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Community members and government officials gathering for the inauguration of the Hobyo community centre. The centre was completed under the Midnimo II programme in January 2021 and provides facilities for livelihoods skills training and has a sports field for local youth. ©IOM/ 2021

The Recovery and Durable Solutions (RDS) Unit promotes durable solutions to displacement for IDPs and returnees, and works to prevent displacement in conflict prone areas through community stabilization and early recovery activities. RDS programmes are guided by the Midnimo methodology: a governmentled, community-driven approach that aims to build capacity and accountability of governance structures to lead on solutions, and provide (re)integration support to Displacement Affected Communities (DACs) whilst supporting locally led, participatory processes that promote intra- and inter- community cohesion, peace, and ownership.



RESPONSE

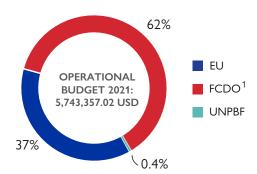
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

For the first quarter of 2021, RDS programming continued to provide support to displacement-affected communities, reaching 127,501 individuals through durable solutions and community stabilization activities. Overall, nine public infrastructure projects were completed, enhancing security and social cohesion through strengthened basic service provision, creation of inclusive community spaces, support for access to information, construction and improvement of road and water infrastructure improved access for vulnerable IDP and host communities in major urban cities, such as Mogadishu and Baidoa, and fragile, recently recovered and rural areas.

In 2021, RDS continued to support the Somali Government partners in their battle against the spread of COVID-19 through awareness raising campaigns and health, water, sanitation and hygiene projects, reaching 21,148 individuals in the target locations. In conjunction with the COVID-19 response, IOM, through the Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium and in collaboration with IOM Preparedness and Response Division, improved access to clean water in IDP communities at the Heliwa site in Mogadishu by constructing a borehole, water kiosks, and two holding tanks. The project was guided by a hydrogeological survey that was conducted last year. As part of durable solutions and community stabilization programming, IOM provided short-term economic opportunities for 729 beneficiaries through the construction projects and COVID-19 awareness raising initiatives.

In September 2019, under the UN Peacebuilding Fund supported Midnimo II project, IOM RDS facilitated communitybased planning process in the Hobyo district of Galmudug State where the community together with the government to set community priorities. In response to the community's priorities that emerged through the participatory process, IOM rehabilitated the local community centre to promote livelihoods activities in Hobyo. The project was completed in January and specifically addressed the needs of youth across different clans and socioeconomic groups. The project included a sports field and facilities for skills training. The Midnimo II project closed on 13 January 2021.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 2021



¹Danwadaag budget (FCDO) is an estimate and will be confirmed in the next quarterly report, after the programme financial year is closed.

| PROJECT (DONOR) | MONTHS REMAINING | end date | STATE |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--|
| Daryeel (EU) CS | 27 / 36 | 31 June 2023 | Jubaland, South West State, Hirshabelle, Galmudug |
| Danwadaag Consortium (FCDO) DS | 12 / 48 | 31 March 2022 | Banadir, Jubaland and South West State |
| Barwaaqo Relocation Project (FCDO) DS | 0 / 4 | 31 March 2021 | South West State |

CLOSED PROJECTS IN 2021: 2

COMMUNITY VOICES

WOMEN RECONNECT AND RENEW FRIENDSHIPS IN DHUSAMAREEB, GALMUDUG STATE

Women in Somalia have not been spared conflict's diverse effects; mass displacement, loss of loved ones, destruction of families, lack of livelihoods, and the fracturing of women's solidarity and life-long friendships.

Due to contestation for political control in Galmudug, women in Dhuusamareeb found themselves divided into two women's groups: pro-Government and pro- Ahlusunnah. Though the members of the two groups are neighbours and share common interests, a power struggle drove a wedge between them. Appointments to the local council and the management of the Women's House became contentious issues. The pro-Ahlusunnah group felt marginalized and neglected, the groups mistrusted one another, jostled for power, held parallel meetings, and competed for the endorsements of influential community members.

To foster unity among the women's groups the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development of Galmudug organized a mediation and reconciliation workshop for one hundred women's group members drawn equally from both the pro-Government and pro-Ahlusunnah women's groups. The importance of these types of initiatives are clear when speaking with women from Dhuusamareeb, who once again can enjoy the company of old friends and work together to advance the interests of all women and community members.

Childhood friends Haawo (pro-Government group) and Sahara (pro-Ahlusunnah) shared their view of how the mediation process has healed rifts and revived communication among women; and perhaps more importantly restored weekly tea and popcorn meetings.

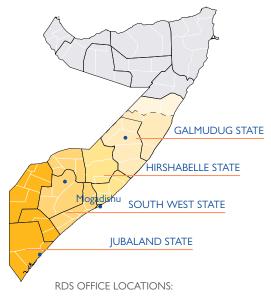
Haawo, a 56-year-old businesswoman, explained that some of her friends belong to the Ahlusunnah women's group, including her childhood friend Sahara. Their communication and long friendship were deeply strained by divisions between the women's groups. Similarly, Sahara, a 55-year-old teacher and businesswoman, said that she "felt disappointed with her friends who deserted their sheikhs and decided to promote the formation of Galmudug state", and she moved to Adaado for some time.

Women of both groups had previously worked together, shared moments of joy, and supported one another in their times of need. However, upon the consolidation of Government control in Galmudug, members of the pro-Ahlusunnah women's group felt marginalized, betrayed, and unsure of their next move.

After the reconciliation and mediation training workshop, lines of communication between members of both groups were restored. Subsequent meetings of the Peace Steering Committee encouraged the women to work together toward greater levels of development and to promote the participation of women in local leadership. Both group's members have warmed up to the idea of merging even as some complex issues remain.

Haawo and Sahara are now able to enjoy each other's company and advice without raising suspicion from their respective women's group leaders. They have revived their tradition of sharing tea and popcorn every Thursday and also order merchandise together to minimize costs. "Our small tea meetings are priceless, hence it's important that our two groups reconcile," said Haawo with happiness.

As much as the women in both groups have warmed up to one another and look forward to working together, there is still a need to build on and deepen the unity, trust and goodwill resulting from the mediation efforts. There is a sense of hope for the future as Sahara declared, "We are all women and there are no winners if we are divided."



- Mogadishu, Banadir Regional Administration
- Kismayo, Jubaland State
- Baidoa, South West State
- Dhuusamareeb, Galmudug State

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY – MARCH 2021

IOM RDS community stabilization efforts continued under the EU-funded *Daryeel* programme that focuses on fragile and recently recovered areas. During the first quarter of 2021, IOM reached over 23,000 individuals in the Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle regions through rapid stabilization activities aimed at enhancing communities' trust in local institutions and supporting government coordination.

In Janaale town, Lower Shabelle region, IOM strengthened government capacity to provide security for local communities; security remains a persistent challenge highlighted by periodic al-Shabaab attacks since the recovery of the town in March 2020. To deter the al-Shabaab attacks and improve access to the town, IOM supported the clearing of brush along two main roads leading to the town. In addition to bolstering security and safe access, the activity also boosted the local economy by providing sorely needed short-term economic opportunities for 100 community members (25 women, 75 men) who cleared brush along 2.5 kilometres of roads leading into the town. In the same district, IOM also supported stabilization partners to rehabilitate government offices in Marka, enhancing access to the government services for communities through provision of a permanent,



Community members herding cattle on the road leading to Janaale town after brush clearance. ©IOM/ 2021

In coordination with the Jubaland and South West State Ministries of Health, IOM also continued supporting the Government COVID-19 response and primary healthcare services in January 2021. The response reached 21,723 community members, including 8,365 individuals through COVID-19 awareness raising and screening and 13,358 individuals (5,465 children) through immunisation, consultations, and an outpatient therapeutic feeding programme treating children with acute malnutrition in the Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba regions.



TOTAL IN

DURABLE SOLUTIONS HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY - MARCH 2021

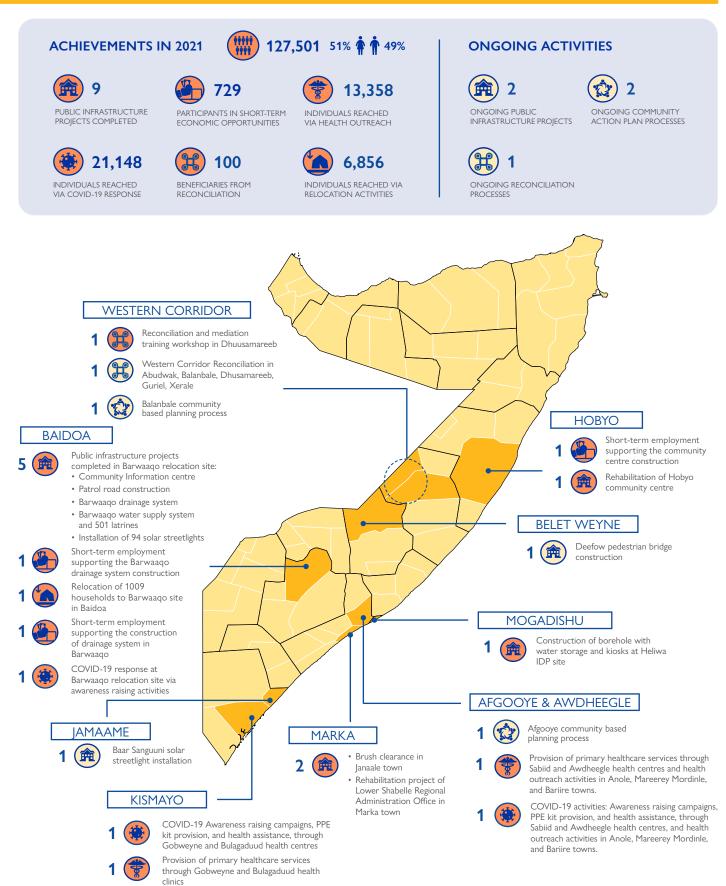
In partnership with the Preparedness and Response Division's Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, the South West State government and humanitarian partners, IOM supported the relocation of 1009 IDP households (3,394 women, 3,462 men, 1,839 children, and 276 people with disabilities) in Baidoa to the government-provided Barwaaqo public site. Phase I of the Barwaaqo relocation project (2018-2019) in Baidoa, South West State, was developed on 88 hectares of government land with additional 77 hectares provided for Phase II of the project.

The project provided assistance to households in Baidoa facing immediate threats of eviction and provided solutions for long-term urban development, economic opportunities and land tenure security. The Barwaaqo site is designed as an urban extension while preserving agricultural, riverine and grazing areas, and providing land tenure and physical security for displacement-affected communities. IOM added water infrastructure and an information centre to complement a health centre (completed in 2020). Equitable access to basic services enhances social cohesion between Barwaaqo residents and the surrounding neighbouring host community areas.

During the first quarter of 2021, IOM durable solutions programming completed two UN Peacebuilding Fund funded projects, Midnimo II (unity) and Dhulka Nabadda (land of peace). Over the two years, the UN-Habitat led Dhulka Nabadda project improved institutional response to land disputes, resulting in establishment of Land Commission offices in Kismayo and Baidoa, contributing to land tenure security and communities' trust in local authorities. Under the UNDP-led Midnimo II project, IOM activities enhanced social cohesion through community-driven planning and peacebuilding processes. In January 2021, IOM supported a Galmudug State Ministry of Women and Human Rights reconciliation and mediation training workshop, that fostered unity among two women's groups aligned with opposing political factions, and reduced tensions between the communities. The workshop brought together 100 participants and built a foundation of unity and good will between the groups.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS IN 2021



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS AND DONORS









