

III. Collaboration in Somalia between the Protection Cluster and the Durable Solutions Unit of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office

The Protection Cluster Coordinator and Durable Solutions Coordinator from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Somalia presented the collaboration between the protection cluster and the durable solutions unit in Somalia. The speakers stressed that their engagement with durable solutions is an important way to communicate as respectively humanitarian and development actors. The speakers highlighted the key areas of engagement between the protection cluster and the durable solutions unit that included: Active participation in durable solutions working groups; and capacity building of protection cluster members to better understand durable solutions. They stressed their joint work on guidance documents and strategies, missions, assessments, and analyses. The speakers cited their joint work in Somalia in the relocation processes of people who were at risk of eviction and insecurity in Barwaaqo and Bar Bulsho. In these two cases the protection cluster members and durable solutions experts applied the "Do No Harm" principle.

The speakers stated that the key elements of their collaboration included: i) voluntariness of the return/relocations/re-integration ii) organizations of returns/relocations; iii) safety and dignity of returns/ relocations iv) a participatory approach v) protection by presence and monitoring. Through these key elements, the speakers concluded that the displaced persons received appropriate information. They collaborated closely with local authorities and organized structured discussions with the displaced community. Finally, they ensured that they linked these elements with a wider community development strategy that considered the return and reintegration needs of the displaced people in the two locations.

IV. Key Messages and Conclusions

- 1) Humanitarian, peace and development agencies to work together to close the gap in reference to their respective processes and frameworks.
- 2) Increase the inclusion of issues of transitional justice, non-discrimination, equity, into development frameworks.
- 3) Ensure that collective outcomes build on existing national and local plans such as development plans and humanitarian plans (e.g. the HRP) for the benefit of crisis-affected populations in need of protection.
- 4) Undertake an area-based approach on identification of needs to bring together the different humanitarian, peace and development actors.
- 5) Humanitarian and development actors to mobilize bilateral donors and international financial institutions for collective or collaborative outcomes.
- 6) Development actors/agencies to collaborate more actively with humanitarian actors/agencies and ensure that they are part of the discussion and planning efforts.