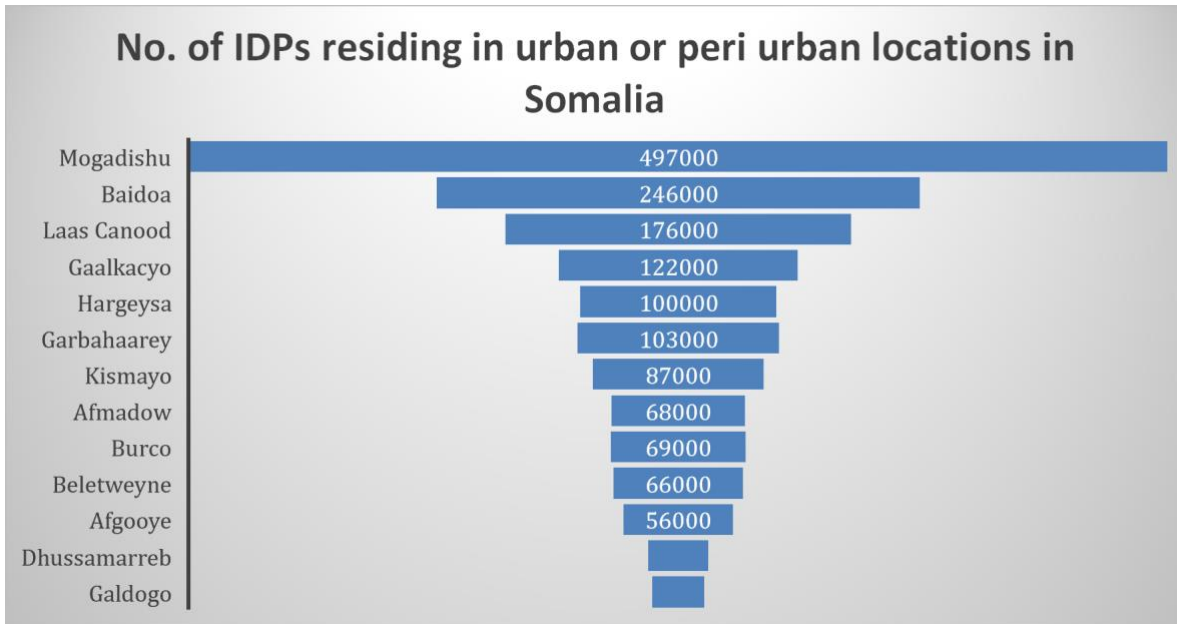
customary land and are not applicable to statutory land tenure system. The land obtained under customary tenure system cannot be sold and the right to use it will lapse if it is not used for a certain period of time (UN-Habitat, 2020). Furthermore, such land undergoes various kinds of disputes because of the overlap of control on land among family members and sometimes outside of the tribes. Women tend to be disproportionately disadvantaged as they have limited access and control over such land. One of the root causes of conflict is contested land and property claims, which is not only limited to tribal groups but also to nomadic group (UNHCR, 2021).

This shows that the land obtained through customary tenure system does not provide a wholistic protection. To make this matter worse, it is quite impossible to change the tenure system from customary to statutory because of bureaucratic hassles (linked with native administration system and formal legal judiciary system) and the high amount of government fee associated with it (UN-Habitat, 2020). One of the preliminary processes for changing the customary land to statutory is to demarcate the land. However, the cost of demarcation, 200 Sudanese pound per feddan, is quite high. Furthermore, the Juba peace agreement clearly articulates the HLP rights for IDPs and makes the commitment to establish the committee. However, there are no reports of such committee being established in Darfur or across the country.

Unlike Sudan, Somalia is one of the fastest urbanizing countries in the world and around 45% of Somali nationals reside in cities (DSI, 2019). Similarly, 80% of the IDPs in Somalia are residing in urban or peri urban areas, preferably in Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Baidoa, Affgoye corridor, Kismayo, Gaalkacyo, either in private properties, public buildings or settlements (UNOCHA, 2018; World Population Review, 2021).

The graph below showcases the number of IDPs in urban or peri urban locations (CCCM, 2020).

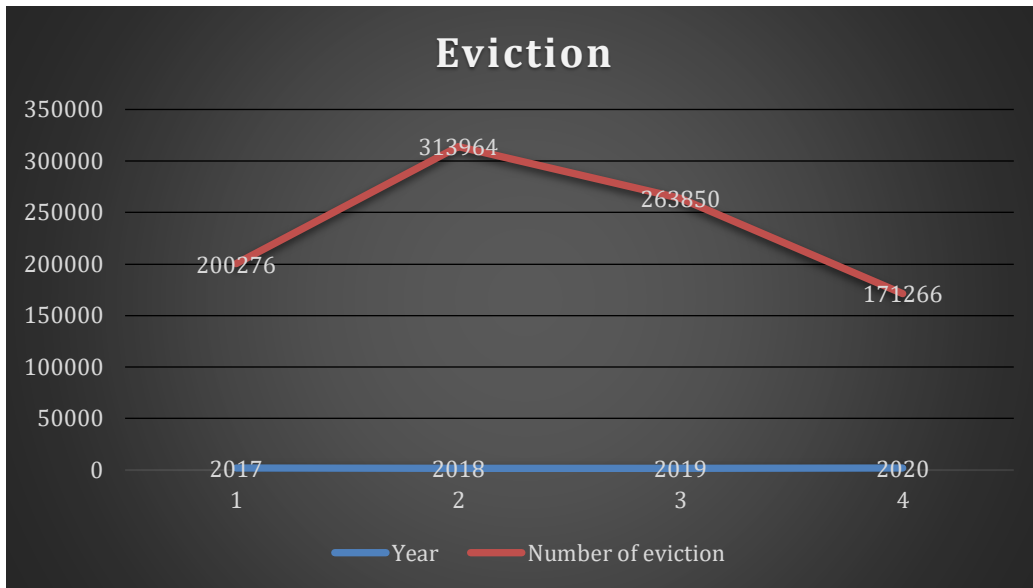
Figure 2: No. of IDPs residing in urban or peri urban locations in Somalia



As cities generally lack appropriate planning and institutions for urban development, these IDPs risk being evicted and in most cases, are effectively evicted multiple times. These situations make them lose their critical personal assets and investments, which further hinders their full recovery (Jackson, 2020). According to Solution Analysis Update (ReDSS, 2019), forced eviction has led to heightened tensions in Mogadishu.

In 2020, the number of IDPs evicted in Somalia amounted to 171,266 (NRC, 2020a). Despite the promulgation of guidelines such as the Eviction Guidelines and Interim Protocol on Land Distribution for Housing to Eligible Refugee Returnees and IDPs, the number of evictions remains significantly high in Somalia, although it is admittedly decreasing (NRC, 2020b). The graph below highlights the eviction trend. Both policies are inclusive and provide a broader framework of protection that recognizes refugee returnees and IDPs as eligible category, so long as they can prove their displacement status via documents, such as identity cards, or through testimonies from community members. Yet these policies are not translated into real action because they could not provide clear criteria towards the availability of land and decisions on land allocation.

Figure 3: Number of evictions per year in Somalia



Conflict and drought are not the only reasons for people to move into cities. Improved security, availability of services (health, education, water etc.), employment opportunities and availability of aid also attract many Somalis to cities (DSI, 2019).

As mentioned above, 90% of IDPs preferred to remain in their current location, which is urban or peri urban areas. Therefore, the cities in Somalia undergo huge pressure to absorb the population growth, yet without the adequate urban plan and institutional capacity. Landowners, members of powerful clans, gatekeepers have been trying to take advantage of the massive inflow of IDPs in cities either by renting their land to IDPs, instigating or executing commercial evictions and collecting humanitarian aid (NFIs) (Jackson, 2020). Despite high numbers of evictions, the programmes implemented by NRC have managed to stop the eviction of 189, 919 people from 2017 to 2020 (NRC, 2020b).

4. Policies and Coordination Structures

Sudan has not yet developed any comprehensive policy addressing internal displacement and durable solutions. The National Policy for IDPs (2009) is outdated and irrelevant because of the change in the political environment. Furthermore, it defines IDPs from a narrow perspective according to which only a person fleeing natural disasters can be recognized as an IDP, thus excluding other reasons mentioned in the Guiding Principles. However, with the change in regime, some policies were enacted which seem favourable towards IDPs and durable solutions. Similarly, the country has been trying to create a favourable environment for peace, justice and durable solutions by ratifying the law that will allow the International Criminal Court to begin

prosecution of war crimes in Sudan (Aljazeera, 2021c). The country is also showing slight progress towards transitional justice through trials and investigation, but the legislation to establish a Transitional Justice Commission is pending (Sayara International, 2020).

The below table shows the number of policies relevant to IDPs and durable solutions.

Table 3: Policies that are relevant to IDPs

Policies	Favourable points
The Constitutional Charter for Transitional Period	Precise bill of rights and freedoms
General framework for the programme of the transitional Government	All the priorities mentioned in the general framework are appropriate. However, number 1 priority is most relevant as it is about “ending war and building fair, comprehensive and sustainable peace, including the explicit commitment to attend “to the issues of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and their voluntary return”.
Access to areas of operation for humanitarian and development partners	All the humanitarian and development partners have access to the areas where IDPs are residing.
Juba Peace agreement	It is the most comprehensive document addressing fundamental issues of the crisis in Sudan. It contains provisions on restitution, social justice, resource sharing and establishment of various commissions and institutions dealing directly with issues related to IDPs and durable solutions.

Two governments units in Sudan, respectively the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission (RRRC), deal with matters related to IDPs and durable solutions. The humanitarian sector works through the cluster system for IDP-related matters. A Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) was established in 2016 which is co-chaired by UNHCR, UNDP and DRC. It is mandated to inform and advise humanitarian and

government counterparts, develop policy and coordinate for matters related to durable solutions for IDPs in Sudan. Under the leadership of DSWG, various assessments were undertaken revealing that both a coordination architecture and a clear division of roles and responsibilities among the government and humanitarian/development actors is missing when it comes to matters of durable solutions for IDPs. The terms of References for DSWG are not yet disseminated to the public, which shows the lack of accountability towards concerned stakeholders.

Unlike Sudan, Somalia has come a long way in implementing relevant policies and acts for IDPs and durable solutions (FGS, 2020). The policies are: 1) National Durable Solutions Strategy; 2) National Policies on Refugee Returnees and IDPs; 3) The Interim Protocol on the Distribution of Lands to IDPs and Refugee Returnees; 4) National Eviction Guidelines; and 5) Disaster Management Policy. These policies follow democratic norms as they are established through a rights-based approach (FGS, 2020). They are adopted by the Council of Ministries who oversee their implementation. The two consecutive National Development Plans for the period of 2016-2020 and 2020-2024 centrally position durable solutions in every aspect of the country's development.

In, 2019 Somalia has signed and ratified the Kampala Convention (FGS, 2020). The biggest achievement of Somalia is not only developing and rolling out relevant policies for IDPs or durable solutions, but also establishing the coordinating system that runs across all relevant ministries, municipalities, government authorities and humanitarian and development sectors. A Durable Solutions Unit was established under the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development in 2018. Later in 2019, the National Durable Solutions Secretariat⁷ was established under the office of the Prime Minister, which coordinates with other 14 government institutions to provide technical expertise that aligns with NDP, on issues related to durable solutions (FGS, 2020).

Similarly, in 2016 the government of Somalia and the United Nations launched the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI), with a view to strengthening the government's leadership and ensuring collective efforts towards durable solutions for displacement-affected communities. The humanitarian and development sectors, the state peacebuilding partners and displacement-affected communities were included in this initiative (FGS, 2021). As a result, various working groups and committees were established, such as the Durable Solutions Coordination Working

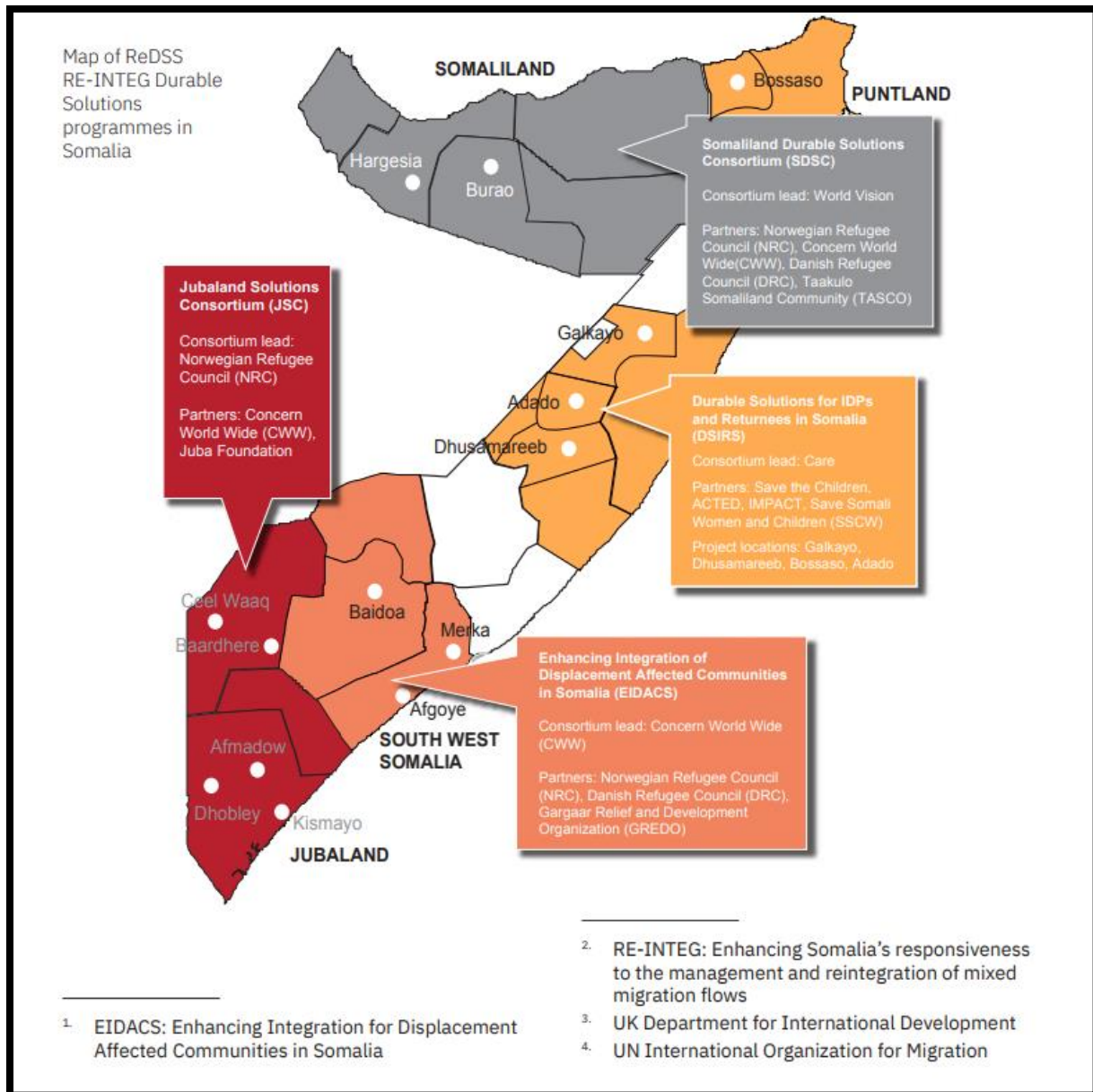
⁷ Durable Solutions Secretariat Members consists of Office of the Prime Minister; Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation; The National Commission for Refugee & IDPS; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development; Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing; Ministry of Women and Human Rights; Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; Ministry of Energy and Water Resources; Ministry of Fishery and Marine Resources; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Directorate for Environment and Climate Change; Immigration.

groups in Puntland, Southwest and Jubaland; the Inter-ministerial Durable Solutions Committee in Galmudug; and a Durable Solutions Unit within BRA (FGS, 2021; Chapuisat, 2020).

This coordination architecture further created a favourable environment to implement durable solutions projects on an area-basis through the nexus of humanitarian, peacebuilding and development actors. Different consortia are indeed established on an area-basis in Somalia. They further cooperate and coordinate with implementing agencies for smoother execution of programs related to Durable Solutions.

The map below explains the area-basis approach for the implementation of durable solutions.

Map 1: The consortia established on an area-basis approach (Clercq and Valbuena, 2020)



5. Projects and activities for Durable Solutions

In Sudan there was a gradual shift towards durable solutions by mid-2016 as the conflict among groups had subsided at that time (Chapuisat, 2020). The senior government officials, including the then-president, encouraged IDPs to find durable solutions through return and local integration (Chapuisat, 2020; Elzarov, 2019). The government led the process in an haphazard manner and constructed some model villages with the support of Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar (Elzarov, 2019). Even though politicians focused on return, local authorities in some places such as Nyala (South Darfur) included displaced populations in their urban planning (Elzarov, 2019).

In 2016, the humanitarian and government counterpart launched a pilot project under the leadership of DSWG in Central and North Darfur to develop an area-based plan of action for durable solutions. Two locations from each state were chosen, namely Um Dukhun (Rural) and El Fasher (Urban), with different methodologies to develop the plan of action (Chapuisat, 2020). IDPs and relevant institutions were involved during this exercise. However, this process to develop and implement area-based durable solutions action plans was never achieved due to the political instability which started in late 2018 (Chapuisat, 2020). This was the biggest setback for all the concerned parties and owing to this situation, funding was not allocated.

Yet, with the request of the Prime Minister, in 2019 some funding was received through the Peace Building Fund, which was specifically used for durable solutions, peace and rule of law in Darfur regions. Programs were implemented through most of the UN organizations (UNHCR, 2021).

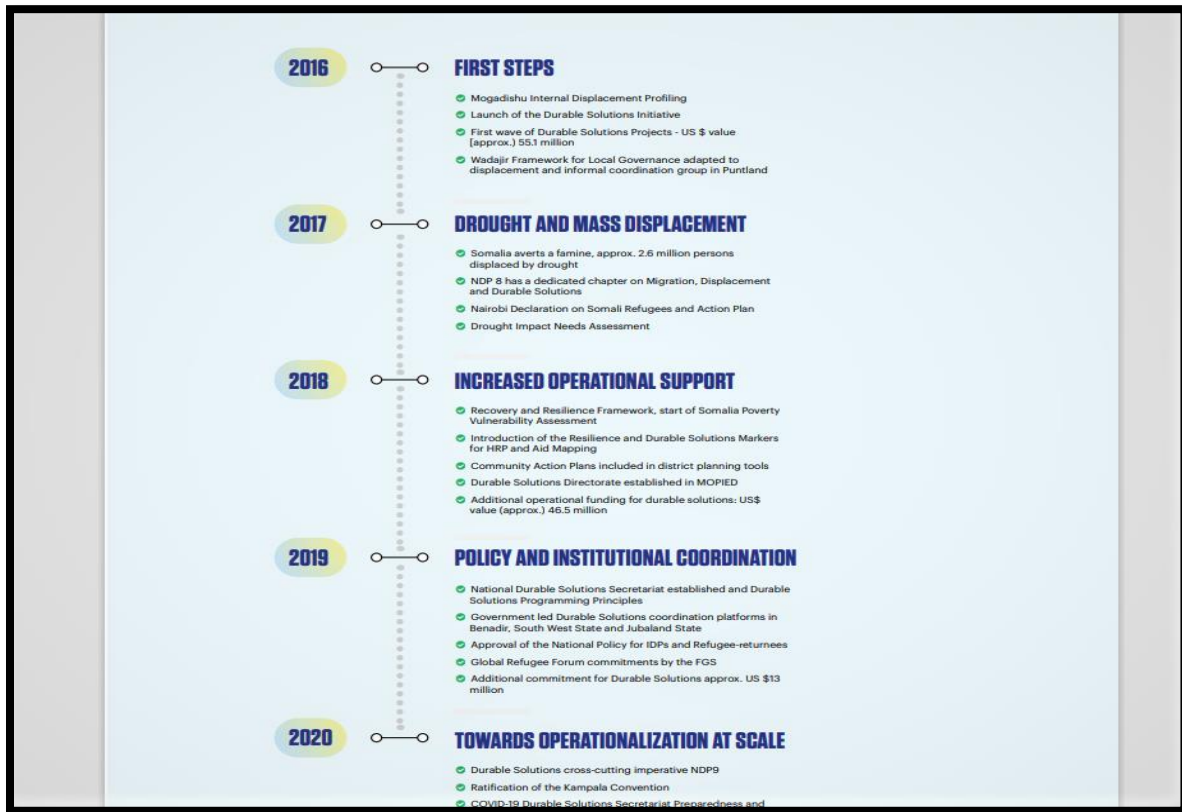
Somalia on the other hand, has taken a significant leap towards the implementation of durable solutions. The below picture shows the milestones achieved by Somalia. At first, the different sets of data regarding IDPs were collected from different stakeholders. Under the leadership of the Government and with the technical support from JIPS and REACH, two profiling exercise were conducted in Mogadishu and Hargesia (Chapuisat, 2020). This profiling exercise not only helped to account for the exact number of IDPs, but also helped to understand their vulnerability, coping mechanisms as well as their preferences towards durable solutions.

Further in 2016-2017, the Somali government, along with humanitarian partners, developed the Drought Impact and Need Assessment to quantify the physical, economic and human impacts of drought for the affected population. Similarly, numerous profiling exercises and assessments were conducted and even a learning framework such as Local Re-Integration Assessment (LORA) was developed (Chapuisat, 2020).

In addition to these works, the Somali government has developed Somalia Aid Information Management System (AIMS) to share data on development and humanitarian aid flows which is one of the most significant developments made by the country towards transparency. Furthermore, some projects were implemented on an area-based approach. One of them is

Midnimo which translates as ‘unity’. It was implemented by IOM, UN-habitat and UNDP for durable solutions for IDPS and returnee refugees (FGS, 2020; Chapuisat, 2020). The project dealt with community empowerment, urban resilience related to evictions and livelihoods. Similarly, projects such as Danwadaag DS Programme, Durable Solutions Programme and Enhancing Integration of Displacement-Affected Communities in Somalia (EIDACS) were implemented through an area-based and consortium approach, with a view to ensuring an effective level of coordination and avoiding duplication among partners (ReDSS, 2019).

Picture 1: Milestones for durable solutions in Somalia (FGS, 2021)



6. Conclusion

The study shows that despite improved security in rural settings, IDPs tend to stay in urban and peri urban locations. In the year 2020, 56% of the world population lived in urban areas and it is projected that by year 2050, 68% will live in urban areas (WB, 2000; UN, 2018). Therefore, durable solutions for IDPs should not only be implemented through the three traditional approaches. Rather, the study demonstrates that they should also be associated with urban planning and spatial planning, taking into consideration a certain number of factors such as pendular movements.

Similarly, the study found that legitimate provisions of HLP rights provide a favourable environment for IDPs to pursue durable solutions, as it ensures the sense of security, protection and ownership and further guarantees a lesser risk of being evicted. Therefore, HLP rights should be centrally positioned towards the implementation of durable solutions.

The study found that the customary mechanism towards land distribution (applicable in rural setting) does not offer greater incentives as most of the IDPs tend to stay in urban locations. The coordination structures, strategy and policies for durable solutions play a very significant role. Somalia has clearly shown good progress in this regard, as numerous programs, learning and accountability frameworks are being implemented across the country.

Conversely, Sudan made a good start with various assessments and data collection but lacks the establishment of a coordination structure, as well as the development of effective policies and strategy.

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