

THEMATIC SERIES

No matter of choice: Displacement in a changing climate

This thematic series explores the scale, patterns drivers and impacts of internal displacement associated with slow-onset environmental change and disasters to inform policies and practices for managing and reducing displacement risk



FROM BASIC NEEDS TO THE RECOVERY OF LIVELIHOODS

Local integration of people displaced by drought in Ethiopia

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Cover Image: A group of women displaced by the 2017 drought participated, along with their daughters, in interviews for this study in Gaafaw kebele (Warder woreda), IDMC/2020.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key messages.	5
Executive summary	6
The struggle for survival	6
Local integration: the only durable solution	6
Much effort is still required to build resilience	6
Recovering and improving livelihoods is crucial	6
Introduction	7
Methodology	7
Three years after Af-gudhiya	9
Stuck in protracted displacement	9
Aid dependency	10
Food assistance	10
Water supply	11
Shelter.	11
Education	11
Seeking durable solutions.	12
A preference for local integration	12
Peaceful coexistence.	12
Obstacles for local integration	13
Resilience building and the recovery of livelihoods.	15
The resilience of IDPs and host communities	16
Strengthening livelihoods to enhance resilience	17
Livestock marketing support	17
Farming opportunities and cash-for-work programmes	19
Conclusion	20
Notes	21

KEY MESSAGES

1. People internally displaced by drought face three urgent needs: food, water and shelter.
2. The local integration of IDPs is the preferred and most easily achieved durable solution.
3. To achieve local integration, IDPs' primary needs have to be met, their livelihoods have to be restored and alternative economic opportunities have to be generated.
4. Microfinance in support of livestock marketing through cooperatives shows promise.
5. Small-scale farming and day labour in small towns represent alternative economic opportunities.



Donkeys are one of the few animals that communities still keep after the drought. They are used mainly for transport. Roob da'ay kebele (Warder woreda), IDMC/2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) embarked on a new research programme in December 2018 to investigate internal displacement in the context of slow-onset disasters and climate change.¹ The following year it examined the drivers of displacement in pastoralist communities of the Somali region of Ethiopia, providing a better understanding of conditions and priorities to support policy and programming for durable solutions.² This report explores the current situation of internally displaced people (IDPs) three years after the last drought in 2017, looking at the same locations as the research carried out in 2019. It examines local integration efforts carried out through livelihood projects and how these can serve as durable solutions to displacement. Findings are based on qualitative data collected in December 2020 among IDPs and host communities from Warder and Kebridehar woredas, local and regional authorities, UN agencies and NGOs.

THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

Three years after the 2017 drought, IDPs are still completely dependent on high levels of humanitarian aid. Both IDPs and the host community say that there are three basic needs that still must be urgently met: food, water and shelter. Communities, especially in Warder, have warned of signs of famine. The situation seems to be somewhat better in Kebridehar. In Warder, however, IDPs, the host community and some stakeholders describe it as a forgotten place with forgotten people.

LOCAL INTEGRATION: THE ONLY DURABLE SOLUTION

All participants have indicated that local integration is the only possible durable solution for people displaced by drought. First, because there is nothing left in their places of origin. Second, because the adaptation of IDPs in areas close to cities is beneficial for them in the medium and long term, as they have more access to services and their

children have more educational opportunities. Third, IDPs and the host community belong to the same clans, are part of the same community, and are more easily accepted.

MUCH EFFORT IS STILL REQUIRED TO BUILD RESILIENCE

A combined intervention is required for local integration processes to be successful. First, an emergency response has to address serious deficiencies in three basic services: shelter, water and food. Second, interventions need to focus, as is already happening to some degree, on generating economic opportunities based on IDPs' expertise and recovering livelihoods. IDPs and host communities have acquired some coping capacity and increased their resilience. Unfortunately, however, they are still very vulnerable and need robust humanitarian and economic development plans to overcome their current situation. If they were to face a drought again, IDPs would still be totally dependent on humanitarian aid and could be best protected near the urban areas where they now live.

RECOVERING AND IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS IS CRUCIAL

Requests by IDPs and their host communities, as well as the initial projects of some partners, focus on the recovery of livelihoods based on livestock and agriculture. They also focus on the generation of complementary and alternative economic opportunities to increase resilience. These include the creation of cooperatives involving small livestock and crops for small-scale trade. An example is the trade with neighbouring Somalia and cities, such as Burco and Galkayo, where IDMC conducted a study in 2019. They also include projects such as cash for crops, training for more sustainable livestock and agriculture in extreme environments, and vocational training focused on the labour market in woredas and urban areas.

INTRODUCTION

Drought caused by the Indian Ocean Dipole affected southern Ethiopia between 2015 and 2017, triggering the displacement of more than 300,000 pastoralists in the eastern part of the Somali region.³ There were 131,000 new displacements associated with drought in the region in 2019.⁴

IDMC examined the drivers of displacement in pastoralist communities of the Somali region in July 2019, providing a better understanding of conditions and priorities to support policy and programming for durable solutions. Based on the findings of the study, a workshop in Jigjiga, the capital of the Somali region, was held in November 2020 to discuss a joint set of recommendations. These had to do with humanitarian responses and long-term solutions to displacement caused by drought in the country.

This report explores the current situation of IDPs three years after the last drought of 2017 in the Somali region. It also examines local integration efforts involving livelihood projects as durable solutions to displacement. IDMC will conduct additional studies in the coming years on the socioeconomic impacts of drought displacement in the country. It will carry out two studies to investigate solutions to different climate-related displacement situations and collect more in-depth information on results and lessons learned.

This research is intended to help government authorities, as well as humanitarian and development organizations, analyse the expectations of IDPs and their host communities with regard to integration, as well as the livelihood activities being implemented. Above all, listening to the voices on the ground is crucial. It allows for a determination of the strengths and deficiencies that could accompany subsequent efforts to achieve durable solutions in the region.

METHODOLOGY

The research for this report was conducted using semi-structured qualitative interviews and focus group discussions on Warder and Kebridehar woredas.⁵ Fifty-one interviews and three focus groups were carried out in Gaafaw and Roob da'ay kebeles (Warder woreda in the Dollo zone) and Banburad and Buundada kebeles (Kebridehar woreda in the Korahe zone). The overall aim of the exercise was to gather information on the experiences and views of families who had left their homes and those who had remained in their areas of origin, as well as local and regional authorities, UN agencies and NGOs.



MAP 1: Research locations and participants

Who participated?

Regional level: Disaster Risk Management Bureau, Livestock Bureau, FAO, IOM, WFP and NRC

Warder woreda: IDPs and host community, Gafaw Kebele Manager, Roob da'ay Kebele Manager, Disaster Risk Management Office, Health Office, Water Office and Agriculture Office.

Kebridehar woreda: IDPs and host community, Banburad Kebele Manager, Buundada Kebele Manager, Disaster Risk Management Office, Agriculture Office, Education Office, Health Office, Livestock Office, Water Office and UNDP.

The two woredas and four kebeles were chosen based on a collective effort involving the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on livelihoods and resilience building for households affected by drought and other vulnerable people in Ethiopia. They were also chosen based on the latest tracking data available from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which recorded the vast majority of population movements associated with drought.

Respondents were identified through a convenience sample. The findings, as such, are not representative. They do, however, offer valuable insight into the experiences and aspirations of affected communities, as well as

the expertise of local and regional authorities, UN agencies and NGOs working on the response to displacement associated with drought in the Somali region.

The participatory methodologies employed in this study were used in some of the same locations as the research conducted in 2019. As a result, they serve to reinforce some of the information from that study, while offering reflections on solutions to displacement from the same participants. During the 2019 study, IDPs and their host communities expressed weariness with the number of assessments to which they had been subjected. It was for this reason that this research focused on more qualitative methodological techniques where all participants could express themselves more openly and offer more detailed observations. All names in the report have been changed.



Interview with a local IDP elder in Buundada kebele (Kebridehar woreda), IDMC/2020.

THREE YEARS AFTER AF-GUDHIYA

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) forecast a moderate to strong La Niña event for the last quarter of 2020, potentially lasting until 2021. Forecasts for 2021 also predict drier than usual conditions for the country. For that reason, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), in collaboration with government ministries and partners, activated a Drought Working Group (DWG) in October 2020.⁶ The Somali Region Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) reported that the number of locations facing critical water shortages increased during the last dry season.⁷ Authorities for the region also have warned that given La Niña, there will be little rainfall and potentially a drought with similar effects as in 2017.

Flooding triggered new displacements along the Shebelle River, the most ever in the Somali region. Infestations of desert locusts throughout the country also have taken their toll, with the Somali region experiencing its second-largest loss of cereal crops in history. These losses are having a severe impact on local populations, increasing food shortages and hurting livelihoods.⁸ The humanitarian situation has further deteriorated as a result of the countrywide spread of COVID-19. People in Ethiopia have been affected by conflict since mid-2017, and 2020 was a particularly violent year.

The drought that occurred three years ago in the Somali region was called Af-gudhiya by local communities, a name signifying “nothing to put in your mouth”. Today, 260,808 people are still displaced as a result of drought in the region, 34 per cent of the total number of IDPs.⁹ Warder woreda hosts the largest number of IDPs affected by the phenomenon, with 2,588 displaced households, encompassing 15,527 IDPs at ten different sites. In Kebridehar woreda 526, households are displaced, encompassing 3,144 individuals at six different sites.¹⁰

STUCK IN PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT

People displaced as a result of drought are still in a situation of protracted displacement. Some of their most basic needs have not been satisfied, and they face the prospect of being able to participate in livelihood and economic opportunity projects. In Warder and Kebridehar woredas, participants in the study said that IDPs are still totally dependent on humanitarian aid, especially with regard to food, water, shelter and education.

Regional authorities in Somali said that people displaced by the drought rely on handouts from the government and NGOs, as well as support from host communities. The staff of one international organization observed that these IDPs have not been provided with sufficient services and that more attention was given to people displaced as a result of conflict. A major challenge is IDPs’ continuing ability to fend for themselves, given the lack of basic services: “These IDPs are isolated, neglected and forgotten. Plans are more focused on people displaced from conflict, and only a few NGOs and government authorities are working in these areas”, said a staff member of an international organisation.

“At the national level, the focus has been on how to overcome displacement caused by conflict. The numbers of people displaced by conflict have also distracted attention from those displaced by the effects of climate change.”

**STAFF MEMBER OF AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION**



Shelters have not improved since the humanitarian emergency following the drought of 2017. Communities consider this a priority. Banburad kebele (Kebridehar woreda), IDMC/2020.

AID DEPENDENCY

Thirty-nine per cent of the population needed humanitarian aid in 2020 in the Somali region.¹¹ In Warder woreda, most of the IDPs affected by drought are in Gaafaw and Roob da'ay kebeles. About 260 people displaced by the conflict in the neighbouring region of Oromia have been relocated to Roob da'ay kebele. They were previously living in Qoloji, one of the largest camps in the Somali region. "We are here barefoot and our hands are empty," said Ibrahim, one of the IDPs who was displaced by the conflict from Balbaleti in the Oromia region to the Qoloji camp and then relocated, six months ago to Roob da'ay kebele. "The number of IDPs is increasing and the situation is getting worse," said a woreda authority.

In Kebridahar woreda, the communities in Buundada kebele displaced by the drought abandoned their pastoralist lifestyle and then suffered another displacement as a result of floods in the Fafen river. A woreda authority said the IDPs and the host community in both

Buundada and Banburad kebeles are dependent on aid from government entities and NGOs. "We live in misery. Overcoming our situation is very difficult," said Nafis, a woman displaced by the drought to Banburad kebele four years ago.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

The Somali and Oromia regions have the largest number of people requiring food assistance, as these areas experienced the greatest crop losses, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.¹²

IDPs, host communities and woreda authorities say they are worried about malnutrition. That is particularly the case in Gaafaw and Roob da'ay kebeles in Warder, the woreda that hosts the largest number of IDPs affected by drought. "People are starving. The evidence of hunger can be seen in mothers' faces," said Bihi, a member of the host community in Gaafaw. The communities' main coping strategies are consuming cheap and less preferred food, reducing the amount of

food they eat, borrowing food, and relying on help from friends, according to the last multi-sector assessment by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).¹³

This situation is similar in Roob da'ay: "Families, especially children, are starving. There is nothing to eat," said Hassan, who was also displaced from Balbaleti by the conflict and now relocated from the Qoloji camp. Kebridehar woreda reported one of the worst levels of food consumption in the region, with 80 per cent of its population suffering from inadequate nutrition.¹⁴ Regional authorities are providing monthly food assistance, and the World Food Programme (WFP) is distributing food every 45 days at the regional level. The Humanitarian Response Plan in 2020 targeted 107,114 in Dollo zone (Warder) and 98,363 people in Korahe zone (Kebridehar) for food assistance.¹⁵

"IDPs' situation is very difficult. The only permanent source of food are distributed rations, as well as some nutrition programmes for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five."

STAFF MEMBER OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

WATER SUPPLY

In Warder and Kebridehar, boreholes and hand-dug wells supply the main source of water during the wet season. A significant proportion of households also rely on springs and unprotected sources, like surface water. During the dry season, many households depend on water supplied by truck.¹⁶

In Gaafaw, communities use a well with the same name as the kebele. "In the last year, however, the well's motor has not worked and we have had to drink wastewater from the valley where the animals also drink," said Ahmed, an IDP in Gaafaw. In Roob da'ay, Hassan, the manager of the IDP camp, said the camp does not have a secure water service and relies on trucked-in water, which is both insufficient and vulnerable to disruption.

Woreda authorities said that they have been given three months to get water running in Roob da'ay and repair the motor in Gaafaw.

In Kebridehar, the Buundada and Banburad kebeles suffer from water shortages and must pay for water brought in from Kebridehar by privately owned water trucks. There is no other plan at present because the excavation and creation of wells is beyond the woreda's capacity. The lack of clean water and inadequate hygiene and sanitation practices are the primary causes of high mortality, under-nutrition and the increase in epidemic outbreaks in the Somali region.¹⁷

SHELTER

In both woredas, displaced people continue to live in unsafe emergency shelters made with plastic that heats up in the daytime and leaves IDPs cold at night. At the beginning of the year, temperatures reached 35 degrees Celsius during the day and 13 degrees at night. "We live in small houses that we call Balbalo, built of plastic and wood. Our shelter is very poor, and it is hard for us during the rainy season," said Halimo, an IDP in Buundada.

EDUCATION

More than 50 per cent of school-aged children lack access to primary education in three zones of the Somali region, including Warder and Kebridehar woredas, according to the last NRC multi-sector needs assessment. Educational quality is also a concern, with many barriers both on the supply and demand sides. These include the high percentage of insufficiently qualified teachers, a scarcity of learning spaces and educational material, high pupil-to-teacher ratios, insecurity and unsafe schools. In Warder, for example, there was a shortage of classrooms after schools reopened under COVID-19 protocols. This and the need to observe a physical distance between students led to a reduced number of students in classes.¹⁸

SEEKING DURABLE SOLUTIONS

The Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI), a national platform developed by Ethiopia's government and the international community, was launched in December 2019 to establish an operational framework to achieve durable solutions for internal displacement associated with both conflict and disasters.¹⁹ The Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) of the Somali region was formed in 2014. At an operational level, a federal, DSWG began a Durable Solutions Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in November 2020.²⁰ The fund is intended to disperse fast and flexible financing to support IDPs in achieving durable solutions, while also supporting hosting and receiving communities. The federal DSWG decided to establish a technical committee for the fund to design it in line with international standards. IDMC is a member of this technical committee.

A PREFERENCE FOR LOCAL INTEGRATION

All households interviewed in Warder and Kebridehar woredas intended to remain in their kebeles, close to urban areas. They wanted to do so mainly to have access to services like health and education, as well as the support of the government and NGOs.

There are three possible durable solutions: voluntary return, local integration and resettlement. Local integration occurs when former IDPs, based on a voluntary and informed decision, have achieved safe, dignified and sustainable integration in the location to which they were displaced. Those who do not meet this criteria should still be considered IDPs.

"Local integration is the only feasible option now. According to studies we carried out in 2019, the majority of people displaced by drought have opted for local integration as the durable solution", said a staff member of one international organisation.

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

A positive aspect of local integration in the Somali region for people displaced by drought is their peaceful coexistence with host communities. The interviews revealed that IDPs and the host communities belong to the same clans and families. That is why the IDPs moved from the rural zones of their kebeles to nearby urban areas such as Warder and Kebridehar. "It is safe and sound here," said Shara who was displaced to Gaafaw kebele in 2017. "There is no conflict between us. We live together because we are like brothers, we belong to the same families and we respect and help each other."

"Host communities are the first to respond even before NGOs arrive. If these communities are provided with sufficient resources, they are able to support themselves"

STAFF MEMBER OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Most IDPs also prefer to stay in their current kebeles, rather than return to their rural areas of origin, because of better access to basic services and the possibility of accessing alternative economic opportunities and recovering their livelihoods. "I don't want to return. No matter how much you suffer in towns, you always have a better future than in the bush. Here we will not die of hunger and our children will learn and have opportunities," said Ahmed, an agro-pastoralist displaced to Buundada after the 2017 drought.



Acceptance and integration are easy because IDPs and host communities belong to the same clans. Gaafaw kebele (Warder woreda), IDMC/2020.

OBSTACLES FOR LOCAL INTEGRATION

All interviewees share a desire to successfully integrate IDPs at the local level. They also agreed that it is vital to boost the quantity, quality and access to basic public services in peri-urban host communities like Warder and Kebridehar.

This includes priorities like ensuring food assistance, the rehabilitation and construction of basic water, health and education services and of infrastructure such as roads. One of the main obstacles to progress, however, is the lack of financial support. “Resources are the key determinant. If they are available, then I believe local integration will be smooth and easy, though it will take time to deliver all these services,” said a staff member of an international organisation.

“There are very limited funds at our disposal for supporting and locally integrating IDPs from drought via livelihoods projects. The regional offices need financial and technical support from partners and the federal government.”

MEMBER OF A REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Participants also said that IDPs cannot sustainably rely on handouts from the government and humanitarian partners. “One of the reasons for this dependency is the emergency nature of the projects that until a few months ago had been implemented in several woredas,” said a staff member of one international organisation. “We are advocating to ensure that humanitarian needs are met once and for all and for a switch to development initiatives.”

Participants said efforts should focus on establishing sustainable livelihoods to increase the sustainability of local integration. IDPs and members of host communities in both woredas said the priorities were the provi-

sion of livestock via restocking or direct financial support through loans, the improvement of agricultural training, and training for the labour market in urban areas.

IDPs' adaptation to cities is key. "These people, who were pastoralists, need time to learn to live in urban settings where they will have many new opportunities. This adaptation period will be a challenge as it's impossible to master new skills quickly," said a staff member of an international organisation.

A final indicator of progress in achieving the local integration of IDPs relates to their legal identity. The last NRC multi-sector needs assessment in the Somali region shows huge gaps in access to civil documentation. Only 13 per cent of respondents, including IDPs and members of host communities, reported possessing a national identity card and 96 per cent of them lacked a birth certificate. These vital records, providing proof of age and nationality, permit access to basic services, like healthcare and education and serve as a protection from under-age military service, conscription and child marriage. They are also crucial to opening a bank account.²¹

RESILIENCE BUILDING AND THE RECOVERY OF LIVELIHOODS

Economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods are needed to integrate displaced people locally and increase their resilience. These elements of local integration, however, take time. Some analysis is required to determine which livelihoods are sustainable and if they can be diversified in different woredas. Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in the Somali region also face numerous challenges. These are not only related to lack of rainfall and drought. They also have to do with flooding and to plant and tree invasions that prevent farming, as well as threats such as desert locusts. All this in the face of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) that puts displaced people especially at risk.

National and regional governments, as well as UN agencies and NGO partners, have recognised the need to create alternative livelihood options for both IDPs and host communities. Local integration through recovery and diversification of livelihoods has been a key component of the humanitarian and development community's effort to achieve durable solutions in the region over the last several months.

In Warder and Kebridehar, the main livelihoods of the host community involve the few remaining livestock, small-scale trade, the sale of milk at market by women, firewood collection and food aid. Most of the IDPs depend on food aid, support from relatives and the host community, and day labour for their livelihoods.

Day labour is the most common source of income for IDPs in Warder, while livestock is the main source of income for IDPs in Kebridehar. The most common challenges related to livelihoods, according to the last NRC multi-sector assessment, are lack of access to land, seeds

and tools, and to markets and financial services. This is mainly a result of the difficulty in getting to urban centres where non-agricultural opportunities can be found and limited livestock herds and crops, according to the assessment.²²

In Gaafaw, in Warder woreda, a lack of water and water supply systems makes farming impossible. In Roob da'ay, however, small-scale agriculture and the raising of livestock play a greater role, in part because of the expertise of IDPs from Oromia who have been relocated to the woreda from Qoloji.

"We don't have a permanent income. Some people try to work as day labourers in town, but many older ones have no earnings and are dependent on those closest to them."

INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMAN, ROOB DA'AY

In Kebridehar, there are also differences between Buundada and Banburad, the two kebeles analysed. In Banburad raising livestock is more common, while in Buundada the existence of a nearby valley apt for farming makes agriculture possible. A major problem affecting livelihoods in Buundada, however, is the presence of *Proposis juliflora*, a shrub or small tree locally known as *Garanwaa*, which is unique to the kebele. "We were agro-pastoral people, but our farming activities were completely lost to *Garanwaa*, a deadly and dangerous tree," said Ahmed, an IDP there.



Proposis juliflora, locally known as Garanwaa, in Buundada kebele (Kebridehar woreda), IDMC/2020.

“Most people in this area are struggling, as there is no particular source of income. Some families have a few cattle, some have a small flock of goats, and others have nothing at all and wait for the government. Still others are dependent on the national Productive Safety Net Programme (a cash and food transfer programme).”

WOMAN IN THE HOST COMMUNITY, BUUNDADA

THE RESILIENCE OF IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

“The host communities and IDPs have a lot of capacities. They are skilled pastoralists and agro-pastoralists and have the abilities to work in the day labour market. They just need a little financial support or small projects with which to make a living. So far, however, hardly any such projects have materialized. Only humanitarian aid, and they can no longer depend on it.”

IDP SITE MANAGER, ROOB DA'AY

Key stakeholders have been very realistic about the resilience of populations affected by drought. Most participants said these people are still in a situation of severe vulnerability and are highly dependent on essen-

tial humanitarian assistance. They also said, however, that because of the 2017 drought, they had been acquiring new knowledge and capacities. The first lies in a relatively quick and effective adaptation to the new, more urban context in which they find themselves. This is in kebeles closer to small towns, such as Warder and Kebridehar. “People understood the sustainability of life near to towns. Even now young members of the community are migrating to larger cities in search of day jobs to support families, but they need to be trained in specific skills,” said Abdiyare, an IDP in Gaafaw. Access to markets is also easier in kebeles closer to urban areas.

The humanitarian response to the drought has been a learning experience for communities. “We have some understanding of how to communicate with the government and other organisations to get additional support,” said Abdiyare.

STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE

Greater efforts regarding livelihoods and economic opportunities are among the most important ways to strengthen the resilience of communities in this region. Regional authorities, UN agencies and NGOs responding to the situation of IDPs say that there needs to be a community-based planning approach and that participation must improve.

Communities of IDPs, as well as host communities, should identify their needs and prioritize them. This should be based on the planning by the woredas and coordinated by the regional government. Partners have selected committees from each woreda and ensured their inclusiveness. “NGOs and UN agencies have trained sector offices and woreda-level authorities on the essence of community-based planning. These plans will serve as guides for any partner from the government or even the private sector in helping address community needs and priorities,” said one staff member from an international organisation. As a result of this work, coordination already has improved and the capacities of local authorities have been strengthened.

Members of another international organisation emphasized the importance of more real and effective participation by IDPs and host communities from the beginning of planning. “The conventional planning method here

still doesn’t involve the local level entities and people, including the IDPs. Planning needs to change so that it is bottom to top instead of top-down”, said one staff member of the organisation.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING SUPPORT

In Warder and Kebridehar, the livelihoods of IDPs and host communities before the drought were based on small-scale trade involving their livestock and agricultural products. Livestock was their main source of income. This was through trade not only within the nearby woredas of the Somali region but also with the neighbouring Puntland state of Somalia, especially towns such as Burco and Galkayo which are relatively close to Warder. IDMC conducted a study in 2019 in both Burco and Galkayo to examine displacement associated with drought and how the phenomenon has affected urbanisation.²³

“We used to take our animals to Somalia and bought different food items in return. This would still be possible, but we can’t travel anywhere now.”

MAN IN THE HOST COMMUNITY, ROOB DA’AY

These livelihoods can be restored, mainly through live-



Cattle coming to a water point outside Banburad kebele (Kebridehar woreda), IDMC/2020.



Displaced women have discussed the possibility of creating cooperatives, Gaafaw kebele (Warder woreda), IDMC/2020.

stock marketing and farming. The regional government, UN agencies and NGOs have supported some restocking activities as well as efforts involving start-up capital. Participants say they are committed to creating small-scale business cooperatives.

“For those whose livestock has been affected by drought, some restocking is a good option, and they can do livestock marketing, which is most effective through small cooperatives. The livestock trade is booming in Warder and Kebridehar, as they could export livestock to Somalia again,” said one staff member of an international organisation.

Another international organisation, however, warned that these activities should be focused on the local integration of displaced people and not on their return to their rural areas of origin. “I would strongly suggest that partners avoid sending these IDPs to their original places with more livestock. They will be displaced again. Climate change is a real issue in this region, and we have been witnessing climate variations for the past decade or so,” said a staff member of the organisation.

Participants are in favour of activities that can supply start-up capital and loans for livestock marketing as a way to make small-scale trade successful. Training for business management skills, like microfinance, is a great way to implement cash transfer activities and introduce business management and start-up capital opportunities. Saving and credit associations need to be established in some woredas. Such activities have been proven to be very effective in other regions of the country.

“Offering unconditional cash is sabotaging these people’s ability to become independent. When you do so, people expect the same thing to happen over and over again. It also can become very difficult for them to return the loans. So, that should change. Otherwise, over the long run, they will become aid-dependent, as many of them already are.”

STAFF MEMBER OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Farah, a host community elder in Roob da'ay kebele described why small groups of cooperatives are important: "People in these areas have many skills, including how to do business with the animals they raise and how to produce seeds for sale. Many of them previously had farms. By organising them into small business groups, you can facilitate a return to farming, which would generate employment and make them more resilient. It would also make the environment more sustainable." Participants also said that the sale of milk also represented a potential opportunity for women. A women's cooperative already supplies milk to a community, and other cooperatives of women could be established and trained.

FAO is implementing restocking activities to save livelihoods as part of the joint UNDP/FAO/UNICEF Livelihoods and Resilience Building of Drought Affected Households and Vulnerable Groups in Ethiopia programme. It is also implementing activities based on health treatments for livestock, animal feeding programs and animal fattening. UNDP's work is more focused on small-scale business development and livestock management training. Similar programmes are being implemented by NRC and IOM in close collaboration with the regional bureaus and woreda level offices. The main result of these projects is that animal-based livelihoods are recovering, albeit very slowly. It is hoped that with increased financial support, displaced people will be able to recover small numbers of livestock in a more secure and sustainable environment close to small towns. IDPs are also receiving training focused on day jobs in Warder and Kebridehar. The greatest opportunities for employment, however, lie in raising and then selling livestock in the markets of Warder and Kebridehar, and in small-scale farming cooperatives.

FARMING OPPORTUNITIES AND CASH-FOR-WORK PROGRAMMES

UNDP is supporting communities with training for farm work as well as farm tools and machinery. This is especially the case in Kebridehar, a woreda that has significant possibilities in terms of farmland. The joint UN programme, together with the communities and regional and woreda-level offices, also has transformed the *Prosopis juliflora* problem into an opportunity. "This tree has occupied all the land, posing a threat to both livestock and human livelihoods, and people wanted it cleared. So we are contracting communities affected by the drought to use special machinery to remove it from land that can be cultivated. It can then be used as a source of income," said one staff member of an international organisation.

These cash-for-work programmes have made it possible to target those most in need of work after the drought and do work that benefits the entire community. The workers are paid a monthly wage to do the cutting, and the tree is processed as feed for livestock.

The regional government, UN agencies and NGOs also are focused on implementing vocational training for day labour in Warder and Kebridehar. The training is intended to help people acquire the technical skills needed for jobs, such as carpentry, construction and tailoring in the small towns. A market assessment was done to determine the best alternative economic opportunities.

CONCLUSION

This report is part of an effort by IDMC to conduct studies that measure the socioeconomic impacts of drought displacement in Ethiopia, an effort that will be continued in coming years. IDMC will also conduct two studies to further investigate solutions to climate-related displacement and collect more in-depth information on results and lessons learned.

Certain basic needs must be met, but local integration, the preferred durable solution for displaced people, is practical, characterized by seamless co-existence with host communities. Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, displaced by the drought to kebeles near urban areas, are aiming to restore some of their livelihoods. They want to do so near small towns such as Warder and Kebridehar, so that their families can have better access to services, such as education and health care.

The expertise of these people lies in raising livestock for their own use or for sale and in cultivating land. Government authorities, UN agencies and NGOs involved in this research are focusing their efforts on recovering livestock production. The goal is that these families, by creating small cooperatives, can do business in the

nearby markets of Warder and Kebridehar, as well as in areas near the border with Somalia.

Humanitarian and development partners are working on services related to animal health, animal husbandry and small business training. In kebeles with better areas for cultivation, they are providing daily work to people clearing small agricultural areas for seed production. Efforts to generate alternative economic opportunities are also oriented, after market assessments, around training for day jobs in towns such as Warder and Kebridehar.

Local integration of people displaced by drought is a durable solution. The IDPs' most immediate needs for food, water and shelter must be met, and there must be continuing support for the authorities, UN agencies and NGOs in their work to restore and strengthen livelihoods and generate alternative economic opportunities. To achieve these goals, the authorities, agencies and NGOs on the ground have called for increased funding, without which it is impossible to end the IDPs' current dependency on aid.




NOTES

- 1 IDMC, [No matter of choice: displacement in a changing climate](#), 2018
- 2 IDMC, [Nothing to put in your mouth. Seeking durable solutions to drought displacement in Ethiopia](#), 2019
- 3 IDMC, [Nothing to put in your mouth. Seeking durable solutions to drought displacement in Ethiopia](#), 2019
- 4 IDMC, [Global Report on Internal Displacement](#), 2020
- 5 The woreda or district is the third-level administrative division of Ethiopia. They are further subdivided into many kebeles. Woredas are typically collected together into zones, which form a region. The Somali region is administratively divided into 11 zones containing 93 woredas (districts), six town administrations and 1,224 kebeles. The Ethiopian government identified the Somali region as one of four developing regional states because of the high prevalence of poverty there and social indicators lagging significantly behind the national average. Major development challenges include limited public participation in economic and political decision processes, inequitable access to social services, high dependence on extensive livestock production, lack of employment opportunities, environmental vulnerability to drought and flooding exacerbated by climate change, disease outbreaks and inter-clan conflicts.
- 6 NDRMC, Drought Alert #1, November 2020, 2020
- 7 OCHA, [Humanitarian Bulletin Ethiopia](#), Issue #22, 2020
- 8 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020
- 9 According to the last round of the IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the region (October 2020), conflict was the main reason for displacement. It displaced 425,144 people (55 per cent), while seasonal floods displaced 58,004 people (seven per cent) and flash floods, 30,018 (four per cent)
- 10 IOM-DTM, Round 23: August – September 2020 Ethiopia – Somali Regional Dashboard, October 2020
- 11 OCHA, [Humanitarian Bulletin Ethiopia](#), Issue #1, 2020
- 12 OCHA, [Humanitarian Response Plan](#), 2020
- 13 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020
- 14 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020
- 15 OCHA, [Humanitarian Response Plan](#), 2020
- 16 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020
- 17 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020
- 18 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020
- 19 UN, [Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative](#), 2019
- 20 GP20, [Ethiopia. Durable Solutions Initiative](#), 2020
- 21 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020. The total sample size was 385HHs for the household survey
- 22 NRC, Multi sector assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Korahe zone, Somali region, 2020. The total sample size was 385HHs for the household survey
- 23 IDMC, [No land, no pasture, no water. The urbanisation of drought displacement in Somalia](#), 2020



Every day, people flee conflict and disasters and become displaced inside their own countries. IDMC provides data and analysis and supports partners to identify and implement solutions to internal displacement.

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