

Notes for Zahra Abdi's Input into the GP20 Steering Group Meeting

Thursday, June 27 2019

11:00 AM – 01:30 PM

1. *Can you tell us about the Durable Solutions Initiative and how this relates to broad partnership engagement within the Government in Somalia, and the role of the MOPIED Durable Solutions Unit in supporting these partnerships?*

Figures and Statistics:

IDPs: 2.6 mil across 2000+ settlements. The majority of 497,000 in Mogadishu (capital city of Somalia)

Returnees: 87,051 (Mainly from Kenya and Yemen)

Refugees: 33,270 (Yemen, Ethiopia and Syria)

Drivers of displacement: Mainly Drought and natural disasters and conflict.

In 2016, the then Deputy Prime Minister launched the Durable Solutions Initiative. The government realized that the situation required efforts from all ministries, and from all tiers of government - at federal, regional and municipality level. As a consequence, durable solutions were included in the current National Development Plan (NDP) and the Government established a dedicated coordination sub – working group (Migration, Displacement and Durable Solutions sub – working group) in the national aid architecture. However, the policy and institutional requirements to achieve durable solutions in a whole of government coordinated approach are complex as a result the Durable Solutions Unit (DSU – MoPIED) was established in Ministry of Planning, Investments and Economic Development (MoPIED) and started its operations in January 2019. Since the establishment of the Unit, Durable Solutions has gained momentum within the government and it is now propelled to a National issue and formally recognized as a priority by all levels of government. There is unparalleled and unequivocal commitment to support displacement affected communities with inclusion of the Durable Solutions priorities in the National Road Maps.

MoPIED durable solutions unit is strengthening existing partnerships and fostering new partnerships to support achieving durable solutions. The Unit's role is to:

1. Strengthen government role in leadership in addressing displacements;
2. Facilitating durable solutions through planning, coordinating across sectors, delivering and monitoring and oversight on durable solutions interventions implemented in the country;
3. Ensure that maximum optimization in durable solutions initiatives is attained through a “whole of government approach” with collective outcomes;
4. Ensure an enabling environment and central decision making at Federal and Regional level through consultations with key stakeholders and actors;
5. Enhance strategic prioritization of key durable solutions interventions in the NDP Social Development Road Maps and other relevant frameworks.

The (DSU – MoPIED) has worked with the RCO and ReDSS on finalizing and approving the Durable Solutions Programming Principles which have now been adopted and will strengthen how Durable Solutions Programming is undertaken. Area based planning and locally lead processes including community engagement and participation on Durable Solutions are ongoing.

2. What mechanisms has the Durable Solutions unit developed to support a whole-of-Government approach on durable solutions and how do you see the role of urban planning tools in improving the situation of the displacement affected communities at municipal level?

In order to support a whole-of-government approach, the (DSU – MoPIED) in coordination with relevant line ministries and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) has developed and established a **Durable Solutions Secretariat** where all key government actors on Durable Solutions come together, have access to information, provide technical expertise and high level strategic advice and make decisions to ensure that Durable Solutions programs in the Somalia are in line with the National Development Plan and National Social Development Road Map and other relevant government frameworks and policies.

At the highest level, the Prime Minister has established the National Road Maps – Inclusive Politics, Security and Justice, Economic Development, Social Development to monitor the progress of the Government entities in achieving national priorities contained in the National Development Plan. The (DSU – MoPIED) has worked with the OPM to mainstream Durable Solutions milestones in these road maps in particular the Social Development Road Map.

The (DSU – MoPIED) is working on building the capacity of line ministries in understanding and take their role in achieving durable solutions through an initiative coordinated with NCRI where line ministries have been provided with Durable Solutions Training to enhance their understanding and enabling them to identify areas in their work milestones where Durable Solutions initiatives can be incorporated or mainstreamed. Plans are also in place to provide trainings on durable solutions to federal member state authorities which require capacity building. The training draws on materials designed with ReDSS and can now be replicated by government officials in all Federal Member States.

The unit is now starting the process of developing a National Durable Solutions Strategy that incorporates the whole-of-government approach on solutions working with other key government entities. The Unit is also prioritizing improvement of government data on internal displacement. The unit has just finished the preliminary mapping of actors and funding on durable solutions.

Urban planning tools can be useful in improving the situation of the displacement affected communities at municipal level provided that municipalities are capacitated, receive the support they need and are well equipped to manage displacements. These plans can be used to prepare for early response to displacements through aiding new arrivals, ensure access to basic services and legal support and providing information on areas of return. Urban plans can also be used to coordinate among cities e.g. if there are DACs in Mogadishu whose original area of displacement was Baidoa and now wish to return then both cities should be able to work across regions to improve the situation of DACs.

3. At a time when Somalia may face the possibility of a new drought, with prospects for further displacement, could you please highlight challenges and opportunities for durable solutions approaches?

To achieve durable solutions long term resilience must be built to address recurrent drought that results in further displacement. In 2017 the Government of Somalia conducted the Somalia Drought Impact and Needs Assessment (DINA) to assess and quantify drought recovery and resilience building needs and in

2018 developed the Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF) which is a framework to support on Somalia's progress from early drought recovery through to longer- term resilience and disaster preparedness over a 3–5-year time frame. The framework will inform future financing for recovery and resilience with the inclusion of a strong durable solutions component. The RRF will be launched in July 2019 and its implementation is one of the opportunities for durable solution.

Other opportunities for durable solutions include but not limited to:

1. Government leadership and coordination on durable solutions for IDPs, refugees and returnees.
2. Creation of an enabling environment for IDPs through policy development. The following policies are expected to be passed by the Parliament within next few months:
 - a) National Policy for IDPs & Refugee Returnees
 - b) Housing, land and property Interim Protocol
 - c) National Eviction Guidelines
 - d) Social Protection Policy
3. Somalia has developed Disaster Management Response Policy and is working on the establishment of National Emergency Response Center with the capacity to respond to disasters.
4. Efforts on Peace building, reconciliation and political stability are also being undertaken lead by the Ministry of Interior: electoral mechanism, political party mechanism, resource sharing mechanisms have been established and fiscal federalism near completion.
5. Durable Solutions also have been mainstreamed in Federal and Regional State frameworks and we hope to achieve more when the new policy and the new national development plan is released.
6. Provision of land for IDPs and returnees in Baidoa, Mogadishu and Kismayo by regional states.
7. **Economic Growth:** Somalia's achievements in meeting the requirements of the latest IMF Staff Monitored Programme (SMP) is continuing a pathway to normalization of relations with International Financial Institutions and debt relief through strengthening of economic policy, rebuilding financial institutions and improving governance.
8. **Security Reform:** ongoing enhancement of the capabilities of the Somali Armed Forces both Police and Military.
9. **Strong private sector:** Government is now working on engaging the private sector in solutions for displacement.
10. Government and partners are now exploring new ideas on integrated approaches and models at city level that, by combining urbanization resilience, governance, livelihood and protection measures, will be able to achieve voluntary and sustainable solutions at scale.

Challenges:

1. Need for better coordination of developmental and humanitarian partners on durable solutions.
2. Lack of standardized tools that can monitor and measure on the impact of sustainable efforts in durable solutions in Somalia. Data collection, joint planning approaches & monitoring of collective efforts need to be developed and this what we are currently working.
3. More focus needed on preparation of areas of return for IDPs rather than keeping IDPs in the status quo. Some IDPs are the backbone of the economy coming from rich pastoral and coastal areas.

Thank you to all our partners and Donors for all that has been done so far.

