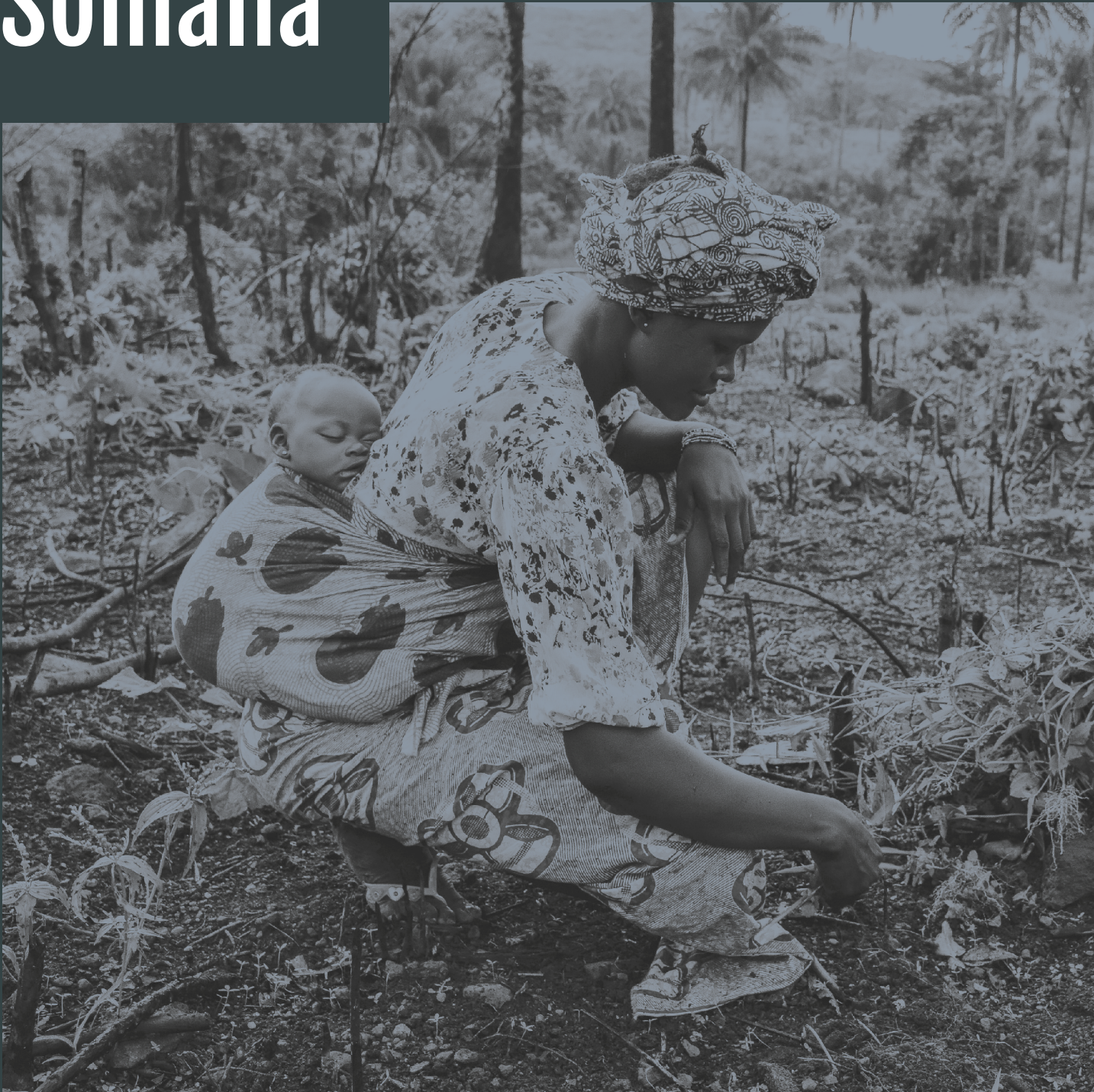


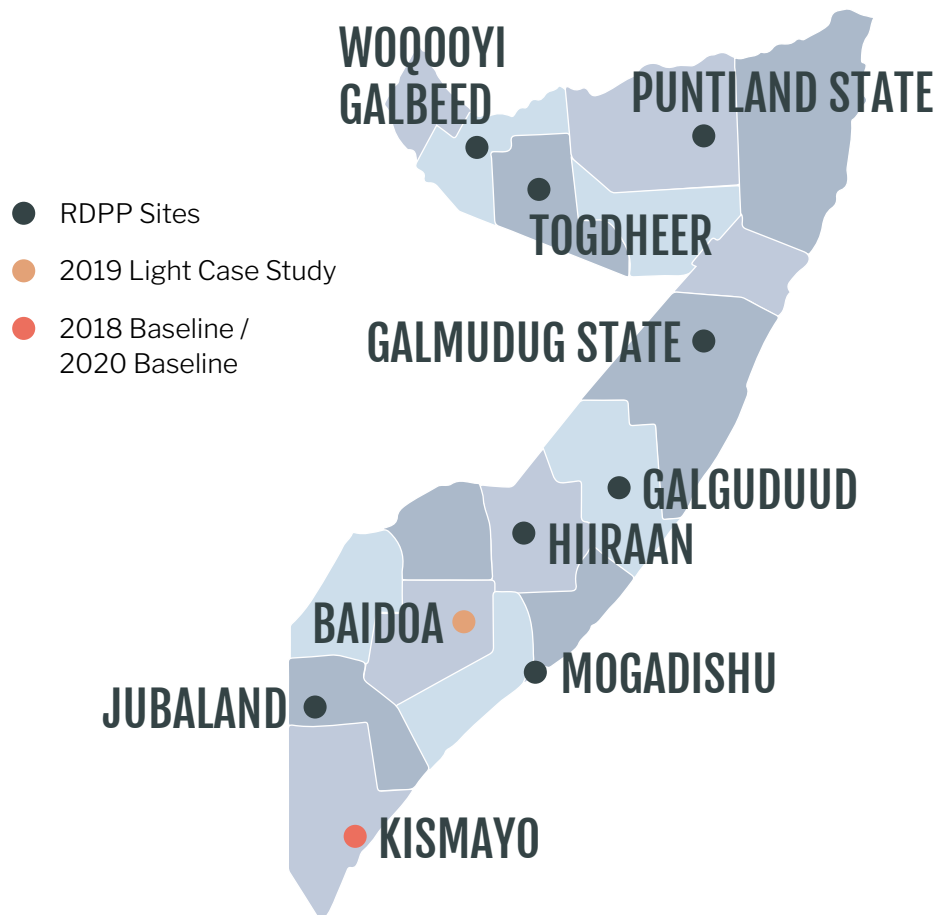
# Somalia



# RDPP in Somalia (Kismayo): Endline assessment

The Learning and Evaluation Team (LET) of the Regional Development Protection Programme (RDPP) presents its impact evaluation (2018-2020) of the integrated approach to refugee and host communities. The results of this endline build on the previous baseline (2018).

View summary video [here](#).



LET composition:

Co-leads: Samuel Hall & MDF Consultancy

Consortium Members: Maastricht University & ECDPM

This evaluation is supported and guided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and presented by the LET. The report does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report was authored by the research team at Samuel Hall, led by Nassim Majidi, Stefanie Barratt and Rebecca Frischkorn with contributions from Sonja Fransen and Melissa Siegel at Maastricht University and Anna Knoll at ECDPM. “Samuel Hall, MDF, Maastricht, ECDPM (2021) Progressive Effects Evaluation of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP): Somalia Country Chapter, funded by the Dutch MFA, Netherlands.”



# Key Take-Aways

## 1. Relevance

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### The RDPP approach remains relevant to the context

The durable solutions approach is well in progress in Kismayo, from consultation with communities, to coordination with local stakeholders, and implementing the RDPP vision locally. The RDPP experience revealed the need to go beyond humanitarian planning to adopt a placemaking lens: to avoid the risk of moving from camp planning to settlement planning where only the basics are covered. Instead, giving people more than a land, a shelter, a market, and a school, but a community to live in. In this sense, New Kismayo has provided a strong sense of social cohesion and belonging. This is aligned with the urban planning approach and integration approach in Kismayo.

## 2. Coordination

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### Evidence of RDPP coordination with partners, authorities and the local community

Humanitarian and development partners, in coordination with the government, **took collective responsibility for programming**. Non-governmental organisation (NGO) consultations and alignment with local plans allowed for a dual process of community feedback and NGO response, with a gradual increase in pace and complementarity of NGO interventions – from education to health, housing and access to water and electricity. Further improvements are needed to integrate service provision in government plans, notably for economic development, water access and electricity, and to increase the number of teachers and students across training centres in Kismayo. NRC is working on bringing new donors to invest in more sustainable solutions to structural water access challenges.

## 3. Effectiveness

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### A positive impact in some sectors with opportunities in others

RDPP realised varying levels of success in terms of access to water, education and housing, land and property and vocational training opportunities for returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities. Improvement has been registered in education with another school being constructed in New Kismayo, greater levels of training and capacity building among teachers, with the quality of education meeting the expectations of returnees.

# Key Take-Aways

## 4. Impact

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### Integrated approaches have become a reality and social cohesion has improved

Positive gains have been made towards integration and social cohesion between returnees, IDPs and host communities via positive social, cultural, and economic interactions. However, some members of the host community still feel that the returnees and IDPs are favoured by aid organisations. On social cohesion, respondents from both communities as well as key informants noted that sharing these services has contributed to strengthened ties between refugees and hosts. While the evaluation did not intend to measure social cohesion, the interactions between the returnees, IDPs and host communities in the market areas and games between the youth showed a level of cohesion between the groups. The creation of integrated services catering for returnees, IDPs and host communities has become a reality to some extent when it comes to education and health with the health centre constructed in New Kismayo attracting residents of Kismayo to the village.

## 5. Sustainability

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### Additional funds needed and support to the Jubaland strategic plan

The baseline revealed a strong foundation for an integrated approach, albeit one that was rushed due to delays, as well as the need to better communicate and work with communities, including better youth integration. **Significant steps were taken to ensure adaptive programming** and to address such issues, with the integrated approach showing positive results in the endline. **Significant gains have been made in education, training, and land security which need to be sustained and built upon.** A key concern voiced by stakeholders is the lack of resources to sustain the large-scale programme and the corresponding inability of the government to take over the schools, training centres, and provide strong market links. Further phases of funding will be required to invest in the link between training and the private sector, stronger market assessments to be standardised and run by the government. The durable solutions donor working group can be a tool in this regard – regular meetings and exchanges can ensure that the gains made under RDPP are sustained. Kismayo can become an example of the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding triple nexus, taking advantage of lessons learned to improve systems and solidify markets and structural responses.

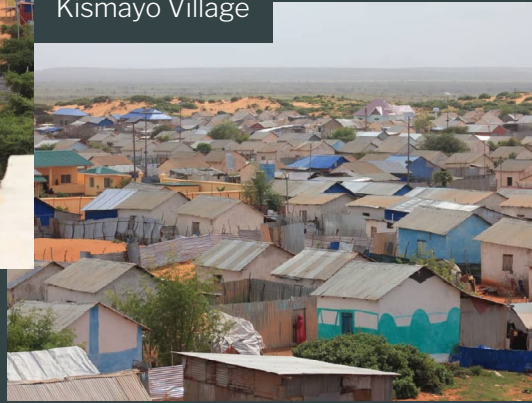


View over New Kismayo Village

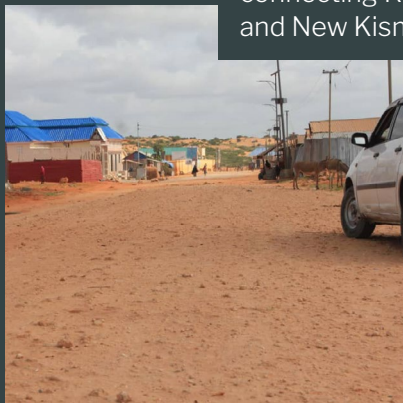
Elevated water tanks in New Kismayo



Inside New Kismayo



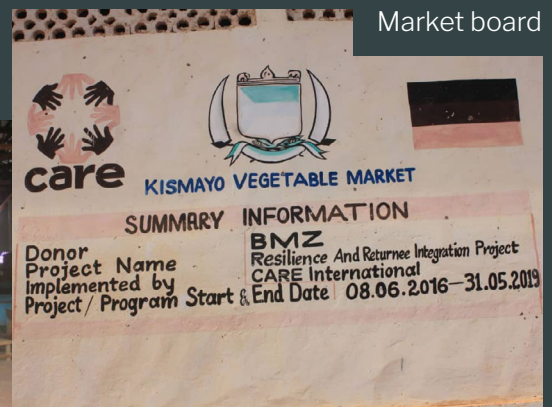
Main road connecting Kismayo and New Kismayo



Inside the market



Market board



Midnimo primary school



Main roads that divides the village

Entrance to the Midnimo market



Ahmed Gurey primary school



Elevated water tank

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# Acronyms

<b>ACTED</b>	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
<b>ARC</b>	American Refugee Committee
<b>BRCIS</b>	Building Resilient Communities in Somalia
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>DSRIS</b>	Durable Solutions for Returnees and IDPs in Somalia
<b>ECDPM</b>	European Centre for Development Policy Management
<b>EIDACS</b>	Enhancing Integration of Displacement Affected Communities in Somalia
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>HLP</b>	Housing, Land and Property
<b>ICLA</b>	Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance
<b>IDLO</b>	International Development Law Organization
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IP</b>	Implementing partner
<b>JSC</b>	Jubaland Solutions Consortium
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informant Interviews
<b>LET</b>	Learning and Evaluation Team
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>RDPP</b>	Regional Development and Protection Programme
<b>ReDSS</b>	Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat
<b>SADO</b>	Social-life and Agricultural Development Organization
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	United Nations Settlement Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education Training
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Association
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>YEP</b>	Youth Education Pack

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

The Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) is a European programme to create evidence-based, innovative and sustainable protection and development approaches for refugees and their host communities in Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs contracted the Learning and Evaluation Team (LET), co-led by MDF and Samuel Hall with Maastricht University and ECDPM, to conduct evaluations of RDPP over the three-year implementation period, 2018-2020. At the end of the programme, a combined quantitative and qualitative progressive effects evaluation was organised to assess progress and provide learning that will feed into policy making both nationally and regionally. **This country report provides an overview of the results from Somalia with a specific focus on Kismayo in Jubaland State.** It can be read in complement to the full *Final Regional Progressive Effects Evaluation*, which synthesises learning from all five countries.

The RDPP aimed to support a sustainable and durable integration of refugees and IDPs in Somalia and to anchor populations within Somalia through the programme, **RE-INTEG: Enhancing Somalia's responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows.** This involves provision of immediate support to the management of permanent return flows from Yemen, Kenya, Europe or other areas of departure and to enhance the capacities of the relevant government institutions to assume their primary responsibility for facilitating access to basic rights and services. With a total budget of EUR 50 million, the project was implemented primarily in Hargeisa, Bosasso, Garowe, Dusamareb, Galkayo, Beletweyne, Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo (Table 1).

Table 1. RDPP in Somalia

Full Project Name	IPs	Location
Facilitating Sustainable Return through Laying Foundations for Somalia in the Horn of Africa (FLASH)	International Organisation for Migration (IOM)	Jubbada Hoose, Banaadir, Bay, Gedo, Hiiraan
Durable Solutions for Returnees and IDPs in Somalia (DSRIS)	Consortium: CARE Nederland (lead), Save the Children, ACTED, IMPACT and Save Somali Women and Children	Puntland and Galmudug States of Somalia
"Wajadir" – Enhancing Durable Solutions for and Reintegration of Displacement Affected Communities in Somaliland	World Vision	Togdheer, Woqooyi Galbeed (Somaliland)
Enhancing Integration of Displacement Affected Communities in Somalia (EIDACS)	Concern Worldwide	South West State (Baidoa, Afgoye and Merca)
Supporting the development and implementation of policies for the return, reintegration and protection of IDPs and refugees	International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	Jubbada Hoose, Nugaal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Banaadir, Bay, Galguduud, Hiiraan
Durable Solutions and Reintegration Support to Displacement affected communities in Jubaland state of Somalia	NRC; Concern Worldwide; Juba Foundation; ReDSS	Jubaland (Kismayo, Afmadow, Doble, Balet Hawa and Baardhere)
Innovative durable solutions for IDPs and returnees in Mogadishu through enhanced governance, employment and access to basic and protective services	UN-HABITAT	Banaadir
Enhancing Somalia's responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Jubaland (Kismayo, Luuq, Afmadow), South West Administration (Baidoa), Mogadishu (Benadir-Wadajir, Darkhenley, Hodan, Shibis, Shangani, Harwenye)
Africa's Voices Foundation		Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo, Garowe, Beletweyn, Galkacyo, Bossasso, Dhusamareb, Hargeisa



In Kismayo, the project, *Durable solutions and reintegration support to displacement-affected communities in Jubaland state*, also referred to as the Jubaland Solutions Consortium (JSC), is headed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) with Concern Worldwide, Juba Foundation, and the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). Targeting displacement affected communities, the specific objective was to increase access to essential services and creating realistic livelihood opportunities in the main areas of return and departure in Somalia. **Project activities focused on the implementation of education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Information Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA), livelihoods and skills training activities, and the knowledge and learning component by ReDSS.**

This endline country report follows the [previous baseline evaluation](#) and builds on data collected at the field level. The evaluation was guided by 12 key questions listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Key evaluation questions

Relevance	
EQ1.	How does the RDPP adapt to context dynamics?
EQ2.	To what extent have different sub-groups actively contributed to needs- and context assessments? What are mechanisms for feedback and influence of refugees and host communities on projects?
Coordination	
EQ3.	How does the RDPP coordinate with partners and authorities?
EQ4.	Did the RDPP help to strengthen the capacity of IPs and local authorities to develop and implement an integrated approach towards refugees?
Effectiveness	
EQ5.	To what extent and how did RDPP help to strengthen the legal protection of refugees, with emphasis on vulnerable groups?
EQ6.	What results have been achieved in integrated access to/use of energy, water, education and health, and employment?
EQ7.	Which factors positively or negatively impact the effectiveness of individual interventions?
Impact	
EQ8.	What is the impact on beneficiaries? What is the income effect? How is social cohesion influenced by the RDPP?
EQ9.	How do project and programme results impact potential future migration decisions of refugees?
Sustainability	
EQ10.	Which challenges hinder the successful implementation of projects?
EQ11.	Is it possible to elaborate on the sustainability of individual interventions? What are the main determinants for sustainability? Which challenges hinder the successful implementation of projects?
EQ12.	What are key governance factors for effectively implementing policies aimed at sustainable protection and development approaches for refugees and their host communities?

## 1.2 Context

There are 764,770 refugees from Somalia registered in other countries, many in the Horn of Africa. Since 2014, UNHCR has been assisting voluntary returns from various asylum countries to Somalia. While 11% of the displaced population has returned, 89% remains abroad. As of the end of August 2020, there were 130,581 returns recorded, mostly from Kenya, Yemen and Djibouti. Southern Somalia is the preferred region of return, specifically the Lower Juba, Banadir and Bay regions.<sup>1</sup> 70% of returnees participated in a program of voluntary assisted return, while 30% planned it independently.<sup>2</sup> In 2020, 664 returns took place so far. Overall, the number of voluntary returns has been increasing every year. Nonetheless, voluntary return programs are now suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, Somalia continues to have a significant population of IDPs, estimated at 2,648,000 in 2020. The main reason for displacement is food insecurity, followed by conflict and drought-related factors. The terrorist group Al-Shabaab is still a major threat to civilians. The IDPs are the most vulnerable population in Somalia. Many of them have not been able to restore the livelihoods they have lost. They face a high risk of contracting water-borne diseases, due to continuous flooding, and now also of being infected with COVID-19, considering their impeded access to hygiene and sanitation.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, there remains a 66% funding gap in the humanitarian response budget, leaving many IDPs in precarious living conditions.<sup>5</sup>

Somalia is part of the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and the Reintegration of Returnees presented in 2017 by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). It is set to achieve substantial solutions to the Somali refugee situation. Secondly, in 2019, Somalia signed the Kampala Convention, a crucial step in protecting internally displaced people.<sup>6</sup> In 2019, the government of Somalia has adopted a new nation-wide policy on internally displaced people, another key step forward in ensuring return and reintegration of IDPs to safer areas in the country. **While this has created an enabling environment for RDPP, Somalia continues to be a fragile state**, considering the different issues related to insecurity, natural disasters, the unstable humanitarian situation and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHCR predicts this instability will persist, rather than diminish.<sup>7</sup> The first democratic elections since 1969, planned for November 2020, had to be rescheduled for 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>8</sup> Because of the increasing tensions between different states, the insufficient control of Somali territory and the problems with voters' registration, this goal is riddled with difficulties. In September 2020, Somali president Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed nominated a new prime minister, Mohamed Hussein Roble, following the removal of the previous prime minister by the parliament. This has created a difficult context for the implementation of RDPP activities.

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR. (2010). Somalia. Voluntary repatriation. UNHCR. | <sup>2</sup> UNHCR (2020). Somalia Operational Update. UNHCR. | <sup>3</sup> UNHCR (2020). Somalia. Refugee returnees to Somalia. 31 August 2020. UNHCR. | <sup>4</sup> UNHCR. (2020). Flood response amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Somalia. UNHCR. | <sup>5</sup> UNHCR (2020). Somalia Operational Update. UNHCR. | <sup>6</sup> UNHCR. (2019). UNHCR welcomes Somalia's ratification of the Kampala Convention. UNHCR. | <sup>7</sup> UNHCR. (2020). Global Focus. Somalia. UNHCR. | <sup>8</sup> Ahmed Ali, F. & Muyonga, D. (July 2020). Democratisation on hold in Somalia as first-past-the-post election is postponed. The Conversation.

### 1.3 Methodology

The selection of Kismayo as the site of LET evaluation was determined in light of the role of ReDSS with the JSC, as a means to complement and expand the scope of research. Further, Kismayo is a major entry point for returns from Kenya in proximity of the Dadaab refugee camp, providing regional linkages to other RDPP countries. Three locations were covered by the research team:

- Midnimo Village, also known as New Kismayo, is a settlement created for returning refugees from Kenya as part of the voluntary repatriation supported by the Somali government and UNHCR, located about 6 km from Kismayo. The people settled in Midnimo are approximately 70% returnees, 20% IDPs, 10% hosts.<sup>9</sup>
- NRC Youth Education Pack (YEP) centre is located in Kismayo town. The trainees come from all communities living in Kismayo.
- Kismayo town (Calanley), where two focus group discussions were conducted. Calanley is the biggest and the oldest section in Kismayo town, mostly occupied by members of the host community.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, research activities had to be adapted to account for the challenging context in 2020, utilizing both remote and minimum-contact methods. The 2020 endline data collection focused on qualitative data only, including focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs), semi structured interviews (SSIs), and self-reflection (autoethnography) by following WHO recommended COVID-19 measures (Table 3). Respondents who participated in the study were purposefully selected based on age, gender, nationality and population distribution in the study location. The study also produced field photo and video evidence, and community observations which contributed to the contextual analysis of key study sectors. Further, a desk review was conducted based on submitted implementing partner (IP) reports, related reports and evaluations, and output indicator tracked by Altai Consulting.<sup>10</sup>

Table 3. Data collection for the endline study in Kismayo in 2020

	Returnee	IDPs	Host	Mixed	TOTAL
FGDs	5	3	2	1	11
SSIs	2	2	-	-	4
KIIs	2	1	-	15	18
Community Observations, including photos and video	1	1	1	-	3
Autoethnography	1	-	-	-	1

### 1.4 Limitations and Constraints

Given the COVID-19 dynamics at the time fieldwork, the research team could not travel to Kismayo for the data collection. Enumerators and a field supervisor were hired within Kismayo and they were trained and monitored remotely. As a result, the data quality control team had to spend more time in assessing the quality of data received from the field since the study completely relied on field-based researchers.

<sup>9</sup> According to the NRC area manager | <sup>10</sup> LET objectives and approach are distinct from the ongoing monitoring and learning efforts by Altai Consulting across all projects (focused on EU Trust Fund (EUTF) Horn of Africa portfolio level).



## 2. Background: The RDPP Story in Uganda

The RDPP was launched in June 2015 and has been incorporated as one of the flagship initiatives of the broader *Valletta Action Plan* in support of the European-African migration dialogue. The Horn of Africa is host to the largest - and growing - refugee population in Sub-Saharan Africa, fleeing from conflict and drought. Somalia remains prone to conflict and insecurity leading to significant movements within and outside of the country which are compounded by the succession of natural disasters affecting the country. At the same time, refugee returnees continue to make their way home, many sometimes after years abroad in Kenya and other neighbouring states.

RDPP in Somalia, through RE-INTEG, was focused on a diversified portfolio of interventions with three result areas:

1. Closing gaps in the management of refugee and returnees
2. Enhancing the rule of law by improving and implementing policies and legal framework for IDPs, refugees and returnees and strengthened cross-border cooperation towards migration and enhanced security
3. Increased access to basic services and creation of realistic livelihood opportunities in the main accessible areas of return and departure<sup>11</sup>

Through these actions, the goal was to contribute to Somalia's transition out of fragility by strengthening stability and security and by creating a favourable environment for the economic and social development that enhances the absorption capacities of areas of return of displaced population and improves livelihood conditions in areas of return as well as departure. The following provides a high-level overview of actions implemented along these three key result areas within Somalia before proceeding with an assessment RDPP in Kismayo.

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<sup>11</sup> Action Fiche for the implementation of the Horn of Africa Window T05 - EUTF - HoA - SO - 03

## 2.1 Increasing access to basic services

To achieve the sustainable integration of IDPs and returnees, projects focused on improving access to quality basic services to displacement-affected communities in an area-based approach. Most projects worked across key sectors, including housing, land and property (HLP), education, health and nutrition and water and sanitation. **Education** structures were constructed or improved in areas of return, often combined with training of teachers and increasing capacity of community members to manage schools, by multiple projects, including DSRIS, NRC, and UNHCR. Under **WASH**, hygiene promotion messages were delivered through several projects, including hand washing with soap at critical times, latrine usage, household water treatment and storage, safe handling of water for consumption, good use of latrines, and ending open defecation. **Health facilities** were also strengthened in several areas of return. For example, UNHCR rehabilitated two Mother and Child Health Centres through a cash for work approach giving access to 5,000 individuals. In some cases, basic infrastructure was addressed more broadly by renovating markets, constructing police posts, and rehabilitating sports stadiums.

Table 4: Key livelihood indicators (Altai)

Outputs indicators	Somalia
2.2 Number of basic social services delivered	156,952
2.9 Number of people having access to improved basic services	371,509
2.1 Number of social infrastructures built or rehabilitated	211
2.7 Number of people reached by sensitisation campaigns on resilience-building practices and basic rights	141,801

## 2.2 Building protection through community engagement and empowerment

RDPP in Somalia used community engagement to ensure vulnerable groups are better protected, integrated and accepted. The DSRIS project implemented local initiatives, such as youth peer-to-peer networks to focus on peace and conflict resolution, gender-based violence (GBV) and illegal migration and community dialogue facilitators. **GBV and child protection** were addressed through training critical service providers, creating linkages between IDPs and host communities to government structures, and addressing community-based awareness on GBV and FGM. While NRC supported ICLA activities by mapping legal and physical needs & response, construction of a legal counselling centre, HLP and Collaborative Dispute Resolution trainings. UNHCR also established two Coexistence Form Committees in Luuq and Mogadishu each consisting of 15 different members of the community including returnees and local authorities, to ensure joint planning, designing and implementation of prioritized interventions.

### 2.3 Ensuring durable livelihood opportunities

RDPP efforts to build self-sufficiency focused on creating realistic livelihood opportunities, particularly for those at risk of migrating and radicalisation. Under CARE, this included building self-help groups and training Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) courses for vulnerable youth. In Somaliland, Wadajir focused on standardising TVET curriculum, labour market assessment, and scholarship for youths, supporting VSLAs with business start-up income, identifying TVET centres for rehabilitation and conducting monthly coaching for business owners. Concern Worldwide implemented skills training livelihood activities under NRC, focused on vulnerable youth and women. Through UN-HABITAT, a key achievement was the completion and launch of an incubator, and the youths trained in social entrepreneurship applied their acquired skills in developing and refining their start-ups in readiness for the grants.

Table 5: Key livelihood indicators (Altai)

Output Indicators	Somalia
1.1 Number of direct jobs created or supported	4,397
1.2 Number of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise created or supported	227
1.3 Number of people assisted to develop economic income-generating assistance	7,611
1.4 Number of people benefiting from professional training (TVET) and/or skills development	1,865

### 2.4 Ensuring durable livelihood opportunities

Managing effective local reintegration of IDPs and returnees has required working closely with local authorities and building capacities to ensure their basic rights are protected, therefore contributing to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. A number of projects focused on addressing rights-based laws, policies, institutional frameworks and strategies. IDLO focused on legal protections and a necessary capacity assessment of relevant federal and state agencies to implement new policies. Also, a key activity among multiple projects was to make local governance structures more accountable and accessible to IDPs and returnees. Under Wadajir in Somaliland, the project focused on facilitating access to legal aid clinics and building capacity of legal channels including police, paralegals, community leaders and chiefs to solve their problems. EIDACS built community forums constituted by both IDP and host community representatives which were engaged to ensure a collaborative programming delivery approach while DSRIS held dialogue sessions between IDP committee members and government stakeholders focusing on the adoption, implementation of local integration plans, and IDP committee members were trained on HLP and local integration plans and advocacy.

Table 6: Key livelihood indicators (Altai)

Output indicators	Somalia
2.8 Number of staff from local authorities and basic service providers benefiting from capacity building to strengthen service delivery	2,727
4.6 Number of strategies, laws, policies and plans developed and / or directly supported	78
5.1 Number of multi-stakeholder groups and learning mechanisms formed and regularly gathering	27



# 3. Results Overview: Baseline to the Endline Comparison

**Two key take-aways agreed upon by both partners and stakeholders is the success of the RDPP initiative in bringing about a mindset change and starting an urban planning process with new services in order to advance durable solutions.**

While those services are recent and have taken years to take off, the critical years were those during which the RDPP programme operated, between 2017-2020. This period marked a shift from humanitarian NGOs delivering assistance to IDPs and returnees to durable solutions projects.

The district commissioner explained in very clear terms where he saw the impact of the RDPP work: “Looking back to 3 years ago, New Kismayo did not exist and now it is the sixth village in Kismayo and that shows the good work done by the Jubaland Solutions Consortium and other international donors.”<sup>12</sup> This was further supported by the NRC Area Manager for whom Midnimo is not an IDP or returnee settlement, but a new and integrated area in Kismayo. “Under the BRCIS COVID-19 response, their leaders were there

as community leaders not as IDPs or returnees. This mindset change has been noted and very positive for reintegration.”

More practically, the 2018 Baseline report provided a presentation of key qualitative data and indicators, both directly in the RDPP results framework and more broadly important contextual variables related to basic needs, to allow the assessment of RDPP’s impact in Kismayo. Two years later, in 2020, the research team returned to the same locations with the plan to collect updated data against the same indicators. An analysis shows a mixed picture but mainly positive progress overall. Evolutions in data trends are presented in Table 7 by sector, using a traffic light system.

- **Green:** rising values – that highlight significant improvements
- **Orange:** requiring more programming attention as they remain fragile
- **Red:** decreasing values between the baseline and the endline highlighting challenges

Table 7: Data comparison on key sectors – 2018 vs 2020

	2018	2020
<b>Education</b>	Infrastructure development plans elaborated but insufficient to meet the demand.  Gap in curricula/salaries, and in teacher motivation and training.	A second school opened in New Kismayo with an additional protective wall. Still insufficient to meet the full demand with a higher teacher / student ratio. Teachers continue to speak of uneven salaries but speak of greater levels of training and capacity building among teachers, with the quality of education meeting the expectations of returnees.
<b>WASH</b>	Significant investments in WASH to be assessed.  Access to clean water, distance, cost and quality, are the major challenges.	Access to water remains a key concern for RDPP beneficiaries.  Hygiene and sanitation levels have improved and have supported greater prevention, and awareness during the global pandemic.
<b>ICLA</b>	Access to HLP remains a significant issue for IDPs and returnees, while hosts are more likely to own their homes. Shelter within settlements remains unstable.  IDPs and returnees are vulnerable to exploitation by landlords. Forced evictions are on the increase. Moving towards a housing approach is critical, learning from other durable solutions initiatives	Forced eviction has decreased as an issue with improvements made to digital systems that now connect deeds with the possibility of accessing financial support and loans.  Quality of housing still remains poor, with the need to rehabilitate shelters and expand on shelter size. Disagreements over shelter standards remain.
<b>Livelihoods and TVET</b>	IDPs feel discriminated against.  A new livelihoods strategy is needed that can integrate key features of local market systems and value chains. Adaptation is further required, learning from other consortium members (Concern) on economic approaches is a must.  Testing new approaches: e.g., skills audits, tracer studies, etc.	The training has specifically supported women, and youth who find that it has given them confidence and hope. Group based, collective livelihoods have been particularly effective in this context.  Insufficient attention to the demand side has meant that skills are hard to turn into employment. Similarly due to lack of capital and resources to sustain the business post-training.

<sup>12</sup> KII27 District commissioner

# 4. Results Findings

The endline country reports focus on the needs on the ground and how those needs were met by RDPP activities. This section explores selected achievements and issues to monitor within critical sectors – WASH and health, education, livelihoods and protection, including housing and social cohesion. As critical basic needs indicative of broader context for refugee and host populations, additional sectors also included though not a direct intervention area for RDPP.

## 4.1 Health & WASH

The 2018 baseline had identified healthcare gaps between the care received in Dadaab and the level of care available upon return to Kismayo. Better access was needed with the major issue of the lack of potable and affordable water. Although the health sector was not a focus of the JSC, the strengthened link between health and WASH have allowed to improve the impact of RDPP investments in WASH.

### Achievements:

**The new health centre in Midnimo has transformed access to free, quality healthcare for residents and surrounding communities.** It was frequently highlighted as one of the most significant changes in the lives of IDPs and returnees, as well as host communities, attracting hosts from Kismayo itself.

**Respondents noted that the hospital's popularity within the broader Kismayo community has led to shortages in medicines.** Due to the quality of services, people travel from Kismayo to the health centre, which concerns many residents given worries about stretched resources and overcrowding. Electricity fluctuations also add risks, as there is no permanent electricity in the hospital, which instead relies on solar panels that do not always function.

Conversations with the host community in Kismayo also indicate broader improvement around healthcare access in the city, with an increase in the number of private and public hospitals overall, with a similar increase of the numbers of doctors and nurses, some of whom returned from Kenya to Somalia, while others are Somalis who graduated from medicine universities in Mogadishu. Nurses for many were trained by the Somali Red Crescent Societies and international NGOs.

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The public facilities were placed in the middle of the settlement where everyone can access – hospital, schools, police station, training centre, child friendly space where children can play, and spiritual places like the mosque. My house is made of bricks and the roof is made of iron sheet. This is better than before which was prone to the rain and scorching sun

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FGD 18 FEMALE IDP

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There is great change in the health system in Midnimo compared to the last years. Midnimo now has a well-equipped health centre, which serves the people in Midnimo and the people of Kismayo at large, so three years down the line the health care has gone from under a tree to having a well-established hospital, that has the required manpower. The hospital offers emergency services for the patients from 6:00am to 2:00pm and from there, any serious case is referred to Kismayo general hospital, so the emergency works efficiently by giving the emergency patients the required response and medication. The child and maternal care systems work well, I can in fact say that this is the most efficient department in the hospital, which has attracted almost all the people in Kismayo. There are referrals, the hospital lacks an inpatient department so any serious patient is referred to Kismayo general hospital so this department works. The availability of drugs is good though sometimes the available drugs are less and you will see patients who don't receive the prescribed drugs, so we have problems in drug availabilities and the varieties of drugs. The drugs in the hospital are free of charge so there is no cost for drugs. The state of hygiene in the village generally is good and in the hospital the hygiene standard is high.

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KII22 RETURNEE MALE LEADER

The JSC focused on linking health response to improved WASH infrastructure, which included latrines at schools, hygiene promotion campaigns, shallow wells, sanitary kits, and handwashing facilities. While hygiene levels have improved, the area still lacks clean water for consumption and latrines for both housing and schools.

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The water sector still lags behind in Kismayo. The village needs a durable solution when it comes to the availability of water. The second area is a lack of enough rooms for the people in Midnimo village, you will see a family of 12 members who are living in one room, this is a serious case and they are unable to build another one due to a lack of financial ability. The two-areas mentioned are the areas that are lagging behind and as the district administration, those two areas are our priority and we are planning to address them with the help NGOs and the international donors.

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KII27 DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

### Issues to monitor:

**Access to water has improved but remains a major issue to address.** GIZ's installed boreholes came with promises to address water issues in Midnimo; while not fit for human consumption, saline water has been used to improve village sanitation -- washing clothes, dishes, hands. However, drinkable water remains a challenge. Midnimo has not fully connected to the city, although options are being explored. The residents of New Kismayo use the saline water well dug by GIZ to wash and clean their homes, but have to buy water for cooking and drinking. While the population in Kismayo has better access to clean drinking water unlike those in New Kismayo, access to water is a general problem in Kismayo. The cost of water is expensive for the population. Reports vary between 4000 Somali shilling per jerrycan - if delivered in mini trucks - to 7000 Somali shillings for every 20-liter container delivered by donkey carts. Residents report that business people from Kismayo also occasionally provide water for New Kismayo.

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We also lack fresh water to drink for both people and animals. The village does not have fresh water, unlike Kismayo city. There are private companies that have installed water branch machines [In this two water companies, CAAFI and JUBBA, have centres in every village in the town. So, villagers who cannot connect water to their houses can get water from these centres] in the main city but they did not install any here due to the distance and high expense of plumbing pipes that will reach the village. We therefore have to incur high expenses in getting water to our village. One jerrycan costs 7000 Somali shillings.

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FGD11 RETURNEES MALE  
(NEW KISMAYO)



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We still have low-quality water, and a high cost of portable water. One jerrycan costs 7000 Somali shillings. There is water in this village but the water is saline. We only use it to wash utensils. Animals and human beings cannot drink this water.

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FGD11 RETURNEES MALE  
(NEW KISMAYO)

**There have been other attempts to address water issues in Midnimo, including private companies piping water or setting up water tanks, but thus far there has not been systemic or sustainable impact from these projects.** Returnee and IDP respondents have not benefited from piped water, although it is present in Kismayo proper. When filled, the water tanks are a good solution, but based on respondents' feedback, they have not been a consistent source of water for residents due to budgetary issues.

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We have not noted any change about freshwater for the last 2-3 years in our area. Fresh water is still very expensive and it comes from Kismayo town. Sometimes back in our block, ARC (American Refugee Committee) constructed a tank and it was working for a duration of six or five months and the budget stopped. Those little months changed our situations.

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FGD17 MALE IDPS

**From the donor's perspective, water has not been prioritised as necessary** and it is an area for future focus. A partnership has been prioritized with WHO, to bring in technical expertise to address this specific issue, with the possibility to include water under health response.

In New Kismayo, when the houses and toilets were built for the returnees and IDPs, but their quality was found to be poor. Access to quality toilets remains insufficient, linked to poor planning and building of poor quality structures at the beginning in Midnimo.

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The toilets are very small in this village. Some families share toilets. Some of the toilets built by NRC are very small. The toilet and bathroom are not separate. It is very congested. When it collapses, its rehabilitation will take time and the people do not have money for rehabilitation. – FGD11 Returnees Male. “Here in this village toilets are poor because of the poor foundation of the base. Most of the toilets are not usable and need to be rehabilitated. We are Muslim (followers of Islam) we believe that cleanliness is half of our faith and we always improve our hygiene. The water problem is still unsolved. People pay a lot of money to get fresh water from the business people from Kismayo town

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FGD14 MALE RETURNEES

**Sanitation and hygiene standards have improved in Midnimo over the last 2-3 years.** The increased access to saline water and handwashing facilities, awareness raising/ training campaigns, provisions of 'hygiene kits' have helped. A clear and perhaps only positive of COVID-19, which was regularly identified, has been increased awareness around handwashing and sanitation.

**Personal hygiene promotion and distribution sanitary kits has had a positive impact for adolescent girls across all locations,** particularly access to school. The sanitary pads are distributed to school age adolescent girls. A female IDP from Midnimo explained that "the girls and women used to feel shy when collecting sanitary kits from the schools and health centres but now they have learnt the importance of using the sanitary pads which is because of the sensitization campaigns, hygiene promotion and seminars conducted for the public to educate them on the importance of personal hygiene. The sanitary pads are available at the schools where schools going adolescent girls are given after every month".

**There is no systematic garbage collection and waste disposal in Midnimo** - only voluntary handling of rubbish to varying levels of success. Toilets remain insufficient and there are major issues with solid waste management due to overcrowding. From the hosts' perspective, water access and waste disposal in Kismayo has improved somewhat. However, the bulk of support has gone to IDPs and returnees:

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WAMO Company collects garbage from households in Kismayo for a fee of \$3 per household.” – FGD19 male hosts “We have not received any support. The IDPs are supported by the humanitarian organizations and we do not receive that much attention. The sanitary kits are only issued to school-going girls but the women in the host community do not receive sanitary kits. We buy water from water kiosks owned by Haadweyne Company which is a new company.

FGD20 FEMALE HOSTS

## 4.2 Education

### Achievements

#### **A huge success in the last 2-3 years has been increased access to primary education in Midnimo.**

Access has been transformed due to the construction of two permanent primary schools with teachers, books and resources. The schools are the NRC-sponsored Ahmed Gurey Primary School and Qatar Charity-sponsored Midnimo Primary School. Together, they cover the primary education needs of the Midnimo community. Previously children had to travel long distances to reach school, but this has been reduced since the baseline. The targets set by the program have been reached, achieving milestones in a context where 70M of children in Jubaland had been out of school.

The schools teach from class 1 to 8, however, the number of children in school is high compared to the available resources which means that the classes are overcrowded and the student teacher ratio is high. The teachers complained of low salaries compared to other schools in the area. Ahmed Gurey primary

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In the last 2-3 years, there is a primary school that was established in the year 2018 by NRC. This school was constructed nicely. It has covered most of the educational needs. Before its construction, our children were going to Kismayo town to study. These learners had a lot of problems such as paying bus fare and some paying school fees. This school solved those problems. The quality of education has also improved due to availability of some trained teachers.

FGD14 MALE RETURNEES  
(NEW KISMAYO)

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The school has no running water but when it rains, the water is harvested in a tank. Children do not have both drinking water and saline water. Children come out of classes and go to their homes when they need to visit the toilet. [The school has toilets but there is no water. The pupils need to clean themselves with water when they visit the toilet] The child will play in between home and school and therefore miss classes. The school is safe for the children and there are no hazards but we request the classes to be increased so that it is enough for the children. Now there are only eight classes.”

FGD13 FEMALE RETURNEES  
(MIDNIMO)

school that is run by NRC does not have a feeding programme compared to Midnimo primary. While primary school uptake is high, the lack of enough secondary schools that are free has been mentioned as a problem.

**The lack of school fees and provision of uniforms, textbooks and stationery and occasionally feed programmes has encouraged attendance.** Schools in both Midnimo and the other areas around the city have increased access to education for all surrounding communities. In addition, the provision of sanitary pads has increased adolescent girls' enrolment. However, water still remains a concern.

The majority of teachers are returnees from Kenya who teach to Somali hosts, IDPs and returnees together. **Respondents commented on the high quality of teachers and their engagement with the community.** Many returnees from Dadaab had high expectations for education based on their experiences in Kenya. The pupils are taught different subjects - English, Somali, social studies, mathematics and Arabic languages. Books are distributed but not enough to cover all students. Children from the host community attend the NGO schools as all costs are covered.

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These schools are called durable schools or returnee schools by the community. Because of the free services given, the host community took their children to these schools. In addition, the free schools have more pupils than the fee school. Girl child education was improved because most lower and upper classes are led by girls. In my school, the top five pupils in every class from class one to class eight almost three of the five are girls.

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FGD22 TEACHERS

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These skills have changed my way of teaching= I used to carry textbooks to classes and teach the lesson without planning, I used to teach learners who are always active and learn faster. Now I have realized that a teacher is the mentor and guide for learners for the betterment of their future.” Another one echoed the same sentiment: “I was given a one-year training by NRC that changed my way of teaching such as class management, how to impart knowledge to the learners and many other skills. I also gained socialization skills from the community, teachers and the learners.

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FGD22 TEACHERS

**NRC highlighted the training of teachers as one of its greatest achievements.** This was echoed by the teachers themselves. This is a key area for collaboration as the Ministry of Education was highly involved. The Jubaland Training Centre established in 2018 through a range of funding has allowed 70 teachers to benefit from the training. Building on lessons learned, NRC is moving towards setting up an online teachers’ training, to expand and reach a greater number of teachers, given that access to online services and internet coverage reaches most of Jubaland. **NRC is continuing to work on ways to expand teacher training opportunities and impact through online platforms.**

### Issues to monitor:

**There are a number of challenges in the primary school system** - low teacher salaries continue to impact teacher retention, as was found in the baseline. High student/teacher ratios (estimated at 1:55), limited classrooms, as well as the number of latrines limit the capacity and the number of children that can be accepted, and real questions about sustainability and ongoing maintenance of schools remain as they are maintained to date by NGOs.

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Currently, this primary school we have does not have a budget. NRC told us that they do not have a budget for this school. The teacher's salary was stopped in March of this year. We need a permanent budget for this school to run well.

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FGD11 MALE RETURNEES  
(NEW KISMAYO)

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There is a great connection between the Ministry of Education in the federal government and that of states about the implementation of this new curriculum in Somalia. There is registration going on all schools in Somalia through online. Due to these and many others, the quality of education in our community has improved.

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FGD22 TEACHERS

**More broadly there still needs to be more awareness raising campaigns to bring children to school, as well as the absence of secondary schools to be addressed.** Teachers further report that one of the biggest challenges remains learners' dropout as some families may shift to other regions like Baidoa, Banadir and to settle in rural areas to rear animals. The government has been very active in promoting education through awareness campaigns, as well as developing and disseminating the new curriculum. This has directly impacted the Ministry of Education has also worked closely with NRC on teacher training activities to ensure a standardised approach, as well as the federal government's efforts to set a curriculum that caters to all parts of Somalia.

**For hosts, there are similar concerns around access to secondary school and salary payments to teachers.** Hosts noted that the returnee and IDP schools were not accessible, due to distance as well as lack of the same support given to returnees and IDPs. However, the schools have been rehabilitated and the teachers have benefited from better training opportunities.



## 4.3 Livelihoods

### Achievements:

**Discussion of economic well-being in Midnimo was mixed, with further structural support needed to enhance both supply and demand sides of the market.** On one hand, the establishment of the market and rehabilitation of the road, along with increased vocational training, has transformed the area. On the other hand, respondents expressed the need for more job opportunities, particularly for youth, through an expanded marketplace and further investment in both individual skills building and investing in businesses.

Community leaders acknowledge that TVET centres have played a role in improving the skills and people's ability to work differently, especially women, in Kismayo. Women-owned businesses have been receiving additional support from NGOs like Social-life and Agricultural Development Organization (SADO), NRC and ARC, with such a level of support not present at the time of the baseline, or in 2017. Women were given business management training that boosted their skills in business and they were taught how to write, read, count and record their credit, they were provided with additional support, whether kits or cash support.

**The rehabilitated road between Kismayo to Midnimo was highlighted frequently as a particularly transformative development.** The ease of movement increased commerce, reduced costs of transport, and increased access to goods. Midnimo market has been operational for the last two years. The market serves the residents with a number of kiosks and groceries, predominantly vegetables. Opened from 6:00am to 6:30pm, shops are owned by returnees, but also the host community and some IDPs. As the community does not produce its own food, its population depends on the road access and the marketplace to bring food to Kismayo. Some community members – e.g. female headed households and households headed by persons living with disability - are given ration by humanitarian organisations using food vouchers, while others rely on the local market.

While there are plans to grow the market further to serve the community, the activities in and around the market are limited as businesspersons and many residents still continue traveling to Kismayo to purchase goods. Houses facing the main road have constructed rooms and turned them into kiosks. A young returnee explained the difficulty in establishing a profitable business.

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The economy is now well compared to the past years when all these were not there. Some make use of the skills they were taught in TVET centres and they now have tailoring centres operated by women who benefited from the TVET training. After finishing the skill, they receive start-up kits and some cash for them to start their own businesses hence improving the economy of our village. What I want to say is that the economy in this area is much better than it was a few years back.

KII21 RETURNEE FEMALE LEADER

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Most of the youth in Kismayo town are working in places like garages, fisheries, and beauty salons. These are the skills that most of them use to find their daily bread. I would therefore suggest putting more effort on farming skill and fishery skill. These two are the most useful skills that are needed to be in our town.

FGD21 MALE YOUTH YEP

Respondents discussed the few job opportunities, which tend to be casual, manual labour. Several youths suggested more training opportunities around manual work like fishing, farming and construction to expand on existing opportunities. Building skills in beauty salons and henna applications were particularly emphasized for women.

Many YEP beneficiaries recounted the specific benefits, both in skills and seed money or tools to start a business. **One goal of the programme was to encourage graduates to form associations and business groups, pooling their skills and benefit from collective bargaining power.** This appears to have worked particularly with individuals currently engaged in construction work – seven out of seven bricklayers work in a team, and four out of seven work with peers they met during the training. In other cases, graduates were reluctant to team up.

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The courses that are offered at this centre include salon, tailoring, electrical works, culinary, vehicle repair, plumber, hairdressing and preparing soap and Shampoo. I studied tailoring which took me one year, after completing the course, I was given 450 USD and sewing machine and clothes as well as needles and threads. **Right now, I am running my own business and I support my family with what I earn from this business. I am now independent and self-employed; I am satisfied with the skills I learned and I have a passion to continue as a professional tailor.**

FGD15 FEMALE YEP BENEFICIARIES

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I have learnt electrical skills from NRC vocational training centre which is located in Kismayo town. **I was given \$450 to start a business. Now I do electrical work in Kismayo main town. I don't work with any company and don't have a room in the market.** I have many customers who call me when they need my service. Through this I am able to support myself and my family, the training I got has impacted my life.

FGD21 MALE YOUTH YEP

Whether graduates manage to build a livelihood or not, some intangible psycho-social and social benefits appear to have been drawn from the training and contributed to the fact that almost all graduates would strongly recommend others partake in the same training.

### Issues to monitor:

**Respondents both highlighted the number of opportunities for women in the marketplace, as well as some of the conditions that limit their advancement.** Vocational training and business investment have intentionally targeted women.

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The economy of the households in Midnimo village mainly depends on women, this does not mean that men are lazy but they have no jobs available for them and they go every day to look for something for their families but women do small business that they can support for their family. They do different business-like selling vegetables, clothes, food stuff, non-food items and some do tailoring as business since they have learned the skills.

KII21 RETURNEE FEMALE LEADER

**There are persistent concerns around ensuring job opportunities for the youth.** While job skills may be relevant to the marketplace, facilitated by TVET opportunities, there is not enough demand. Along with that, lack of other recreational opportunities for youth was mentioned as a challenge. Vocational training has been a specific part of Midnimo and RDPP efforts in Kismayo, identified by several respondents as one of the most significant changes since the baseline. Even those respondents not directly benefiting from the training saw individuals - especially women and youth - benefiting in their community.

**There are many vocational training centres in many parts of Kismayo town like NRC Vocational Training Centre, Intersom Training Centre, SADO Training Centre and many other centres.** These training sessions have helped many youth learn skills and keep busy, in an environment where there are no recreational facilities, or at best develop livelihoods. As for those who may have dropped out of the school system, or may no longer be able to enrol in schools, training centres have provided another educational outlet.

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The main obstacles that remains is creating job opportunities for the youth, this job creation was an issue and we have not made any tangible progress up to now, this is because of our financial capability and lack of interest of the international donors about these issues and in our administration it's our first, second and third priorities because unemployed youth face the risk of joining Alshabaab and other armed groups in search of money and purpose and this is hazardous not just for their own lives but also the security of the country at large. So, yes, the biggest obstacle that still remains to be tackled is the creation of job opportunities for the youth.

KII27 DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



Girls who have dropped from school enrol for the courses which have built their skills and morale. Women who are single mothers and have joined the training have benefitted well. There is a neighbour who was trained on tailoring and now we take our clothes to her for sewing. I also studied soap making at Awale women group and it has improved my livelihood. I save money that I used to spend on buying detergents and I sell shampoo to the neighbours and new Kismayo residents. I sell one five-litre container at \$4 which has improved my income.

#### FGD18 FEMALE IDPS

### While respondents recounted a number of success stories, they also highlighted limitations –

- **The limited number of training spots available and their selection process.** Similarly, the limited jobs available, and the inability to transfer the tools/resources into a viable livelihood. There is a need to increase the coverage and training to support more youths.
- **The lack of job opportunities, and the lack of demand for the skills.** “We are also unable to use skills imparted in the vocational training because we are not given resources to enable use the skills gained from the training. Moreover, we do not have centres like organizations and also cooperatives to work with that fit our skills in this village”. – FGD11 Male returnees
- **In some cases, courses do not provide the ‘start-up’ after training.** “I learnt a six-month tailoring course sponsored by Juba Foundation. I am not using tailoring skills because the agency did not invest in me and I could not start my own business”. – Returnee female, 20
- **Access to finance** – whether cash or loans – is difficult, and one of the key obstacles to sustainability. Several financial institutions (Hormuud and Dahabshil Bank) were mentioned but the conditions include having a job, land and a guarantor who owns property and is able to pay the loan in case of failure to repay.
- The **cash grant designed to start a business** was often not used to this end. The 2019 tracer study revealed that the cause of this may be due to lack of experience of young beneficiaries. One way to counter this trend is to ensure that the grants are earmarked and provided in instalments, and facilitated through the set-up of cooperative opportunities for graduates with the cash grants.

**NRC ensured its trainings were linked to the market** through an initial market assessment and ongoing monitoring and evaluation. They established linkage with the local businesses and the centre, invited the Jubaland Chamber of Commerce (JCC) to graduations to a strong link between the centre and the business community.<sup>13</sup> We keep track of them, especially the livelihood department, track and motivate them if they are excelling in their own businesses or even doing a good job where they are employed.

**NRC estimates the success rate – in other words the ability to turn skills into a livelihood – at 80% of its graduates.** A tracer study conducted in 2019 by Samuel Hall for NRC revealed a lower success rate with 28 out of 53 interviewed graduates (out of a cohort of 81 graduates) earning an income from their training. Over half of young graduates who found work were actively engaged in the labour market in activities linked to the training received. Most trainees started their job search after graduation, but it took them on average two to three months to start earning an income, which is often less than \$100 a month.

**The next step is to involve local authorities supporting these activities and have a comprehensive market assessment.** One of the NRC TVET trainers noted that YEP centre was well equipped with qualified instructors and well-planned courses. Cooperation with the Ministry of Education has further improved the quality by supporting curriculum design and examinations. Such collaboration can be expanded to cover the links between the skills offered, and the jobs available on the market.

A limitation in the TVET courses has been the high student to teacher ratio (1:45) and low wages for teachers. “NRC pays \$300 for skilled instructors while other organizations like CARE, SADO and ARC pay \$500 to \$850 per skilled instructor” according to one teacher interviewed. The lack of standards on teacher payment had already been raised during the baseline evaluation. Trainers’ salary has not changed, while their capacity has positively changed, due to the numerous trainings received from the Ministry of Education and NGOs.

<sup>13</sup> KII24 NRC TVET trainer

## 4.4 Protection, housing and social cohesion

The initial number of households that NRC started planning with was close to 700 households, most of which were returnees. The focus of the project in Midnimo/New Kismayo was on returnees from Dadaab, most of whom did not have relatives in Kismayo and were living in IDP camps. Now, estimates of Midnimo village's population has reached over 2000 households. NRC has taken, in this context, the responsibility for over 800 shelters, with others joining in, such as CARE and the Emirati Foundation.

Partners came together to give the land community infrastructure, with services, streetlights, and boreholes. While the boreholes were later found to be saline, other improvements in other sectors have been reviewed in this evaluation. The community came together to build three mosques in the area, which transformed the area into a booming village. Since, the land value has grown – this can be measured as one of the programme's impacts.

### 4.4.1 Protection

#### Achievements

**Respondents overwhelmingly expressed general feelings of safety and security in Midnimo**, with increased police posts and solar lights in Midnimo, which had a positive impact on community security. The development of police posts was an intentional part of urban planning, to address local level conflict around land and theft.

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There was solar light installation but in one street out of six streets in the IDPs, I do not know the NGO which has implemented the project, but it has helped us because before women could not walk when it gets dark but now there is no fear of movement.

FGD18 FEMALE IDPS (NEW KISMAYO)

#### Issues to monitor

Community leaders interviewed highlighted issues of domestic violence affecting the community, and gender-based violence specifically affecting IDP women. Community leaders are the first responders in such cases – although acknowledging that cases have been under-reported, there has been an overall decrease in 2020. **Community leaders highlighted the limitations of the current protection sector**, including the lack of involvement of NGOs in these matters due to government restrictions and reticence to acknowledge or report protection problems. Instead, community leaders are often the first to respond, followed by elders. The police are implicated if and when other mechanisms have failed.

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There aren't good protection mechanisms in the area, there are no NGOs that support the protection cases because mostly the government does not want the NGOs to handle protection cases and make a report about the rape cases that have happened maybe the past years, so even those NGOs that work in protection are doing zero work when it comes to handling real protection cases. As a community leader especially, the women leaders solve gender-based violence and domestic violence on our level. There are early marriage cases although it is not common but it happens sometimes and here nobody bothers early marriage cases. In other words, is not either a protection case not a crime, it just happens. The reported cases are responded to by the concerned authorities and they are normally solved on an informal basis.

KII23 IDP FEMALE LEADER



**Protection sector lags behind most, as there are no protection facilities provided, especially towards women.** The government is against any sort of report regarding rape cases and other mistreatments faced by the female gender, this does not mean that, the government does not respect the rights of women. However, it officially believes that reporting protection cases to higher authorities such as the federal government and UN will ruin the state government's reputation. For this case the protection sector lags behind most.

**Other issues, such as child labour and child marriage exist, but are decreasing.** However, there continue to be cases of girls taken out of school, either to work or for early and/or forced marriage.

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There was a family who sent their daughter to work as a maid and one day, the girl was accused of stealing from the family and she was beaten up and sustained bruises on the head. The girl's family did not receive any legal help to sue the perpetrators.

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SSI9 IDP MALE, 50

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I want to share a scenario that I witnessed, where a girl who was very clever in our class and used to perform well, her parents proposed marriage affairs to her, and she refused. The parents said we will give you time to think, but our decision will be final. The following day the girl was forcefully married to an old man. A few months later, the girl was divorced by the man. The girl's education discontinued and the girl became hopeless.

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FGD15 FEMALE YEP BENEFICIARIES

#### 4.4.2 Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

##### Achievements

**Land property rights and legal assistance programming from NRC has been strong. Progress on property rights and protections is positive:** this was evident in Midnimo where households were given deeds and full ownership of land. There are no more forced evictions. The local authority had given a third of title deeds to all households to make sure they had full ownership of the land that they had been given. This resulted in more discussions and greater engagement with the government. Today, Jubaland has a Land Administration unit, supported by a private company, to register digitally the land in that area, and make sure to have access to permanent land title deeds.

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Forceful eviction is not an issue right now in Midnimo village. The people in Midnimo village were given a legal document that shows the ownership of the land he or she is settling in and nobody can evict them by any means.

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KII22 RETURNEES MALE LEADER

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think we have enough evidence to show the ownership of this land, we just like the families in Kismayo who in their own house with legal document from the Mohamed Siyad Barre's government so we have no fear of losing this land since we were Somalis who are in their homeland and have a legal document for the piece of land we are living on.

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KII23 IDP FEMALE LEADER

**This work was also evident in Dalxiiska IDP camp and host communities in Kismayo**, showing a broader impact of NRC's advocacy, capacity building, awareness raising and, likely, bringing on board key actors such as police and the justice system. NRC has collaborated closely with the government, moving from temporary title deeds to digital platforms for anyone in Kismayo to be able to access deeds as well as loans in financial institutions.

“

We were looking at land tenure but it has had a positive impact on accessing financial institutions. This is a triple effect!

KII26 NRC AREA MANAGER

Hosts interviewed explain that the Ministry of Justice has taken measures on land issues by registering lawyers and equipping the court with the necessary staffing. Others report that evictions have reduced as leaders and police working together on land disputes. The Jubaland Authority has established a court for land dispute cases. The community at large, the religious leaders and leaders in the village were engaged to sensitize the public on the issue of land disputes and to seek help through the court.

“

Still the eviction threats are there but now you can go to the court to defend your case there if you have documentations and witnesses.

FGD20 FEMALE HOSTS

### Issues to monitor:

The baseline had revealed issues of housing, land, property rights for IDP/returnees who were at a high risk of forced eviction and exploitation by landlords. Returnees and IDPs living in New Kismayo have their own houses - provided by NRC and by ARC - and as a result do not fear eviction. However, the houses are said to be of poor quality - some have collapsed, and others require rehabilitation.

A consistent response from all local-level participants across all FGDs, KIIs, SSIs in New Kismayo was their small size, as well as poor and sometimes dangerous quality of the housing. These were frequent and major concerns. **This has led to some ongoing efforts at housing rehabilitation.** Space remains a problem in the community, confirming concerns raised in the baseline. Every family was given a one room house regardless of their family size. As a result, some members of the family have to sleep outside.

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In my view, I have not seen any worse challenge than that of housing. Thanks to the NRC organization for giving us a position and also a house but, imagine a house of 16-meter square given to a family of 12 or 8 individuals. They were not considering the sizes of the families being supported. They make it uniform giving one square room and also a toilet of 3m deep which are bound to get filled up within months if used by 12 or eight people. The houses do not have fences and some of the houses were roofed with iron-sheet which has holes and leaks during the rainy season.

FGD14 MALE RETURNEES

### 4.4.3 Social Cohesion

#### Achievements

**While returnees and IDPs had noted initial conflict between them and the host populations, this had improved over time.** In Midnimo, the way that housing was distributed encouraged social interaction between various groups. Shared culture, language, religion and eventually shared (and expanded) services dissipated initial tensions.

**Shared social services and Infrastructure was consistently emphasised as a key factor that brought groups together** - in the marketplace, schools, health centre, police, and even in rehabilitation projects. “The social dynamics between the three populations has improved, “representing one community, sharing the same resources and exchanging through sales and purchase of different items on the market.” – KII27 District commissioner

Returnees, IDPs and host communities were found to equally participate in activities such as cash for work, feeder road rehabilitation and bush clearing activities supported by NGOs, such as ACTED/SADO in Kismayo and new Kismayo.

“

Before returnees and hosts were suspecting each other with no communication or not interacting with much understanding. The returnees and host community have interacted well and they trade. Some host community people have opened shops in the Midnimo settlement which has brought the community together. (...) the students learn together, share books and play together, as one community of the same origin would.

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FGD13 FEMALE RETURNEES  
(MIDNIMO)

# New Kismayo as told by a youth resident

Abdirahman, a refugee living in New Kismayo provided his own self-reflection on the space and activities present in the area, speaking to individuals he runs into on a daily basis and giving a local's view of critical changes over the last 3 years.

## On the market, access to credit and financial independence for returnees/IDPs

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The food and vegetable market were constructed by CARE in 2018, the government distributed the stalls and shops to the returnees and a few IDPs. However, some returnees did not have the resources to open up their business, so they sold their stalls instead to hosts who were willing and had the money to start businesses. The size of the market has grown in the last three years, a number of new businesses have opened, the market has now 12 shops out of which six are open and in use; there are 20 out of 47 stalls in use as well at the moment. The market is mainly for food stuff, vegetables and meat, but also clothes and building materials.

People don't have much money to buy more than food. Batulo, a 32 year old returnee shopkeeper, explains that "people can't afford to buy in large quantities, so I don't sell much. They mostly buy on credit because getting cash every time is hard and they pay me when they get something either from work that they do or when a relative sends money to them through remittances". Raaliya, an IDP woman with a food stall in the market explains that "most people take the food stuff on credit and they usually pay at the end of the month, depending on how the month was, many times they are not able to pay back their debt." Both of these women however spoke positively of a self-help and savings group they rely on to get cash to fund their business activities.

In Abdirahman's opinion "in New Kismayo, there is new found courage in investing the little available resources because of the sense of ownership that is felt. In my opinion, hosts should not look to rent or buy stalls from the returnees but invest their money and work with them to help them gain financial independence."

## Resignation and hope

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"The general mood among the youth is one of resignation, but still, being hopeful that things will change, and they will find jobs to sustain themselves". In Abdirahman's view, "the youth are suffering". In his view, having skills is not sufficient as jobs are lacking, and corruption is rampant. Key decision factors for employment are networks, and clans, not skills and education levels. "This makes the returnee youths feel outraged at the hosts and creates animosity towards the hosts as returnee youth feel like they are getting the jobs for unfair reasons. The only jobs left for them are casual labour jobs that are not appealing to returnee youth who are educated and feel that they deserve better." He sees a further issue in the fact that vocational training is the only temporary measure to keep youth busy, and those numbers do not match the number of youth. He considers that community leaders are the ones making the decisions on who gets to undertake training, an unnecessary intermediary that causes harm to capable youth.

In his view there is "a level of nepotism and corruption, demoralisation and depression, that the government or organizations do not see or address (...) People are depressed, they have nowhere to go and they are afraid of losing the little they have learnt (...) they need connections with the state and federal government, with organisations, so that they can be absorbed in the job market, avail loans for business expansion and diversification, as they have no room to expand at the moment."

## On the value of TVET training for youth

Adbirahman believes that instead of providing graduates with individual sums, the NGO should pull returnees together for a collective investment into a business. These businesses will need to be mentored by other existing businesses, to prevent them from failing. He cited one positive example of NRC training graduates who, with added support from GIZ, now own a shop with solar electricity and a refrigerator, which they use as their main source of income, selling solar lamps and repairing broken lamps.

Others, like Aisha, a 24-year old returnee mother, undertook a culinary skills training course but the capital required to set up a restaurant was too high. Hotels do not hire women in Kismayo, so she finds herself, like others, unemployed and at home.

## On the value of education and freedom for children

“The teachers we had in Dadaab were much better. The standard is not the same because the education systems were well established but here everything is at a starting base since the government is weak, but it is trying it’s best to provide free education to our children with the help of the NGOs in the area. I am happy to be back here and to be able to raise my children among people who we share so much in terms of culture and religion. I want them to grow up knowing their customs and traditions as well as their religion, but I also want them to understand the value of hard work and working for what one wants and instilling discipline in them, so they never have to sit back and beg any person and/or organization for handouts. I grew up in the refugee camps and my parents were not allowed to work to provide for us, we relied on aid from organizations working in Dadaab. However, we were able to get good education and even had access to clean drinking water and were safe. I believe my children are better off here, I am working hard to ensure they do not lack and despite the education standards being lower than that of Dadaab, they do not have to grow up with a tag of refugees like I did or be called returnees like I am. They will have access to jobs when the time is right and they are growing up amongst their own people, that for me is very important. It is my hope that the country grows as they grow so they can grow up to a peaceful land with opportunities for its people.”

## The impact of COVID-19...

“COVID has affected women’s businesses – so far one of the positive developments here”. Closure borders have had a direct impact on residents of Kismayo. Customers have stopped purchasing new equipment and material, businesses are minimising their expenses and focusing on selling their stock.

## ...and the promises of a close-knit community

“People here have the same concerns as I do. The lack of clean water and buying water to cook with and drink everyday weighs heavily on a population that is already struggling. The community leader tries to ensure that the aid is brought to the community is justly divided by giving priority to the most vulnerable first. This community shares a strong bond and is not divided by clans or status.

The community leader would like to remind the government and aid organisations to understand that this community is fairly young in that the village did not exist until 2-3 years ago. We are also far removed from Kismayo and as such we would appreciate it if that was put into consideration anytime there are aid activities/ jobs/training that are planned. Comparing us to other parts of Kismayo is unfair. There is no access to clean drinking water here, the rate of unemployment is high, and the housing is in bad condition and most of the population live hand to mouth. When giving aid, or planning for aid, I would like to ask that New Kismayo is given priority.



# 5. Evaluation Conclusions

The following provides needed overarching conclusions regarding the results and impact of RDPP activities in Somalia along the key evaluation questions, asking the fundamental question, “**how has RDPP interventions (projects, strategies, governance) strengthened durable solutions in Somalia?**”

## 1. Relevance

### **The RDPP approach remains relevant to the context**

*How does the RDPP adapt to context dynamics?*

*To what extent have different sub-groups actively contributed to needs- and context assessments? What are mechanisms for feedback and influence of refugees and host communities on projects?*

The durable solutions approach is well in progress in Kismayo, from consultation with communities, to coordination with local stakeholders, and implementing the RDPP vision locally. The RDPP experience revealed the need to go beyond humanitarian planning to adopt a placemaking lens: to avoid the risk of moving from camp planning to settlement planning where only the basics are covered. Instead, giving people more than a land, a shelter, a market, and a school, but a community to live in. In this sense, New Kismayo has provided a strong sense of social cohesion and belonging. This is aligned with the urban planning approach and integration approach in Kismayo.

## 2. Coordination

### **Evidence of RDPP coordination with partners, authorities and the local community**

*How does the RDPP coordinate with partners and authorities?*

*Did the RDPP help to strengthen the capacity of IPs and local authorities to develop and implement an integrated approach towards refugees?*

Humanitarian and development partners, in coordination with the government, took collective responsibility for programming. NGO consultations and plan alignment allowed for a dual process of community feedback and NGO response, with a gradual increase in pace and complementarity of NGO interventions – from education to health, housing and access to water and electricity. Further improvements are needed to integrate service provision in government plans, notably for economic development, water access and electricity, and to increase the number of teachers and students across training centres in Kismayo. NRC is working on bringing the Gates Foundation and other investors to find a more sustainable solution to structural water access challenges.

### 3. Effectiveness

#### A positive impact in some sectors with more work needed in others

*To what extent and how did RDPP help to strengthen the legal protection of refugees, with emphasis on vulnerable groups?*

*What results have been achieved in integrated access to/use of energy, water, education and health, and employment?*

*Which factors positively or negatively impact the effectiveness of individual interventions?*

RDPP realised varying levels of success in terms of access to water, education and HLP and vocational training opportunities for returnees, IDPs and host communities. Improvement has been registered in education with another school being constructed in New Kismayo, greater levels of training and capacity building among teachers, with the quality of education meeting the expectations of returnees. However, teachers still speak of uneven salaries and a high student/teacher ratio making it unable to provide localized assistance to the students. TVET training has specifically supported women and youth who find that it has given them confidence and hope, however, lack of jobs and a lack of funds and resources has meant that the trainees are unable to sustain businesses.

While hygiene and sanitation levels have improved and have supported greater prevention, and awareness during the global pandemic, access to water has remained a key concern for RDPP beneficiaries across the board. Finally, Quality of housing still remains poor, with the need to rehabilitate shelters and expand on shelter size, an issue that RDPP beneficiaries have raised throughout.

### 4. Impact

#### Integrated approaches have become a reality and social cohesion has improved

*What is the impact on beneficiaries? What is the income effect? How is social cohesion influenced by the RDPP?*

*How do project and programme results impact potential future migration decisions of refugees?*

Through RDPP, the JSC has succeeded in creating a sense of social cohesion and community across different groups residing in New Kismayo, despite challenges of access to housing, water, and livelihoods, and the added pressures due to COVID-19. However, some members of the host community still feel that the returnees and IDPs are favoured by aid organizations. On social cohesion, respondents from both communities as well as key informants noted that sharing these services has contributed to strengthening social cohesion. The interactions between the returnees, IDPs and host communities in the market areas and games between the youth showed a level of cohesion between the groups. The creation of integrated services catering for returnees, IDPs and host communities has become a reality to some extent when it comes to education and health with the health centre constructed in New Kismayo attracting residents of Kismayo to the village.

## 5. Sustainability

### Additional funds needed and support to the Jubaland strategic plan

*Which challenges hinder the successful implementation of projects?*

*Is it possible to elaborate on the sustainability of individual interventions? What are the main determinants for sustainability? Which challenges hinder the successful implementation of projects?*

*What are key governance factors for effectively implementing policies aimed at sustainable protection and development approaches for refugees and their host communities?*

The baseline revealed a strong foundation for an integrated approach, albeit one that was rushed due to delays, as well as the need to better communicate and work with communities, including better youth integration. Significant steps were taken to ensure adaptive programming and to address such issues, with the integrated approach showing positive results in the endline. Significant gains have been made in education, training, and land security which need to be sustained and built upon. A key concern voiced by stakeholders is the lack of resources to sustain the large-scale programme and the corresponding inability of the government to take over the schools, training centres, and provide strong market links. Further phases of funding will be required to invest in the link between training and the private sector, stronger market assessments to be standardised and run by the government. The durable solutions donor working group can be a tool in this regard – regular meetings and exchanges can ensure that the gains made under RDPP are sustained. Kismayo can become an example of the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding triple nexus, taking advantage of lessons learned to improve systems and solidify markets and structural responses.

# 6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, there are several opportunities for various stakeholders, including government, development partners and policy makers for sustainable development and protection solutions for returnees, IDPs and their host communities in Kismayo.

## 6.1 Overall

A key lesson learned is the need to **plan for services prior to beginning construction of shelters** and latrines. Shelter was there before essential facilities, as seen in the baseline. This lesson is already informing initiatives for resettlement in Ludlow - namely avoiding establishing a structure without the consultation and participation of people and authorities, as well as without essential services available.

Further steps are needed to **integrate service provision in government plans**, notably for economic development, water access and electricity, and to increase the number of teachers and students across training centres in Kismayo. NRC is working on bringing the Gates Foundation and other investors to find a more sustainable solution to the water access challenges.

**Further phases of funding** will be required to invest in the link between training and the private sector, stronger market assessments to be standardised and run by the government. The **durable solutions donor working group** can be a tool in this regard – regular meetings and exchanges can ensure that the gains made under RDPP are sustained.

Kismayo can become an example of the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding triple nexus, taking advantage of lessons learned to improve systems and solidify markets and structural responses.

## 6.2 By Sector

### Education

- **The Somali government will need to lead in investing in the education, skills and capabilities of returnee, IDP and host communities.** Notably, interventions under the RDPP project have led to the realisation of gains in the education sector - particularly infrastructure and teacher capacity building. However, remaining gaps to be addressed include low teacher salaries affecting retention and morale; overcrowding; and high student-teacher ratio. Recruitment of more teachers, provision of adequate learning materials and construction of more classrooms and latrines will address overcrowding and dropout rates. Additionally, construction of more secondary schools is needed so children who complete primary school can continue with their education.

## Protection

- **Policies needed to protect against early child marriages and domestic violence.** While the community in Midnimo feels safe due to the presence of a police post in the village, there are no proper existing mechanisms to address early marriages and domestic violence within the community. Presently, village elders resolve issues of domestic violence within the community and the police are rarely involved.
- **Better planning on access and availability of drinkable water in Midnimo is required.** While the general access to water has improved, the water in the village is saline. Residents continue to rely on donkey carts to bring in water from Kismayo town, which is expensive.
- **Involving the government and the private sector on waste disposal.** The government needs to lead on waste disposal given the high water level in Kismayo, which contributes to bottlenecks in the sanitation system that require more consistent waste removal services.

## Housing

- **Expanding housing and land opportunities to other populations, such as IDPs.** Most IDPs live in makeshift shelters that are overcrowded and unable to protect the inhabitants from weather elements.
- **Quality and size of housing needs to be improved for future projects.** The residents of Midnimo found the quality and size of the houses in the community, with many needing repair and others collapsing. Future housing projects must take the needs of the population into account during the planning and construction phases in order to ensure the structures are not overcrowded or unsafe for families.

## Livelihood

- **Improve seed capital for entrepreneurs by engaging financial institutions and partner with the private sector to link training programmes with job opportunities.** Although the TVET programmes have provided much needed skills for youth and women, many are unable to use their new skills due to insufficient job opportunities. The government and development partners should engage the private sector to provide job opportunities and placements for those trained, as well as grants and loans to support trainees in founding their own businesses.
- **There is a need for a common database kept by the government with details of all the beneficiaries of the training programmes.** This would include their training subject, year of training, and training organization. This will prevent future duplication of efforts by different actors, as well as provide oversight on market saturation for certain skills. It will also allow different young people to benefit from TVET programming.

## Social Cohesion

- Positive gains have been made towards integration and social cohesion between returnees, IDPs and host communities via positive social, cultural, and economic interactions. However, some members of the host community still feel that the returnees and IDPs are favoured by aid organizations. While there have been programmes that targeted all communities, more progress needs to be made to address this, in order to avoid further feelings of neglect that might harm the social cohesion present.



# Concluding Remarks – Programming during COVID-19

This overall theme of integration and mindset change appears in the data collected, including the autoethnography lead by Abdirahman. Despite the hardships, including the onset of COVID-10, feeling at home in Somalia and in Kismayo, and being able to foresee a future, were clear sentiments shared. However, 2020 was particularly difficult for the participants in this research. Consistent themes came out across all discussions regarding COVID-19:

**1. Negative impact on the economy, job opportunities and cost of transportation and living.** The prices of food items are higher than ever, for example, a 25kg rice used to cost \$10 and now it's \$15 so you can see the range. The price of the commodities increased and the availability of getting jobs decreased so you can feel the effect of this pandemic to the fragile communities like us. The only thing it has increased is the hygiene standard since the spread of this pandemic disease. We received a lot of bar soaps to use for hand washing and cleaning the food and non-food items so I can say COVID-19 increased the standard of hygiene. – KII23 IDP female leader

**2. Impact of closing schools and recreational facilities; reduced access to social services.** “Teachers’ salaries got cut off because they are paid when they are in school and not when they are not in school. There are some schools where parents support and pay the salaries of the teachers, but they pay when their children go to school. This has led to mass teachers resigning and joining other sectors to earn their livelihood. In terms of support, we have got little support for teacher’s incentives like the whole Juba land I think out of 1432, we have 100 teacher incentives which now we have given to the IDP schools so at least they don’t get closed.” – KII28 Ministry of Education

**3. Improvements around hygiene and sanitation, and adaptations to deal with COVID-19.**

The livelihood department started providing unconditional cash to the most vulnerable group of the population. – KII25 NRC Education Office. The community is prepared for COVID-19, they have received full information about the virus, how it spreads and ways of preventing the disease. 90% of the population is adapting the local practices like avoiding body contact, reducing unnecessary movement and avoiding crowded places. – KII22 Returnee male leader

Most cases remain unreported due to limited testing capacity and it is difficult to fully evaluate the impact in the refugee communities. The country is highly vulnerable in terms of infectious diseases. In fact, it is already fighting a cholera outbreak due to the contamination of water sources.<sup>14</sup> The humanitarian response to the pandemic has been constrained due to flight cancellations and growing insecurity. Al-Shabaab used the national contingency to maintain control of parts of southern Somalia and has been disseminating false information, limiting the access to these areas and an effective prevention of the virus spread in this region.<sup>15</sup>

Despite border closures, migratory movements continue to take place irregularly, creating increased infection risks. For example, in August 2020, hundreds of migrants were found stranded in Bossaso.<sup>16</sup> Moreover, as 2.6 million IDPs live in overcrowded settlements with limited access to water and sanitation facilities and food, they remain at an extremely high risk of infection.<sup>17</sup> Displacements continue to take place due to flooding, food shortages and locust attacks, leading to the creation of new IDP settlements. In an effort to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM and UNHCR are concentrating efforts on awareness raising, cash assistance, hygiene kits and hand-washing facilities.<sup>18,19</sup> Returns were expected to continue at the same pace in 2020. Nonetheless, voluntary return programs are now suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>14</sup> IOM (2020). COVID-19 preparedness and response. Mission Update N#21. IOM. | <sup>15</sup> Bentley, A. (June 2020). The humanitarian disaster before us: COVID-19 in Somalia. Refugees International. | <sup>16</sup> IOM. (2020). COVID-19 preparedness and response. Mission Update N#21. IOM. | <sup>17</sup> UNHCR (2020). Somalia. COVID-19 response. UNHCR. | <sup>18</sup> UNHCR (2020). Somalia. COVID-19 response. UNHCR. | <sup>19</sup> IOM (2020). COVID-19 preparedness and response. Mission Update N#21. IOM. | <sup>20</sup> UNHCR (2020). Somalia. Refugee returnees to Somalia. 31 August 2020. UNHCR.

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs contracted the LET - composed of Samuel Hall, MDF, Maastricht University and ECDPM - to conduct a combined quantitative and qualitative impact evaluation for RDPP in order to assess progress and provide learning for adaptation, feed a regional programme narrative and inform policy making and regional dialogues. Led by Samuel Hall and MDF, the evaluation team combines academic rigour and subject-matter expertise on migration, displacement, refugees, protection and integration.

