

PROGRESS 2025

An artistic illustration of a bridge spanning a deep, dark chasm. On the left, a ruined, grey structure stands on a dark ledge. On the right, a cluster of colorful houses (yellow, orange, and blue) sits on a similar ledge. Three figures are walking across the bridge: a person in a red cloak, a smaller figure in a green cloak, and a person in a blue cloak carrying a large bundle. A fourth figure in a red cloak stands on the right ledge. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with a bright light source on the right. The overall mood is one of hope and transition.

SPOTLIGHT ON EAST,
HORN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA (EHSA)

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PROGRESS 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON EAST, HORN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (EHSA)

December 2025

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In Yei, South Sudan, a town deeply affected by conflict and displacement, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is fostering reconciliation through community dialogues, skills training, and social cohesion activities. By bringing together diverse groups, including youth and local leaders, these initiatives help rebuild trust, promote peaceful coexistence, and support long-term stability in the region.

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FOREWORD

The East, Horn, and Southern Africa (EHSA) region reflects the global crisis of internal displacement. Over the past decade, overlapping conflicts and climate extremes have uprooted millions, leaving the region with one of the world's largest populations of displaced people. From protracted conflicts in South Sudan and Somalia to recurrent droughts and cyclones in Mozambique and Madagascar, the drivers of displacement are diverse and compounding. These shocks have led to immense human suffering and placed extraordinary demands on governments and communities seeking solutions. With global displacement reaching 84 million in 2024, the urgency for action is clear.

Yet amid these challenges, what's happening in EHSA offers reason for hope. Governments across the region are demonstrating leadership in addressing displacement. Somalia, for example, has advanced policies and data systems to support internally displaced persons (IDPs). Such national ownership is essential, because durable solutions require government commitment and local engagement. Communities have also shown resilience and solidarity, from Ethiopian families hosting displaced neighbors to civil society groups in Burundi fostering social cohesion. These efforts are supported by international and regional partners and are aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, which calls for government-led, development-anchored change.

A key lesson from previous PROGRESS reports is that responses must be data-driven and people-centered. Under the auspices of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, IOM, in collaboration with Georgetown University, Governments, and other UN agencies and actors from civil society, launched the PROGRESS series in 2023 to build an evidence base for action. This third edition focuses on the East, Horn, and Southern Africa region, drawing on household surveys and interviews from countries including Burundi and South Sudan. It examines the conditions that enable or hinder durable solutions, with a focus on local integration. Importantly, it amplifies the voices of IDPs,

many of whom—especially those displaced for extended periods—express a desire to settle and rebuild where they are. Policies and programs must reflect these aspirations, enabling informed choices about return, relocation, or integration.

Climate resilience is now central to displacement responses. In EHSA, climate issues are ever-present, as floods, droughts, and storms constantly displace families. Disasters account for a growing share of new displacements, often affecting communities already weakened by conflict. Building resilience, through early warning systems, climate-smart infrastructure, and environmental rehabilitation, is critical to reducing future displacement. Durable solutions must be climate-resilient, integrating disaster risk reduction and adaptation. Investments in housing, livelihoods, and natural resource management can help communities withstand shocks and avoid repeated displacement.

This report is more than analysis—it is a call to action. Policymakers and practitioners must use these findings to drive bold, coordinated responses that support government-led action. National strategies should empower displaced people, and area-based programs must invest in both IDPs and host communities. Success requires a whole-of-society approach, with governments, partners, civil society, and displaced communities working together. Continued investment in long-term, data-driven solutions—including those that build climate resilience—is essential. Predictable, multi-year development financing and innovative funding mechanisms are needed to sustain impact.

Despite the scale of the challenge, there is cause for optimism. The leadership and commitment across EHSA give us hope. Let us translate this evidence into action and deliver durable solutions for millions of displaced people across the region.



Amy Pope

IOM Director General



Women IDPs in Lower Shabelle Region in Somalia during a community discussion with different UN organisations.

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The editorial team is particularly grateful to the numerous enumerators, as well as the data and research focal points in IOM missions—especially the field teams in Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia, and South Sudan—who collected the household surveys used in the case studies featured in this edition.

IOM and Georgetown University also express their gratitude to IOM's technical experts from various departments at the global and regional levels for their feedback and collaboration—particularly the Department of Humanitarian Response and Recovery, including the team leading on the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement; the Department of Data, Insight and Policy; IOM Global Offices in Brussels and New York; and the research assistants working with the Georgetown Institute for the Study of International Migration.

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Burundi, Buterere. Members of the Community Committee for DRR register community members to identify missing persons during a simulated Early Warning Mechanism exercise.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADSP	Asia Displacement Solutions Platform
BRA	Banadir Regional Administration
CFS	Co-Funding System
DAC	Displacement Affected Community
DRM	Domestic Revenue Mobilization
DSID	Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Working Group
DSP	Durable Solutions Progress
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EGRISS	Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics
EHSA	East, Horn and Southern Africa
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federal Member State (Somalia)
GAIN	Global Annual Inclusion Survey
GDI	Global Data Institute
HLP	Housing, Land, and Property
HLS	Household Level Survey
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INGD	National Institute for the Management and Reduction of Disaster Risks (Mozambique)

IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	International Recommendations on IDP Statistics
IRS	Integrated Rental Subsidy Pilot
ISIM	Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration
JIPS	Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service
MSNAs	Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics (South Sudan)
NCRDS	National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (Somalia)
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PCRS	Project Framework for the Reintegration of Affected Persons (Burundi)
PEGDI	National Policies and Strategy for the Management of Internally Displaced People (Mozambique)
PFM	Public Financial Management
PROGRESS	Periodic Global Reports on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement
ReDSS	Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat
RRC	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (South Sudan)
SNBS	Somali National Bureau of Statistics
SPLA-IO	Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMISS	The UN Mission in South Sudan
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROGRESS, the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement, was launched in 2023 to provide evidence on the conditions that enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to move toward—and eventually achieve—durable solutions. An initiative of the IOM Global Data Institute and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), PROGRESS is designed to support governments, development and humanitarian actors, host communities and IDPs themselves in improving solutions outcomes for internal displacement.

PROGRESS 25 builds on the previous two PROGRESS studies which were based on a multi-regional data analysis of household surveys in 15+ countries.

The reports found that:

- IDPs continue to face specific vulnerabilities compared to non-displaced households, with female-headed households often experiencing heightened risks and vulnerabilities.
- Adequate housing, livelihoods, and security were the main factors shaping IDPs' durable solution intentions.
- Most IDPs reported feeling safe in their current locations, though some continue to face protection risks, particularly in informal settings.
- A majority preferred to remain in their locations of displacement rather than return home — a trend more pronounced among those displaced by disasters than by conflict.
- As displacement becomes more prolonged, employment and livelihoods have gained importance alongside safety and security as key determinants influencing IDPs' solution intentions.

PROGRESS 2025

PROGRESS 25 focuses on one region—East, Horn and Southern Africa (EHSA) which hosts over 25 million IDPs who are in different phases of displacement—namely, 14.8 million IDPs in displacement locations and 10.7 million IDP returnees.¹ Countries in this region have a long history of conflict-related internal displacement. Over the past decade, the number of IDPs has steadily increased, resulting in large numbers throughout the region. These displacement patterns reflect diverse conflict dynamics in the region, including communal clashes and large-scale conflicts, such as the current displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recurring violence in Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Disaster-related displacement has also risen as communities flee floods, droughts and cyclones. In some cases, disasters have affected communities also experiencing conflict, and there are instances where resource scarcity due to drought has exacerbated tensions and contributed to conflict.

The compilation of multi-regional data² for previous editions of PROGRESS highlighted the presence of robust household level survey data in the region with details on displacement histories, demographic information, durable solution intentions and the related factors. This year's report seeks to harness this information base to understand the factors associated with IDPs' intentions to find durable solutions and, more specifically, to consider outcomes related to **local integration** including **livelihoods, housing, access to education, health care and other services**. The report also considers whether prior patterns identified in earlier PROGRESS reports are applicable to selected EHSA countries included in this study: **Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia and South Sudan**.

¹ Regional displacement figures are based on IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) and the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\)](#) estimates.

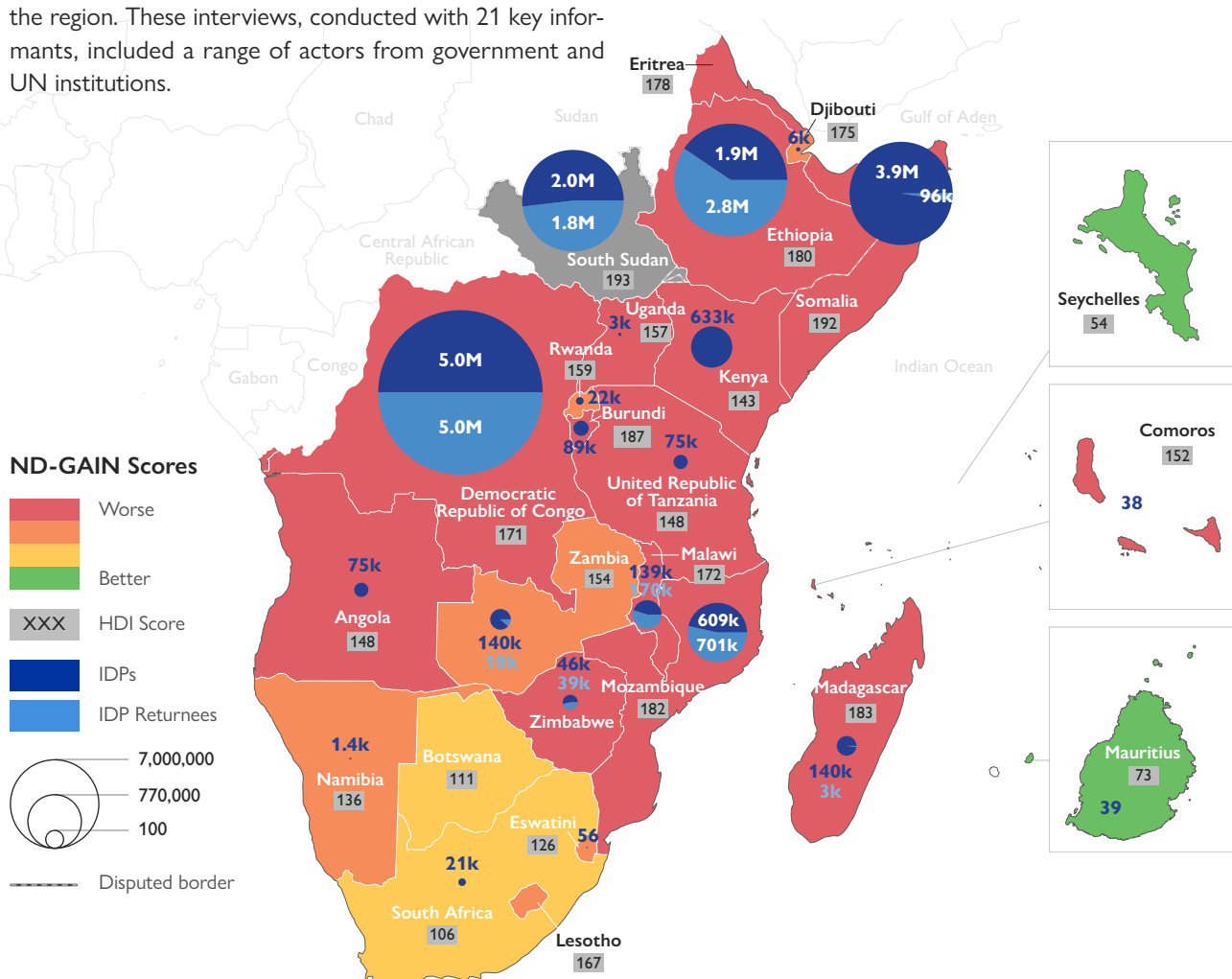
² PROGRESS 2024 datasets inventory: <https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/progress2024/PROGRESS24%20Datsets.pdf>

These four countries have faced repeated waves of conflict and violent events, compounded by cyclical droughts, floods and other disasters caused by natural hazards. Porous borders and prolonged state fragility have created a highly mobile landscape, making this region particularly relevant for understanding and measuring progress toward durable solutions. A regional focus allows for unpacking nuances at both national and sub-national levels. Such analysis can support sub-national, area-based coordination for improved response as recommended in the 2024 IASC Independent Review of Displacement.³ As highlighted in last year's edition, some countries in the EHSA region have demonstrated strong government leadership in advancing durable solutions processes.

PROGRESS 25 is based on household surveys in a variety of EHSA countries, including 2024 multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) data, 2023 and 2024 DTM intention and durable solutions surveys, as well as key informant interviews with thematic experts carried out by IOM in the region. These interviews, conducted with 21 key informants, included a range of actors from government and UN institutions.

To further deepen the analysis, the report includes a **spotlight on Somalia**, highlighting the government's notable initiatives to support IDPs and its leadership in advancing comprehensive data collection efforts.

This report begins with an overview of displacement across the region, followed by a chapter on the measurement and conceptual challenges with IDP integration, reviewing previous efforts to define and measure it, as well as the factors that enable the achievement of durable solutions. Subsequent sections analyse a combined dataset from countries in East, Horn and Southern Africa, complemented by case studies from Burundi, Mozambique, and South Sudan, and a spotlight on Somalia. Where data allows, the analysis compares IDPs, IDP returnees and host populations across key indicators and examines differences between conflict- and disaster-related displacement, highlighting how variations in living conditions shape progress toward durable solutions.



DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration. SOURCE: IOM, ND-GAIN, HDI, IDMC, ESRI, HDX.

3 IASC. *Independent Review of the Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement*. 2024. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/independent-review-humanitarian-response-internal-displacement>

DURABLE SOLUTIONS: MEASUREMENT AND CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES WITH IDP INTEGRATION

Durable solutions—local integration, return and relocation—are the pathways outlined in the *Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement*⁴ and in the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*.⁵ While most governments and policies assume that IDPs will eventually return to their communities,⁶ PROGRESS 24 found that in fact, most IDPs intend to remain where they are, especially as displacement becomes protracted. Given the importance of local integration, PROGRESS 25 set out to examine this pattern of local integration at the regional level including the factors that are correlated with the integration process.

While durable solutions are often equated with movements that can be ‘counted’—return or relocation—this proves challenging for local integration as there is no distinct movement marking the start of the solutions pathway. A person does not become (re)integrated into a community the moment they arrive—whether through return or relocation—or when they decide to remain where they are, in the case of local integration.

4 The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, the principal normative framework for IDPs, do not use the term durable solutions but, in line with the theme of sovereignty as responsibility, emphasise that “the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country lies with the authorities of affected countries.” United Nations, *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. Principle 28(1). 1998. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/guiding-principles-internal-displacement-0>

5 Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) *Framework on Durable Solutions*. 2010. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

6 For example, an earlier study found that of 142 Security Council resolutions mentioning displacement and 100 mentioning solutions, only two referred to local integration and six to resettlement, while the rest referred to return. Ferris, Elizabeth, and Susan Martin Weerasinghe. “The U.N. Security Council and Prevention of Displacement.” Brookings, December 1, 2012. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-u-n-security-council-and-prevention-of-displacement/>.



South Sudan - Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site

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All durable solutions pathways are **multi-dimensional processes** that involve at least eight criteria: safety and security, adequate standard of living, access to livelihoods and mechanisms to restore land and property, personal documentation, family reunification, participation in political life and access to justice.⁷ There have been many efforts to develop durable solutions indicators, particularly by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) and the Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Working Group. One shortcoming in the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions and its eight criteria is the lack of reference to social relationships with the host community as an important factor for durable solutions. The PROGRESS 25 analysis considers core indicators of these criteria alongside some measures of social cohesion with host communities to assess progress towards solutions.



Social relationships and host community perceptions are often as crucial to IDP integration as material resources.

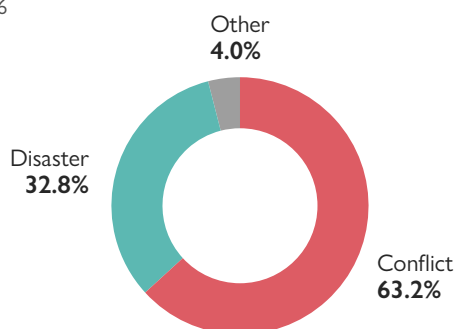
⁷ Expert Group on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) (2020), <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS IN THE EHSA REGION

Figure 1.1 IDP profile overview in 5 countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and South Sudan

Type of Displacement

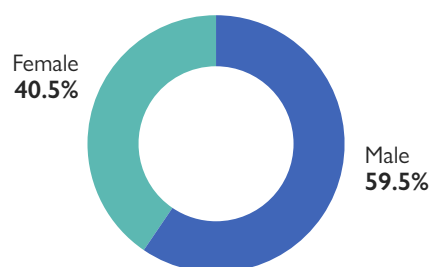
N=16,866



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Sex breakdown of household heads

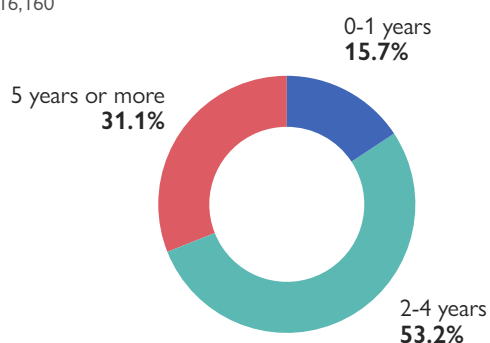
N=12,053



Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Duration of displacement

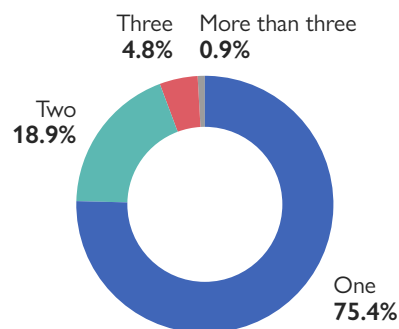
N=16,160



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia

Number of displacements

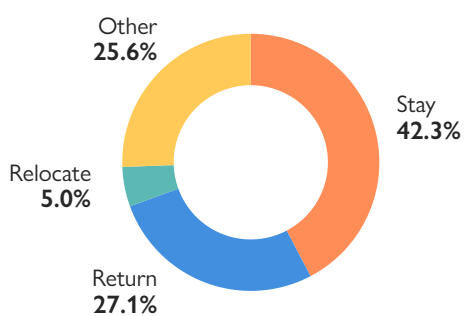
N=5,527



Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Durable solutions preferences

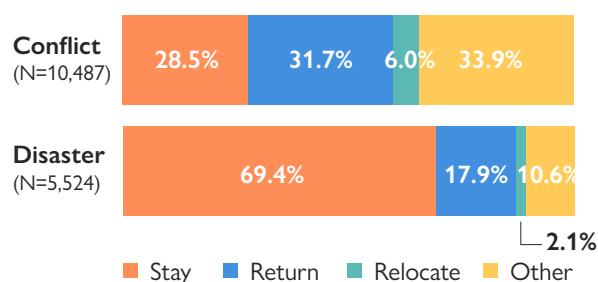
N=16,679



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Preferred durable solution by type of displacement

N=16,011



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia

Note: The 'Other' category includes no plan, don't know and prefer not to answer

In the total sample, close to two-thirds of households were displaced by conflict and more than half (53.2%) have been displaced between 2 and 4 years. Three in five (59.5%) of households are male headed. While most IDPs (75.4%) have been displaced only once, nearly a quarter have experienced multiple displacement, with 18.9 per cent reporting being displaced two times and less than 6 per cent indicating they have been displaced three or more times.

Overall, a large proportion of IDPs indicate an intention to stay in their current location (42.3%). This is followed by an intention to return (27.1%) and relocate (5.0%). It is important to note that one-quarter of households reported uncertainty about their intentions or preferred not to answer (25.6%, *Other*). This compares with the finding in PROGRESS 24, based on a larger multi-regional sample, that 60.4 per cent of IDPs intend to remain where they are.

Table 1.1 compares durable solutions intentions with duration of displacement. For all displaced households, the intention to remain increases from 49.6 per cent for those displaced for up to one year to 56.0 per cent for those

displaced for 5 or more years. The intention to return drops as the duration of displacement rises, but the intention to relocate increases from 3.8 to 6.4 per cent. Uncertainty about solutions also increases among households displaced for longer than 1 year.

While the findings for the five EHSA countries regarding solution intentions largely parallel the findings in the global PROGRESS 24 report, there are some outliers and important contextual considerations as evidenced in the country-level data analysis for Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan and Somalia outlined in chapter five. For example, while 42.3 per cent of IDPs in the region indicate a preference to remain where they are, the country-level analysis highlights that in South Sudan fewer IDPs prefer to stay, whereas more IDPs from other countries indicate they want to remain where they are. Preferences to stay also differ for conflict-displaced than disaster-displaced households.

The following section aggregates the key takeaways from PROGRESS 25 and suggests recommendations to support durable solutions for IDPs in the region.

Table 1.1 Percentage of durable solution intentions by duration of displacement: Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Somalia

Intentions	0-1 years	2-4 years	5 years or more
Stay	49.6	33.0	56.0
Return	33.1	30.4	13.9
Relocate	3.8	4.5	6.4
Other	13.4	32.1	23.6
Total N	100.0 (2,529)	100.0 (8,464)	100.0 (4,885)

Note: South Sudan is excluded due to a lack of data on duration of displacement. The 'Other' category includes no plan, don't know and prefer not to answer.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Nyanza Lac, Burundi. Portrait of Céline.

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Context matters

Displacement in the region is ongoing and recurrent, with disaster events—exacerbated by climate change and sometimes linked to conflict—contributing significantly. But there are significant differences in IDP intentions between countries.

When considering the combined durable solution intentions for IDPs in five countries, four in ten (42%) IDP households intend to remain in their current location. The country case study analysis shows that while the preference for local integration persists in Burundi and Somalia, in Mozambique more than half (56%) of IDP households reported having no plan at the time of assessment. In South Sudan, MSNA data indicates that return has been the preferred solution for the past three years (55% in 2024).

Analysis at the sub-national level is key

Within countries, there are significant differences between sub-national areas and the impact of displacement in each. Data on access to health services in South Sudan indicates that IDP households in states where they constitute 33 per cent or more of the state population had greater access to healthcare compared to households in states hosting a smaller share of IDPs (71 vs. 62%). Differences also exist by type of displacement. In Mozambique, the experiences and perceptions of IDPs living in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, primarily displaced by conflict, differ from those living in the central and southern provinces, such as Sofala, where displacement is linked to climate and disasters. Measuring progress towards solutions at the sub-national level is useful for uncovering differences between areas that may be geographically close, culturally similar or share comparable displacement contexts, yet exhibit significant variation in their solutions context. Data in Somalia revealed marked differences across neighbourhoods within cities, and across different cities. For example, indicators capturing IDPs' perceptions of integration with the host community reveal marked differences within Jubaland state, ranging from 81 per cent in Kismaayo to just 39 per cent in Baardheere. This could be especially critical in terms of the operationalisation and costing of national durable solution strategies and policies by local authorities.

IDPs are worse off than host communities—sometimes

Comparative analysis of IDP, IDP returnee and host households at the sub-national level provides insights into households' living conditions along the IASC durable solutions criteria for all groups in displacement-affected areas. In South Sudan, IDP households were less likely to have secure types of shelter than IDP returnee and host households (33.2 vs. 61.9 vs. 62%). Where it is clear that IDP households are particularly disadvantaged, targeted interventions are most fitting to help them reach parity with the host community. There are instances, however, where all three groups experience the same vulnerabilities, requiring development-oriented interventions that accelerate recovery and strengthen the long-term resilience of the entire community. For example, in South Sudan, while more than 60 per cent of households reported having access to healthcare, less than half—across the three groups—report being able to afford healthcare. Similarly, in Somalia, inadequate housing and sustainable employment were identified as challenges by more than one-third of both IDPs and host communities, suggesting the importance of investments directed towards rebuilding the local economy and improving housing for the whole community.

Gender also matters

Gender plays an important role, especially in some countries. Female-headed households comprised the largest group of IDPs in the EHSA region (51.3%). In South Sudan, fewer female- than male-headed IDP households reported being able to afford healthcare while more female- than male-headed households had a higher rate of land allocated to them. Although fewer gender differences were documented in Mozambique or Burundi, gender differences also emerge in Somalia where more women than men are illiterate and have no formal education.

In Somalia, gender is a significant factor in advancing toward solutions among IDPs. Across the country, only 38 per cent of female-headed IDP households had overcome most of their displacement-related vulnerabilities, compared with 45 per cent of male-headed households. Additionally, female-headed households were less likely to have access to education than male-headed households. With respect to livelihoods, fewer female- than male-headed households reported agricultural pursuits, but more female heads reported livelihoods related to precarious activities. And among IDP and host households, more male than female household heads reported feeling welcomed and accepted in their current residence.

Most IDPs in the countries studied have access to healthcare and education

This is an encouraging finding. Coupled with the finding in PROGRESS 24 that most IDPs feel safe in their current location, this suggests that the policies and programmes of governments and agencies have produced positive outcomes. At the same time, many displaced children remain out of school, and the cost of health care continues to pose a significant barrier for many IDPs.

At least three-quarters of IDP, IDP returnee and host households in Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique, reported that their household healthcare needs were met. In South Sudan, over 60 per cent of households across the three groups reported having access to healthcare. However, less than half of those with access—across all three population groups—report being able to afford healthcare. In Burundi 70.9 per cent of households reported they can sometimes afford healthcare and 19.2 per cent that they can never afford it.

Progress is observed in access to healthcare and education, yet a shelter gap persists

Gaps in access to shelter persist, as observed in Burundi, where over half of IDP households reported their shelter as acceptable or suitable (57.7%), about one-third reported having moderately vulnerable (35.1%) and seven per cent indicated having vulnerable shelter types, based on the lack of durable building materials (i.e. straw shelters and tents), which reflects the environmental resilience of households. Across all provinces in Mozambique, a much lower percentage of IDP households report owning their homes or shelters compared to host or returnee households.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are directed at a range of **stakeholders**, including **governmental authorities, international humanitarian and development actors, civil society organisations, IDP associations** and the **private sector**. While stakeholders have distinctive mandates and capacities, working in support of common principles can facilitate more integrated, accountable and coordinated approaches to resolving displacement.

While most of these recommendations will sound familiar to those working on solutions for internal displacement, they reinforce the directions established by the UN Special Advisor on Solutions to Development and build on previous PROGRESS reports. The fact that the same ideas are being echoed by multiple researchers, policymakers and practitioners—including this evidence-based study of one particular African sub-region—indicate that system-level shifts in ways of working have not yet been fully realised.

1. Recognise displacement as a long-term development challenge from the outset

Governments and partners should move away from treating displacement as a short-term humanitarian issue and instead plan from the outset for sustained, multi-year engagement that enables integrated service delivery across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN). Solutions require time and they should therefore be integrated into national development plans, sectoral strategies and budgets. Development actors must be engaged in creating conditions for local integration, return or resettlement, leveraging specific expertise in areas such as agricultural development, sustainable urbanisation, and capacity development for local governments and communities to address long-term IDP concerns. Donors should align with this shift by increasing predictable, multi-year financing for durable solutions and by adapting funding mechanisms to incentivise integration of displacement into broader development planning and investment.

2. Invest in inclusive, community driven area-based programmes

These programmes should serve both IDPs (including IDP returnees) and host communities on the basis of need and monitoring to ensure that neither IDPs nor host communities are left out. Poverty and lack of financial resources is an issue for all groups, and addressing poverty—and targeting those most in need—is a central tenet of development action. Access to essential services, livelihoods, skills development support, housing and land, and relations with host communities in places which are safe, are important to both IDPs and the host community. To be effective, these programmes must be supported by consistent, multi-year financing—including through development cooperation, climate finance, and pooled funding mechanisms—to bridge humanitarian and development efforts and sustain impact over time. Area-based approaches also offer the opportunity to incorporate more disaster preparedness and climate-sensitivity into assistance programmes.

3. Prioritise climate resilience and environmental sustainability

Integrate climate risks into durable solutions initiatives and frameworks. Solutions programming must support climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable land and resource management, ensuring that displaced and host populations can build resilience. In some contexts, mobility as an adaptation strategy (for example, through planned relocation) also needs support as a way to adapt to climate impacts and prevent displacement. To sustain these efforts, countries should advocate for global climate finance mechanisms—including adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage funds—to cover interventions that address climate mobility (displacement, migration and planned relocation). Countries should also be equipped to access and channel climate finance, especially funding to respond to loss and damage, to displacement-affected communities, particularly those facing irreversible climate impacts.

4. Anticipate and address the protection needs of IDPs

Beyond immediate humanitarian assistance, IDPs often face distinct and evolving protection needs linked to displacement. Ensuring access to civil documentation and registration is crucial, as these form the basis for exercising human rights, participating in civic life, and accessing services and justice. Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues, such as land disputes and tenure insecurity, and the loss of assets must also be addressed to support safe, voluntary, and sustainable solutions. This includes providing accessible legal aid, mediation, and mechanisms for restitution or compensation. Particular attention must be paid to the protection needs of women and other groups at risk of exclusion, including children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and minorities.

5. Promote governmental efforts—both national and sub-national—to support local integration

Governments, local authorities and other stakeholders should not assume that IDPs will quickly return to their communities of origin—rather, many will remain in their areas of displacement for some time, likely years. If IDPs choose to return, that right must be affirmed and supported. But as displacement continues and IDPs begin to incrementally integrate, more IDPs may choose to remain where they are. Economic integration and a sense of community belonging among IDPs are vital. Government-led

frameworks, strategies and costed action plans are essential. Policies and structures at national and sub-national level should be reviewed to incorporate IDPs into development plans, but developing policies is only the first step. Success depends on practical implementation, actionable plans, and decentralised decision-making.

6. Government investment in livelihoods, financial inclusion, and market-based opportunities that benefit both IDPs and host communities as important catalysts

This includes tackling barriers to the establishment, growth, and competitiveness of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, and supporting secure land tenure in agricultural contexts. Alongside support to job creation, private sector engagement should include partnerships that drive investment, value chains, and skills development.

7. Promote community cohesion, particularly amongst IDPs and host communities by ensuring service provision is inclusive, transparent and accountable to affected populations

PROGRESS 25 finds that relations between IDPs and host communities are generally positive, but there may be untapped resources within the host communities that could facilitate IDP integration. For example, PROGRESS 24 found that women's groups and community organisations may serve as bridge-builders. Regular monitoring of social cohesion and trust indicators is needed to identify and address tensions early. Investments should focus on inclusive service delivery, participatory decision-making, and conflict-sensitive programming so that both IDPs and host populations benefit, and solutions contribute to broader peace and development outcomes. To ensure effective representation of IDPs in development planning processes, IDPs should be supported to form inclusive representative associations and to advocate for seats at the table. Host communities supporting displaced households need to be brought into discussions at an early stage.

8. Engage multilateral development banks and development financial institutions

Their engagement is essential to support the shift from addressing displacement mainly as a humanitarian concern to recognising it as a development issue. They should leverage their expertise to provide long-term, concessional financing for infrastructure, livelihoods, and social protection systems that include displaced populations, while also supporting national strategies and multi-sectoral planning. Climate and disaster finance should be mobilised to address displacement drivers. Through policy-based financing to strengthen accountability, governance and inclusion, as well as technical assistance and advocacy, MDBs and DFIs can help catalyse private sector investment in displacement-affected areas, integrate displacement into broader development frameworks, and ensure that IDPs are not only protected but also empowered to rebuild their lives sustainably.

9. Government leadership and appropriate coordination mechanisms remain essential

Effective programming to support durable solutions depends on whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and development-oriented approaches. Governments must lead the response and establish inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms to ensure multi-sectoral implementation of solutions. Local authorities should be empowered to play a leading role, especially in urban displacement contexts. Their efforts should be guided by a comprehensive solutions strategy that is developed through a consultative and inclusive process that prioritises the views, needs, capacities and preferences of IDPs and local communities. The strategy should set out how relevant ministries and different levels of government will collaborate with local stakeholders and civil society to facilitate solutions that are locally led and nationally supported, while also addressing the needs of host communities and other groups affected by displacement. At the national level, UN Resident Coordinators should lead a coordinated UN system response, supporting and strengthening locally led processes, with additional backing from the UN Solutions Hub, champion agencies and broader international partners.

10. Further research is needed

PROGRESS 25 identifies areas where further research is needed. Sub-national analysis that considers the proportion of IDPs and IDP returnees within the overall population of an area can provide people-centred and operationally relevant insights that inform localised strategies and planning. Such analysis should also take into account urban-rural differences; most IDPs in Burundi, for example, live in rural areas and depend on agricultural work for their livelihoods, while the vast majority of IDPs in Somalia live in urban areas. More efforts are also needed to systematically capture disaggregated data by gender, age, disability and other diversity factors to capture varying needs and capacities of different IDP groups. Understanding these differences is key to designing equitable and protection-sensitive approaches to durable solutions. Given the limited availability of data on duration of displacement, current analysis indicates that duration significantly influences intentions for durable solutions; therefore, consistent data collection on this variable is essential, particularly in protracted displacement contexts. Furthermore, in all four countries, relations between IDPs and host populations are generally good, and it would be useful to further explore the impact of social cohesion on progress towards durable solutions. In Burundi, for example, IDPs who reported positive relations were more likely to report that they intended to stay where they are.

A woman wearing a red headscarf and a green dress with white polka dots is applying mud to a wall. She is looking up and to the right. The wall is made of mud and has some wooden poles attached to it. In the background, there are other people and a wooden structure.

Achieving durable solutions
requires long-term commitment,
locally grounded action, and
development-driven approaches.

Through a cash-based intervention activity, 200 families in Baidoa received technical support to construct transitional shelters and be better protected from the elements. The community took the lead in the shelter design and construction, building shelters that met their needs and preferences.

© IOM Somalia 2021

01

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRESS





Dykes and Water Treatment in Rubkona, South Sudan. Seasonal rains have always posed a threat of flooding and displacement. Innovative responses to climate-induced displacement can help support communities and foster self-reliance.

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INTRODUCTION TO PROGRESS

PROGRESS, the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement, was launched in 2023 to provide evidence on conditions that enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to move toward—and eventually achieve—durable solutions.

An initiative of IOM's Global Data Institute and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), PROGRESS is intended to support governments, development and humanitarian actors, host communities and IDPs themselves to improve solutions outcomes for internal displacement.



Margret, inside her home, repaired with support from IOM in South Sudan.

© IOM 2020

PROGRESS IN THE BROADER FRAME OF SUPPORTING DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR IDPs

The PROGRESS initiative responded to efforts of the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement (2022–2024) which was a catalyst in spearheading international agencies to seriously engage on the issue of durable solutions. It is intended to build on the work carried out by the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Working Group in conceptualising the process through which IDPs are moving toward solutions. In particular, the Working Group has stressed the importance of solutions pathways. Both DSID and PROGRESS complement the *IASC Framework for Durable Solutions*⁸ and the important *International Recommendations on IDP Statistics* (IRIS) from the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS);⁹ they emphasise that efforts to improve IDP solutions outcomes must follow a tailored, effective process, keeping the full resolution of an IDP's displacement firmly at the centre of all efforts. They further recognise that data are needed to capture an IDPs' entry onto a solutions pathway, to measure progress toward durable solutions, and to determine when an individual has resolved their displacement-related vulnerabilities. UNDP has also contributed development indicators associated with solutions to the DSID process.¹⁰ This report builds on these initiatives by contributing an evidence base to inform policies that advance solutions for IDPs.

8 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*. 2010. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

9 Expert Group on Statistics for Refugees, IDPs, and Statelessness Statistics. *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics* (EGRIS). 2020. <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>

10 UNDP, "Monitoring Progress toward Solutions to Internal Displacement: A Development-Oriented Indicator Framework" (September 2024), <https://www.undp.org/publications/monitoring-progress-towards-solutions-internal-displacement-development-oriented-indicator-framework>

Building on PROGRESS 23 and PROGRESS 24

In earlier years, PROGRESS used a range of data sources, particularly household intention surveys and Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs) carried out by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and REACH for 17 countries. The first report, PROGRESS 23,¹¹ provided evidence that IDPs have a range of additional vulnerabilities that non-displaced populations do not have, and that there are important differences between male- and female-headed households. Furthermore, the length of displacement is associated with IDPs' choice of solutions. Both adequate housing and economic security were also linked to IDPs' progress toward solutions. PROGRESS 23 also highlighted that IDPs in camps report greater security risks than those living in host communities, although most IDPs in PROGRESS 24 reported that they felt safe in their current locations.

PROGRESS 24¹² unpacked the differences and similarities in solutions intentions between IDPs displaced by conflict and those displaced by disasters. In contrast to most governments' policies, a majority of IDPs intended to remain in their current locations than return to their homes. This preference to stay was higher for those displaced by disasters but, for both conflict- and disaster-displaced, the intention to stay increased the longer IDPs were displaced. While safety and security remained primary concerns associated with solutions intentions, the importance of employment and livelihoods grew significantly over the duration of displacement.

11 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, *PROGRESS 2023: Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions for Internal Displacement* (2023), <https://dtm.iom.int/progress-2023>

12 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, *PROGRESS 2024: Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions for Internal Displacement* (2024), <https://dtm.iom.int/progress-2024>

PROGRESS 25

PROGRESS 25 seeks to dive deeper into countries in one region—East, Horn and Southern Africa (EHSA)—to understand the factors associated with IDP’s intentions to find durable solutions and, more specifically to consider outcomes related to local integration of IDPs, including livelihoods, housing, and access to education, health care and other services. The report also considers whether prior patterns identified in earlier PROGRESS reports are applicable to selected EHSA countries included in this study: Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia and South Sudan. PROGRESS 25 is based on household surveys for a variety of countries, including MSNA data from 2023 and 2024, DTM intention and durable solution surveys, and key informant interviews with thematic experts. Interviews with 21 key informants inform the country case studies, key takeaways and recommendations. To deepen the analysis, PROGRESS 25 includes a spotlight on Somalia where the government has taken significant efforts to support IDPs and to lead on collection of a wide range of data.

This report begins with an overview of displacement in the region, followed by a chapter on local integration, including discussion of prior efforts by others to define—and measure—local integration and the factors related to it. This is followed by an analysis of combined datasets from countries in East, Horn and Southern Africa, and case studies of Burundi, Mozambique, and South Sudan, and a spotlight on Somalia. When possible, the analysis compares IDP and host populations on a range of factors and assesses differences in IDPs displaced by conflict and disasters. The report concludes with a summary of overarching findings and programme implications.



IOM built mud brick shelters for Somalis displaced to Dolow region due to drought and conflict. The mud brick shelters are better suited to the dry, hot weather of Dolow region, keeping the families safe from high temperatures in summer.

© IOM 2024/Raber Aziz

COLLECTIVE PROGRESS TOWARDS BETTER DATA FOR SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Working Group is a global inter-agency effort to improve the quality and availability of data to inform long-term solutions programming. Established under the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, it evolved from a time-bound task force (convened in late 2021) that put forward comprehensive recommendations in early 2023 on strengthening data to support solutions. These [DSID recommendations](#) outlined a common framework and coordination model to address data gaps (aligned with international standards like IRIS) and were swiftly adopted as the basis for the DSID Working Group. Co-chaired by IOM and UNDP, the group was launched in mid-2023 to drive collective action—fostering coordination among humanitarian, development and government data actors, promoting shared methodologies, and providing advisory support to pilot countries on implementing the DSID framework. In essence, the DSID Working Group serves as the primary global forum uniting relevant data stakeholders to pursue a more coherent, evidence-based approach to operational data for solutions.

Country-level implementation of DSID guidance has been underway in various contexts, illustrating progress and innovation in data for solutions. In **Mozambique**, a diagnostic tool was completed in early 2025 through the Data for Solutions workstream established under the joint project funded by the [Internal Displacement Solutions Fund](#). The diagnostic exercise mapped existing data systems, identified gaps in interoperability and alignment with IRIS standards, and proposed concrete steps to strengthen data processes for solutions. This work has laid the foundation for

establishing a framework to measure progress toward durable solutions against the National Policies and Strategy for the Management of Internally Displaced People (PEGDI). In **Somalia**, with strong government leadership, a dedicated Data for Solutions sub-working group was established to coordinate government, UN and NGO efforts under the Solutions Pathway Action Plan, and a comprehensive Durable Solutions Progress Survey was launched to guide area-based programming and policy. The Working Group has made significant progress in other countries outside of the region, such as Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Nigeria. Across these pilots, the DSID framework's two components—addressing data gaps via common measures and increasing national ownership of data—are being tailored to context, resulting in new coordination forums, joint data assessments, and improved data coherence that enable more evidence-based decision-making on displacement solutions at the country level.

Following a round of consultations with stakeholders, the Working Group released a [Revised DSID Initiative](#). This updated DSID 2.0 refines the framework and coordination model based on lessons learned from country implementation. It places greater emphasis on practical guidance on operational data and the importance of alignment with national priorities. The DSID WG's mandate has thus been renewed and strengthened to move beyond knowledge exchange towards more action-oriented support. With these adjustments, DSID continues to exist as a platform that will serve the UN system to use high-quality, shared data as a foundation for achieving sustainable solutions to internal displacement.

02

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN EAST, HORN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



Adult literacy classes in IDP settlements in Wau, South Sudan. In displacement settings, literacy is a vital tool for economic independence and social inclusion, helping individuals rebuild their lives with greater confidence and opportunities.

© IOM 2024/Muse Mohammed

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN EAST, HORN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

East, Horn and Southern Africa hosts over 25 million IDPs who are in different phases of displacement—namely, 14.8 million IDPs in displacement locations and 10.7 million IDP returnees.¹³ Around 64 per cent of IDPs in the EHSA region are displaced by conflict, followed by disasters (25%) and other reasons (11%). Many, it should be noted, experience both conflict and disaster-related displacement. Key stakeholders from the region now consider that climate is increasingly becoming a factor in community conflicts and tensions. Compared to the global average, IDPs living in the region are younger (17 vs. 22.2 years global average); less likely to reside in urban areas (7.6 vs. 13.3% global average), have lower life expectancy (62.9 vs. 69.7 years global average) and have a lower mean of years spent in schooling (5.3 vs. 6.9 years global average).¹⁴

As of August 2025, the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosts the largest number of IDPs in the region, with over 5 million displaced by conflict (85%) and disasters (15%).¹⁵ Furthermore, multiple countries in the region have been impacted by the conflict in Sudan, which, as of September 2025, has resulted in 9.6 million IDPs and 2.1 million IDP returnees, with 3 million having fled to neighbouring countries, including South Sudan and Ethiopia—two countries with their own sizeable IDP populations. Although Sudan is outside the scope of this report,¹⁶ the scale of displacement, the difficulties faced by humanitarian agencies in accessing displaced populations, its impact on surrounding countries, and the failure of efforts to bring an end to the conflict make it the worst humanitarian crisis on the continent.

In addition, more than 10.7 million IDP returnees¹⁷ across the region continue to bear displacement-related vulnerabilities. Despite their significant numbers, data on IDP returnees remain patchy, and as a result, they are often overlooked in displacement analysis and response planning.

EHSA countries have a long history of conflict-related internal displacement, with IDP numbers steadily rising over the past decade. Displacement reflects conflict dynamics, including communal clashes and large-scale conflicts, such as the current displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recurring violence in Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Mozambique (See Map 1.1 with displacement by country). Disaster-related displacement has also risen as people flee floods, droughts and cyclones. In some cases, disasters have affected communities also experiencing conflict, and there are instances where resource scarcity due to drought has exacerbated tensions and contributed to conflict.

13 Regional displacement figures are based on IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) and the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\)](#) estimates.

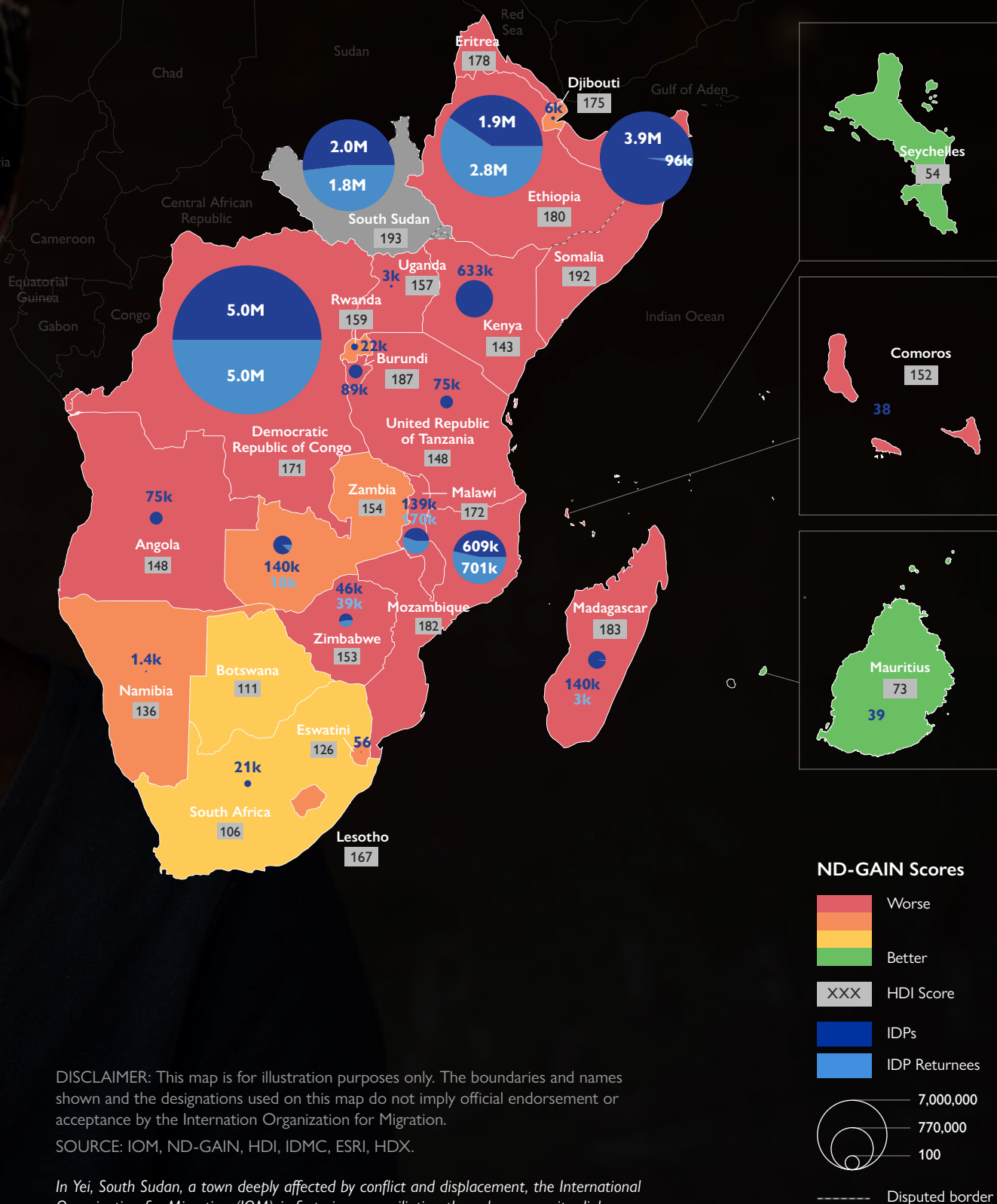
14 International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). 2025. Global Profile for Internal Displacements (GPID). <https://dtm.iom.int/global-profiles-for-internal-displacement/gpid/index.html>

15 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sep 05 2025 – Internal Displacement Overview 2025. IOM, Democratic Republic of Congo. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/drc-internal-displacement-overview-2025>

16 Sudan is part of the Middle East and North Africa IOM regional designation

17 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Global internal database as of December 2024.

Map 2.1 Internal Displacement, climate vulnerability and Human Development Index overview in East, Horn and Southern Africa



DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

SOURCE: IOM, ND-GAIN, HDI, IDMC, ESRI, HDX.

In Yei, South Sudan, a town deeply affected by conflict and displacement, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is fostering reconciliation through community dialogues, skills training, and social cohesion activities.

03

DURABLE SOLUTIONS:
MEASUREMENT AND
CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES
WITH IDP INTEGRATION





IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix staff conducting the Mobility Tracking Assessment in Corrane resettlement site in Mozambique.

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DURABLE SOLUTIONS: MEASUREMENT AND CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES WITH IDP INTEGRATION

Durable solutions—local integration, return and relocation—are outlined in the *Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement*¹⁸ and in the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*.¹⁹ While most governments and policies assume that IDPs will return to their communities²⁰, PROGRESS 24 found that in fact, most IDPs intend to remain where they are, especially as displacement becomes protracted. Given the importance of local integration, PROGRESS 25 set out to examine local integration in the ESHA region and consider factors that correlate with integration.

While local integration remains important in the ESHA region, the PROGRESS 25 analysis reveals many IDPs are also uncertain about their intentions due to persistent insecurity in areas of origin as well as their areas of displacement. As discussed in the Burundi case study, uncertainty is also exacerbated by the lack of financial resources and government guarantees to pursue solutions options (e.g. land allocation). When movement, either to return or relocate, is not a possible solution pathway, local integration becomes the more feasible option.²¹

A durable solution is achieved:
“when internally displaced
persons no longer have any
specific assistance and protection
needs that are linked to their
displacement and can enjoy
their human rights without
discrimination on account of their
displacement.”

IASC Framework on Durable Solutions

18 The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the principal normative framework for IDPs, do not use the term durable solutions but, in line with the theme of sovereignty as responsibility, emphasise that “the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country lies with the authorities of affected countries.” United Nations, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Principle 28(1). 1998. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/guiding-principles-internal-displacement-0>

19 Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions. 2010. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

20 For example, an earlier study found that of 142 Security Council resolutions mentioning displacement and 100 that mentioned solutions, only 2 referred to local integration. Ferris, Elizabeth, and Susan Martin Weerasinghe. “The U.N. Security Council and Prevention of Displacement.” Brookings, December 1, 2012, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-u-n-security-council-and-prevention-of-displacement/>

21 There are examples on the preference for local integration from other parts of the world. For example, an IOM report on Ukraine found that “those considering local integration at their displacement site are as much driven by the absence of alternative options as they are by a sense of satisfaction at belonging in their area of displacement.” IOM Ukraine. *From Place to Place. Community Perceptions of Displacement and Durable Solutions in Ukraine* (2024), <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ukraine-research-report-place-place-community-perception-displacement-and-durable-solutions>. Similarly, Colombian IDPs expressed a desire to return home but felt that it would be impossible given the lack of security in their communities of origin and thus had decided to stay where they are. IOM. *Displacement Tracking Matrix. Navigating the Effects of Displacement in Colombia: Insights from Internally Displaced, Host Communities and Returnee Populations* (2024), https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/reports/Colombia%20-%20FGD_Final.pdf

8 criteria are used as benchmarks for measuring progress toward solutions



Long-term safety, security, and freedom of movement. This includes protection from violence and intimidation, the absence of mines and unexploded ordnance, and improved overall security.



Adequate standard of living. This encompasses access to basic needs like food, water, shelter, healthcare, sanitation, and education.



Access to livelihoods and employment. Ensuring opportunities for IDPs to earn a living and participate in the economy.



Access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land, and property (HLP). This includes restoring access to property or providing compensation.



Access to personal and other documentation. Ensuring IDPs have access to necessary identification and documentation.



Family reunification. Facilitating the reunification of families separated during displacement.



Participation in public affairs. Ensuring IDPs can participate in decisions that affect their lives.



Access to remedies and justice. Providing access to effective mechanisms for redress and accountability for displacement-related violations.

While the term integration is widely used in the humanitarian community with reference to IDPs, integration through inclusion into a community can be defined in several ways. Studies on refugees and migrants have established the ways in which integration is an endpoint to displacement and mobility.²² IOM describes successful integration as “a dynamic and multi-directional process that involves mutual adaptation of migrants and of the host society, based on principles of protection of fundamental rights, respect, tolerance and non-discrimination. It is a multi-dimensional issue that covers migrants’ inclusion in economic, psychological, social, linguistic, navigational, and civic spheres, as well as empowering host communities and other local actors to receive and engage with migrants.”²³

As return and relocation remain constrained, local integration stands out as the most feasible path to durable solutions for many IDPs in the EHSA region.

22 See for example, Alison Strang and Alistair Ager, “Refugee Integration: Emerging Trends and Remaining Agendas,” *Journal of Refugee Studies* 23, no. 4 (2010): 589–607; Katharine M. Donato and Elizabeth G. Ferris, “Refugee Integration in the US, Canada, and the US: Perspectives from Research,” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 690, no. 1 (2020): 7–26; Richard Alba and Nancy Foner, *Strangers no more: Immigration and the challenges of integration in North America and Western Europe*. 2015. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press; Alexandra Fielden, *Local Integration: An Under-Reported Solution in Protracted Refugee Situations*. Research Paper no. 158 (Geneva: UNHCR, 2008); Stewart Smyth, Emma Stewart, and Sylvia Da Lomba, “Introduction: Critical Reflections on Refugee Integration: Lessons from International Perspectives,” *Journal of Refugee Studies* 23, no. 4 (2010).

23 IOM website: ‘Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion.’ <https://www.iom.int/migrant-integration-and-social-cohesion>

DURABLE SOLUTIONS: MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES

While durable solutions are often equated with movements that can be counted such as return or relocation, this proves challenging for local integration as where no clear delineation or marking of when this solutions pathway begins. A person does not become (re)integrated into a community the moment they arrive (return, relocation) or when they decide to stay where they are (local integration). Rather, all durable solutions pathways are **multi-dimensional processes**. As the *IASC Framework* additionally notes, achieving durable solutions can therefore be a 'development challenge'.²⁴ The DSID outlines that the process starts with an intention²⁵ and the *IASC Framework* specifies eight criteria which are helpful for understanding and determining whether a durable solution has been achieved. These criteria can be used to define displacement-related vulnerabilities and to measure progress towards durable solutions based on the number of criteria met by IDP households. Once these indicators are overcome across the core criteria, a durable solution has been reached. In PROGRESS 25, these criteria were used to understand the differences between displaced populations and the host communities.

There have been further efforts to develop technical indicators for durable solutions, including local integration. The Joint Internal Profiling Service (JIPS) developed an indicator library in 2015 to support solutions for IDPs.²⁶



Displaced children play football in the IDP Camp in Doolow, Somalia

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24 Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions (page 7). 2010. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

25 Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement: A Proposal for a DSID Framework. United Nations, March 2023. https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/osa-improving-data-for-solutions-to-internal-displacement-a-proposal-dsidframework_.pdf

26 Durable Solutions, *Informing Responses to Support Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*, n.d., <https://inform-durablesolutions-idp.org/>



The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), also established in 2015 to support solutions for both refugees and IDPs in 11 countries in East Africa and the Horn of Africa, uses 28 indicators to measure progress toward solutions and to support governments and other actors to find solutions for IDPs.²⁷ EGRIS has done important work in providing definitions and suggested methodologies for assessing whether or not durable solutions have been achieved.²⁸ This includes the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) which recommend the comparison of IDPs along a select group of indicators and sub-indicators with a comparable group of non-displaced households either at the national or subnational level. Furthermore, IOM uses the IRIS methodology in its Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) to identify root causes of fragility through data to address protracted displacement and support the achievement of durable solutions for communities. The SMI provides data on stability, peace, development, recovery and reintegration dynamics across 23 displacement-affected countries.²⁹

Social relationships and host community perceptions are often as crucial to IDP integration as material resources.

27 Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat. *Unlocking Protracted Displacement*. 2025. www.regionaldss.org

28 EGRIS. *Toward a harmonized statistical measure for exits from the stock of internally displaced persons*. Methodological Paper Series no 2. 2023. <https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/EGRIS-Methodological-Paper-2.pdf>

29 IOM DTM Solutions and Mobility Index. <https://dtm.iom.int/solutions>.

LOCAL INTEGRATION: CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES

Research by both academic³⁰ and humanitarian agencies shed light on different dimensions of local integration processes including the reason for displacement and the effects of disaster-related displacement, the complexities of governance and dynamics at the sub-national level, as well as the role of social relationships and networks. PROGRESS 23 further found that the main obstacles are often the lack of safety in the place of displacement,³¹ lack of livelihoods or employment, inadequate shelter or housing, and lack of documentation needed to access public services such as health and education. PROGRESS 24 found that lack of security and lack of livelihoods were the main factors considered by IDPs in their solutions intentions.

For most displaced by disasters, displacement is relatively short term as people return to their homes—or at least to their property—as soon as they can.³² But disaster displacement can become protracted. In some cases, return is physically impossible due to the extent of destruction, leaving IDPs with the only options of settling locally or moving elsewhere. There are also cases where disasters occur in areas where there are already IDPs displaced by conflict, as in Somalia, Mozambique and Sudan. Three years after the 2017 drought in Ethiopia which displaced 300,000 people, including 30,000 pastoralists, IDPs still depended on humanitarian aid and local integration was the only possible durable solution because ‘there was nothing left in their places of origin.’ Most IDPs, lacking the option to return, preferred local integration.³³

PROGRESS 24 found fairly small percentages of IDP households indicating an intention to settle elsewhere in the country, but focus groups indicated that in many cases this may be due to IDPs not having the means to move elsewhere.

Researchers studying local integration in the Global South sometimes criticise the model of local integration, arguing that it needs to be adapted to local realities given it was adopted for Western countries. For example, one study³⁴ questions the state-centric model used in most studies of integration, arguing that in the case of Somalia, clan relationships are key both to social integration and to access to state resources. It has also been argued that more systematic analysis is needed to understand the role of the host community, as local integration depends not only on how well IDPs adapt to their new environment, but also on how well the host communities accept them.³⁵ An IOM study in Iraq concludes that better integration and acceptance is found among “more socioeconomically equal communities, those with strong but more elastic social cohesion, and in places where host communities feel historical grievances related to violence and conflict have been dealt with satisfactorily”.³⁶

30 Jacobs, Carolien, Stanislas Lubala Kubiha, and Rachel Sifa Katembera. “The Upward Spiral Towards Local Integration of IDPs: Agency and Economics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” *Refugee survey quarterly* 39.4 (2020): 537–543; Wanninayake, Shantha. “Welcome Guests: Settlements of Sinhalese IDPs and Local Integration Process in Sri Lanka.” *Sri Lanka journal of social sciences* 44.1 (2021): 83–96; Zewude, Bewunetu, and Getahun Siraw. “Sustainable Integration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia: Exploring Intentions about Post-Conflict Resettlement Choices.” *Cogent social sciences* 10.1 (2024); Rao, Shobha, and Jan Turkstra. “Enhancing Security of Land Tenure for IDPs.” *Forced Migration Review* (2014), <https://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/rao-turkstra/>.

31 IOM, PROGRESS 23, *op cit*

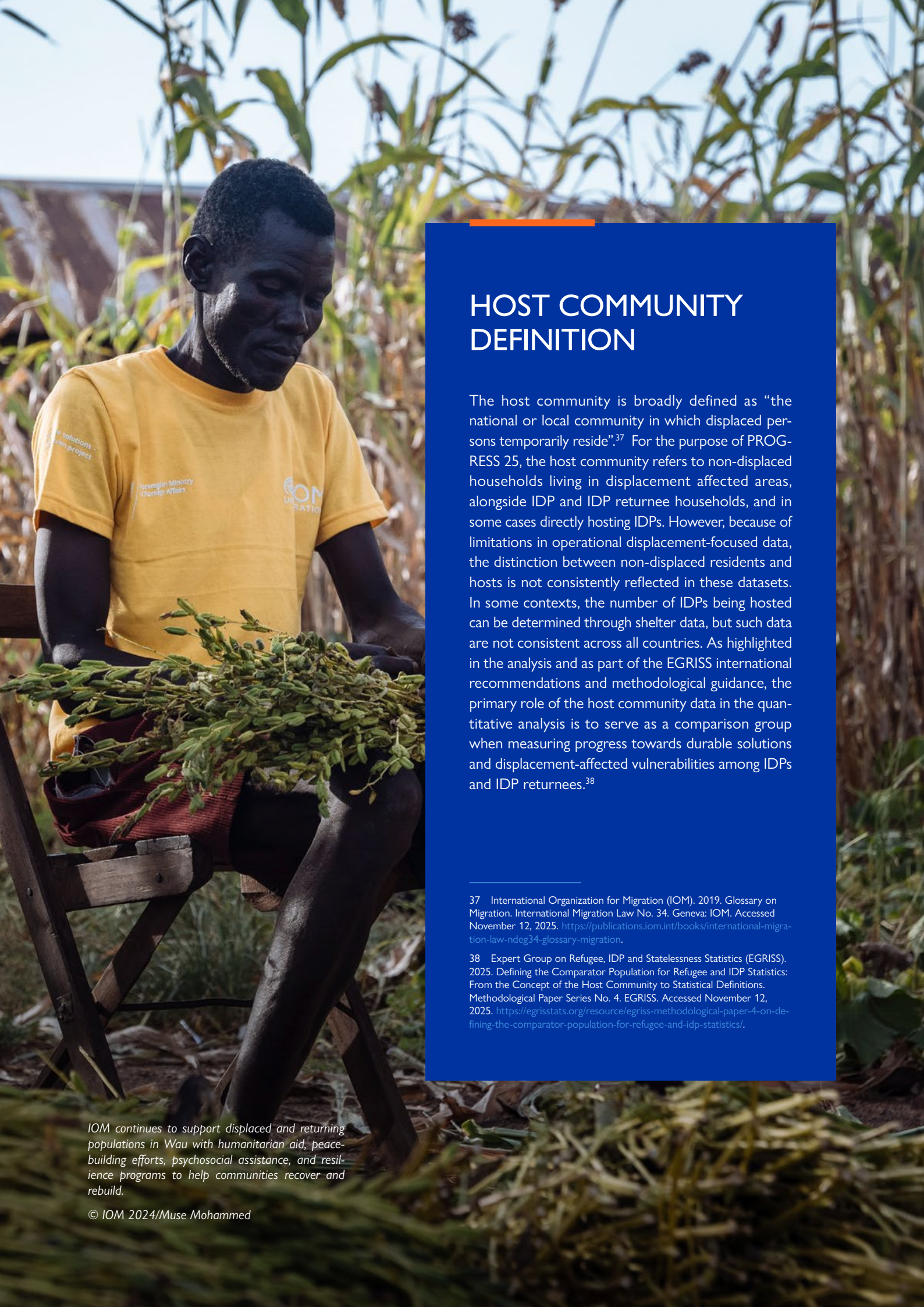
32 See for example, Paul, N., Galasso, C., & Baker, J. “Household Displacement and Return in Disasters: A Review.” *Natural Hazards Review*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Feb. 2024); <https://doi.org/10.1061/NHREFO.NHENG-1930>; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) *Global Report on Internal Displacement* (GRID) reports (2022, 2023), <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/>

33 Pablo Cortés Fernández, *Working toward Durable Solutions for Drought-Displaced People*. KNOMAD Policy Brief no. 20 (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2023), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099015008162425680/pdf/IDU145a7f29018e0a142881b06d1d242b6607ce5.pdf>

34 Ahmed Bile et al., “Rethinking Local Integration: Domains of Integration and Their Durability in Kismayo and Garowe, Somalia,” *Frontiers in Human Dynamics* 5 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.3389/fhumd.2023.1283098>

35 IOM Iraq. *Cities as Home: Understanding Belonging and Acceptance among IDPs and Host Communities in Iraq* (2020), https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/DurableSolutions/202011154648769_IOM%20Iraq%20Cities%20as%20Home_Understanding%20Belonging%20and%20Acceptance%20-%20English.pdf

36 IOM Iraq, *op cit*.



HOST COMMUNITY DEFINITION

The host community is broadly defined as “the national or local community in which displaced persons temporarily reside”.³⁷ For the purpose of PROGRESS 25, the host community refers to non-displaced households living in displacement affected areas, alongside IDP and IDP returnee households, and in some cases directly hosting IDPs. However, because of limitations in operational displacement-focused data, the distinction between non-displaced residents and hosts is not consistently reflected in these datasets. In some contexts, the number of IDPs being hosted can be determined through shelter data, but such data are not consistent across all countries. As highlighted in the analysis and as part of the EGRIS international recommendations and methodological guidance, the primary role of the host community data in the quantitative analysis is to serve as a comparison group when measuring progress towards durable solutions and displacement-affected vulnerabilities among IDPs and IDP returnees.³⁸

37 International Organization for Migration (IOM). 2019. Glossary on Migration. International Migration Law No. 34. Geneva: IOM. Accessed November 12, 2025. <https://publications.iom.int/books/international-migration-law-ndeg34-glossary-migration>.

38 Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS). 2025. Defining the Comparator Population for Refugee and IDP Statistics: From the Concept of the Host Community to Statistical Definitions. Methodological Paper Series No. 4. EGRIS. Accessed November 12, 2025. <https://egrisstats.org/resource/egriss-methodological-paper-4-on-defining-the-comparator-population-for-refugee-and-idp-statistics/>.

IOM continues to support displaced and returning populations in Wau with humanitarian aid, peace-building efforts, psychosocial assistance, and resilience programs to help communities recover and rebuild.

SOCIAL COHESION

Despite the lack of a reference to social cohesion in the *IASC Framework for Durable Solutions*, some studies on IDP integration highlight the importance of social relationships. Community perceptions of IDPs matter as observed in North Kivu province; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, communities tended to positively perceive IDPs living with host families as hardworking and trustworthy. However, IDPs living in camps that host the most vulnerable people who do not benefit to the same extent from pre-existing social networks were seen as freeloaders and security risks. Host communities ceased to consider IDPs as displaced once they were financially independent, highlighting the importance of livelihoods and other development-oriented programming in making progress towards local integration.³⁹

Similarly, in Sri Lanka, IDP status separated them from other citizens, restricting their rights.⁴⁰ The ways in which host community members perceive IDPs is often shaped by perceptions of how well IDPs are doing economically. IOM found “in discussions with host community members, empathy often depended on how successful IDPs were perceived to be integrating, finding employment and achieving independence from external assistance.”⁴¹

In North Kivu, another study also considered the frequency of interactions with the host community, reporting that women and young people had more opportunities to develop deeper ties with the community, contributing to their integration.⁴² In the case of displacement caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, “[i]t is clear that strong social capital may be just as important as material resources.”⁴³ For the displaced, IDP status can be a barrier to integration. The way in which receiving communities respond to IDPs certainly plays a role in their ability to feel that they belong. Social networks are often tied to economic integration; once achieved, the host community may perceive IDPs are no longer displaced. Social networks also help IDPs find jobs and other livelihood opportunities.⁴⁴ The Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) found that IDPs in Kandahar, Afghanistan—although living in host communities that were equally poor—had a harder time making ends meet because they did not have the same social networks that their host communities had.⁴⁵

39 Aurere Mathieu, “‘We’re Here for an Indefinite Period’: Prospects for Local Integration of Internally Displaced People in North Kivu, DRC,” Oxfam USA (2017), <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/were-here-for-an-indefinite-period-prospects-for-local-integration-of-internall-620262/>

40 Cited by Elizabeth Ferris and Nina Birkeland, “Local Integration of IDPs in Protracted Displacement: Some Observations,” in *Resolving Internal Displacement: Prospects for Local Integration* (Washington, DC: Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, 2015), 15–32, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Resolving_ID_Prospects_for_Local_Integration_June2011.pdf

41 IOM Ukraine, *op cit.*, p. 13.

42 Mathieu, Aurere. *We’re here for an indefinite period.*

43 Angela Sherwood et al., *Resolving Post-Disaster Displacement: Insights from the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)* (IOM and Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, 2015), <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Resolving-PostDisaster-DisplacementInsights-from-the-Philippines-after-Typhoon-Hai-yan-June-2015.pdf>. (emphasis in the original)

44 Mathieu, Aurere. *We’re here for an indefinite period.*

45 Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP), *Local Integration for IDPs in Kandahar? Insights from the Field* (2023), <https://adsp.ngo/publications/adsp-briefing-note-local-integration-for-idps-in-kandahar-insights-from-the-field/>

While the concept of local integration directs attention to the experience of individual IDPs in adapting to life in their place of displacement, the concept of social cohesion focuses on the impact of displacement on society as a whole. Researchers have noted that the growing interest in social cohesion is likely due to both the urbanisation of displacement and its increasingly protracted nature. As displacement becomes protracted, social relations can become strained and competition can increase.⁴⁶ Surveys conducted in Ukraine suggest that host communities' perceptions of IDPs change over time. In two rounds of surveys of host communities, researchers found that the perceptions of IDPs as being 'bad' increased from 2021-2022 from 7 per cent to 23 per cent even as IDPs reported better relations with the host community.⁴⁷ Social cohesion is now a key feature of responses to displacement among aid actors and governments.

Academic research, alongside IOM's studies into various displacement contexts, have demonstrated the need for a granular understanding of the different pathways towards durable solutions. Social cohesion, host community relations, livelihoods, economic security, are all facets to both mobile and immobile resolutions to displacement and integration. Contributing to both the humanitarian and academic research, PROGRESS 25 examines multi-country data and five country case studies from Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Somalia. These case studies add to our understanding of the dynamics and obstacles to local integration.

46 Kerrie Holloway and Caitlin Sturridge, Social Cohesion in Displacement: The State of Play. *Humanitarian Policy Group Working Paper*. (2022), <https://odi.org/en/publications/social-cohesion-in-displacement-the-state-of-play/>

47 REACH/CCCM cluster on Ukraine. *Durable Solutions Analysis: Dnipro City. Progress toward Local Integration for IDPs in Collective Sites*. 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/durable-solutions-analysis-progress-towards-local-integration-idps-collective-sites-dnipro-city-ukraine-september-2023>. Note that a similar trend of perceptions has been found in the case of Turkish community perceptions of Syrian refugees: even as refugees reported better relationships with their host community as time went on, Turkish perceptions of their relationships with the refugees became increasingly hostile. Murat Erdogan, *Syrians Barometer – 2023* (UNHCR, 2025), <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/publications/syrians-barometer-2023-english>



As climate change intensifies, flooding remains a growing challenge for displaced communities across South Sudan.

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EHSA: DATA FOR SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT (DSID) IN PRACTICE

DTM's Operationalisation of the DSID Framework

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is operationalising the **Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Framework** across several countries to measure IDPs' progress toward durable solutions. This approach, grounded in the **IASC's eight durable solutions criteria** and aligned with the **International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)**, enables systematic tracking of how displacement-related vulnerabilities diminish over time. In each context—Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and South Sudan—DTM and partners have developed tailored tools (surveys and indices) to monitor progress, guided by the DSID framework's emphasis on comparing IDPs' conditions with those of non-displaced populations (the IRIS "progress measure") and identifying when IDPs can be counted as having achieved solutions (the IRIS "composite measure"). Table 3.1 provides a comparative overview of how the DSID framework is applied in these four countries, highlighting the **mechanisms used, key indicators, data sources, and progress measurement approaches** in each case.

How the DSID Framework and Global Standards Inform These Efforts

All four country initiatives illustrate the DSID philosophy of using data to drive solutions. They **complement the IASC Framework** by providing evidence of which displacement-related needs are resolved and which persist. Notably, each application employs **IRIS-endorsed statistical measures**: counting IDPs on "**solutions pathways**" (like return or local integration even before vulnerabilities are fully resolved) and quantifying "**progress**" as the narrowing of outcome gaps between IDPs and non-IDPs. While this establishes a common language for measuring progress towards durable solutions, gaps in methodologies remain. In 2025, EGRISS commissioned a methodological paper on exit and progress measurement to inform these discussions. Ongoing global initiatives (e.g. a 2023 EGRISS methodological paper on a harmonised exit indicator; and a 2024 UNDP/JIPS development-oriented solutions monitoring framework) reflect a **lively international discussion on progress measurement**. The field experiences in South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Iraq are feeding into this dialogue, demonstrating how DSID's conceptual framework can be put into practice. Ultimately, these efforts share a common goal: to use robust data to track and accelerate IDPs' journey towards **sustainable durable solutions**, informing policies that bring the world closer to ending internal displacement.

Table 3.1 Application of the DSID Framework in four countries

Country	DSID-Based Tool & Approach	Key Indicators & Focus	Data Sources & Partnership
Ethiopia ⁴⁸	Solutions Index Household Survey—Targeted survey (February 2025) comparing returning IDPs and non-displaced residents in Tigray.	Comparative outcome analysis on IASC criteria sub-components. Assesses where returning IDPs have caught up with hosts and where gaps remain. Identifies specific vulnerabilities still affecting returning IDPs.	IOM DTM in coordination with regional authorities. Aligned with Ethiopia's Durable Solutions Initiative and National Strategy to Implement Solutions Pathways. Supports area-based recovery planning.
Mozambique ⁴⁹	Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI)—Household-level survey in Cabo Delgado (January 2025), covering IDP returnees and host communities.	Measures progress toward durable solutions using a composite index based on IASC and IRIS criteria. Focuses on parity in safety, livelihoods, housing, documentation, and access to services. Identifies barriers to reintegration and local integration.	IOM DTM in partnership with the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD) and humanitarian-development actors. Informs the national strategy for durable solutions and supports area-based programming in conflict-affected districts.
Somalia ⁵⁰	Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Survey—Government-led, multi-round household survey (2024–2025) in urban centres. Phase 1 covered 8 cities (~60% of IDPs).	Monitors outcome parity between IDPs and host communities across IASC criteria. City-level data highlight gaps in livelihoods, documentation, and services. Establishes baseline metrics for Somalia's durable solutions efforts.	Led by the National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions jointly with the Somali National Bureau of Statistics, IOM DTM, Danwadaag Consortium, and Saameynta Programme. Anchored in the National Durable Solutions Strategy and Solutions Pathway Action Plan (2024–2029).
South Sudan ⁵¹	Durable Solutions Index (DSI)—Household survey in Unity & Upper Nile States (2025), with 13,500+ respondents. Composite DSI score (0–5) per household.	Tracks achievement of the eight IASC criteria (e.g. safety, housing, livelihoods, documentation). Enables comparison of IDPs, returnees, and hosts. Highlights regional disparities and identifies specific vulnerabilities lowering scores.	IOM DTM in collaboration with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Aligned with the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action. Data informs area-based reintegration programming.

48 IOM DTM Ethiopia – Solutions Index – Measuring Parity and Progress Towards Durable Solutions, Household Level Survey (HLS), Returning IDPs and Non-displaced Residents, North Western Zone of Tigray region and Zone 3 of the Contested Areas (February 2025). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-solutions-index-measuring-parity-and-progress-towards-durable-solutions-household?close=true>

49 IOM DTM Mozambique – Solutions Mobility Index Report – Cabo Delgado (January 2025). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/iom-mozambique-solutions-mobility-index-report-cabo-delgado-january-2025?close=true>

50 Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development – Federal Republic of Somalia October 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/dsp-survey-key-findings-dashboard/>

51 IOM DTM South Sudan – Unity State Durable Solutions Index (July 2025). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-unity-state-durable-solutions-index-july-2025?close=true>

04

ANALYSIS OF DATA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SOLUTIONS IN EAST, HORN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA





 **IOM**
UN MIGRATION

Members of the community Bugarama, Burundi registering for a distribution of NFI and Hygiene kits by IOM and UNICEF.

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ANALYSIS OF DATA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SOLUTIONS IN EAST, HORN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

This section examines data for five countries in the East, Horn and Southern Africa using a variety of data sources, namely:



Burundi

Progress Towards Durable Solutions Assessment (2023)

Ethiopia

Displacement and Demographic Calculator (2023)

Mozambique

MSNA Assessment (2024); Progress Towards Durable Solutions Assessment (2023)

South Sudan

Fragility Assessment (2023); Return and Reintegration Assessment (2023); Intention Survey Assessment (2024)

Somalia

Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Survey (2024)

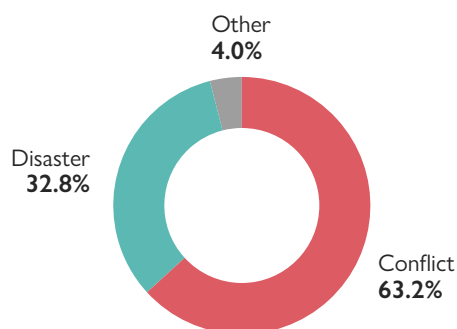
*Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Figure 4.1 Multi country analysis: IDP profile overview

It is important to note that some parts of the analysis below do not rely on data from all five countries because of limitations related to data availability. Each figure/table below lists the countries that were analysed.

Type of Displacement

N=16,866



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Sex breakdown of household heads

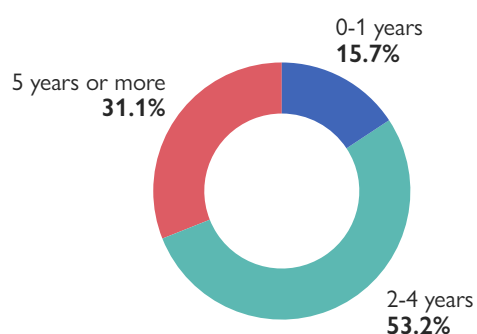
N=12,053



Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Duration of displacement

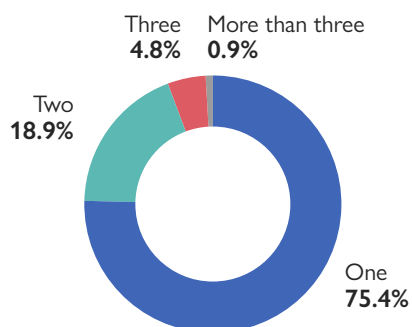
N=16,160



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia

Number of displacements

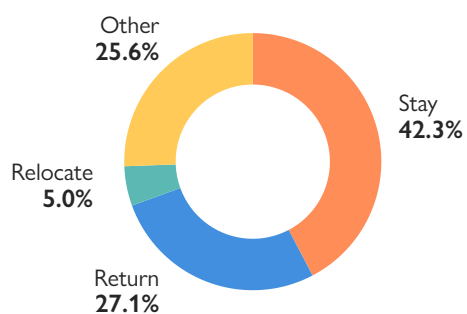
N=5,527



Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Durable solutions preferences

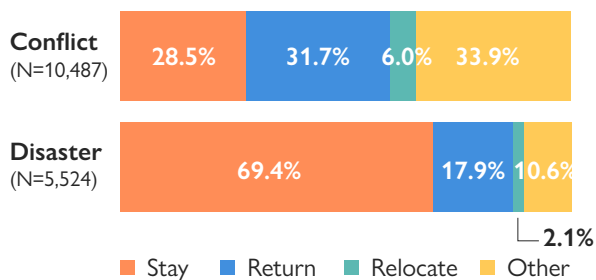
N=16,679



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan

Preferred durable solution by type of displacement

N=16,011



Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia

IDP profile overview for the five countries

Using the total household sample (N= 16,866), close to two-thirds of households were displaced by conflict and slightly more than half (53.2%) have been displaced between 2 and 4 years. Three in five (59.5%) of households are male headed. While most IDPs (75.4%) have been displaced only once, nearly one-quarter have experienced multiple displacements, with 18.9 per cent reporting being displaced twice and less than 6 per cent displaced three or more times.

Durable solutions preferences for the five countries

PROGRESS 24, based on a larger multi-regional sample,⁵² found that 60.4 per cent of all IDPs intend to remain where they are, and 33.4 per cent of households prefer to return. The PROGRESS 25 EHSA regional analysis shows that overall, 42.3 per cent of IDP households reported remaining in the current location. Another 27.1 per cent intended to return, and 5.0 per cent intended to relocate. In this year's analysis, the reduced proportion of households preferring to remain and return is offset by an increased proportion of households reporting uncertainty about their intentions and preferring not to answer (25.6%).

When broken down by type of displacement, Figure 4.1 reveals stark differences between those displaced by disasters—where almost 70 per cent indicate an intention to stay—versus conflict-displaced households where the corresponding percentage is less than 30 per cent. Additionally, for households displaced by conflict, one-third (33.9%) indicated uncertainty about their solution intentions, compared to households displaced by disasters (10.6%). A relatively small percentage of both groups reported they want to relocate elsewhere (6.0% for conflict displaced and 2.1% for disaster displaced).

Durable solution by type and duration of displacement for the five countries

Figure 4.2 also turns to the relationship between duration of displacement and durable solution intentions for four of the EHSA countries that have duration of displacement data. Consistent with findings from PROGRESS 24, the longer people are displaced, the more likely they are to remain in their current displacement location.

For all displaced households, the intention to remain rises from 49.6 per cent for those displaced for up to one year to 56.1 per cent for those displaced for 5 or more years. The intention to return drops with longer duration of displacement, but the intention to relocate increases from 3.8 per cent to 6.4 per cent. Uncertainty about future plans peaks for households displaced between 2 and 4 years (32%).

Consistent with findings from PROGRESS 24, many more disaster- than conflict-displaced households reported intentions to stay no matter how long they have been displaced. The intention to remain among disaster-displaced households peaks at 77.6 per cent among those displaced between five years or more and falls no lower than 64.1 per cent for households displaced between two to four years. However, for both disaster and conflict-displaced households, the intention to return decreases the longer IDPs are displaced.

While the findings for these EHSA countries regarding solution intentions largely parallel findings in the global PROGRESS 24 report, there are some important differences and important contextual considerations as evidenced in the country-level data analysis in chapter five.

⁵² The total sample of the PROGRESS 24 multi-country analysis comprised of over 93,000 household surveys collected in Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. A complete list of all datasets with metadata is available at <https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/progress2024/PROGRESS24%20Datasets.pdf>. The multi-country analysis for PROGRESS 25 was built upon a regional subset of the PROGRESS 2024 household survey analysis with additional household level data from Somalia and Mozambique.

Figure 4.2 Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by type and duration of displacement: Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Somalia



Note: South Sudan is excluded due to a lack of data on duration of displacement. The 'other' category includes no plan, don't know and prefer not to answer.

ETHIOPIA SOLUTIONS INDEX

The recent conflict in Northern Ethiopia (2020–2022) and ongoing recovery efforts illustrate the variety of challenges that IDPs are facing in achieving a durable solution in the country. The conflict displaced millions across Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. In November 2022, a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) was signed, however, more than 700,000 IDPs still remain in displacement in the region. Most IDPs intend to go home (94% cite return as their preferred solution), but insecurity in contested border areas still hampers progress.

In 2024, the Government of Ethiopia launched a National Durable Solutions Strategy⁵³ to foster stability, resilience, and inclusive development for IDPs and host communities across the country, offering a pathway towards sustainable solutions that benefit all affected populations. In line with these efforts, IOM deployed a **Solutions Index** survey in areas that have experienced high returns in Tigray and contested areas to assess how returning IDPs are faring compared to non-displaced residents.

Findings from the Ethiopia Solutions Index offers insights into post-conflict recovery. In some districts, returning IDPs lag significantly behind non-displaced residents. For example, households who were displaced and have returned have less ownership of productive assets on average than non-displaced residents, suggesting persisting displacement-related vulnerabilities. Even after returning to their area of origin, many IDPs still need targeted support (e.g. livelihoods and housing assistance) to catch up.

However, the data also show that in other areas non-displaced and returning IDPs are equally vulnerable, struggling alike with poverty and access to basic services. In such areas, an area-based approach—investing in community-wide infrastructure and job creation—is recommended so that both groups improve together. Encouragingly, the survey found clear links between improved conditions and stabilisation: returning IDP households who scored higher along key recovery criteria (e.g. access to the public sector and effective remedies and justice) were 2.4 times more likely to say they “feel no need to move again in the next six months” compared to those worse off. In other words, when returning IDPs attain a basic threshold of security, services and livelihoods, their inclination to re-displace decreases.

Finally, the analysis underscored that livelihoods and social cohesion go hand-in-hand. Communities where returning IDPs are earning income and engaging in local groups report measurably stronger social bonds than those without such opportunities. This finding suggests that combining economic revival programmes with social cohesion initiatives (e.g. joint community activities for returning IDPs and non-displaced residents) will have the greatest impact on sustaining durable solutions in Ethiopia.

Source: DTM Ethiopia – Solutions Index – Key Findings, Measuring Parity and Progress Towards Durable Solutions, Household Level Survey (HLS), Returning IDPs and Non-displaced Residents, North Western Zone of Tigray and Zone 3 of the Contested Areas (February 2025). IOM, Ethiopia. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-solutions-index-measuring-parity-and-progress-towards-durable-solutions-household>

53 National Strategy to Implement Solutions Pathways to Internal Displacement in Ethiopia, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/national-strategy-implement-solutions-pathways-internal-displacement-ethiopia-solutions-internal-displacement-ethiopia-2024>



Portrait of a CBR beneficiary feeding his cattle at home in Worab, Ethiopia.

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05

CASE STUDIES:
BURUNDI, MOZAMBIQUE
AND SOUTH SUDAN



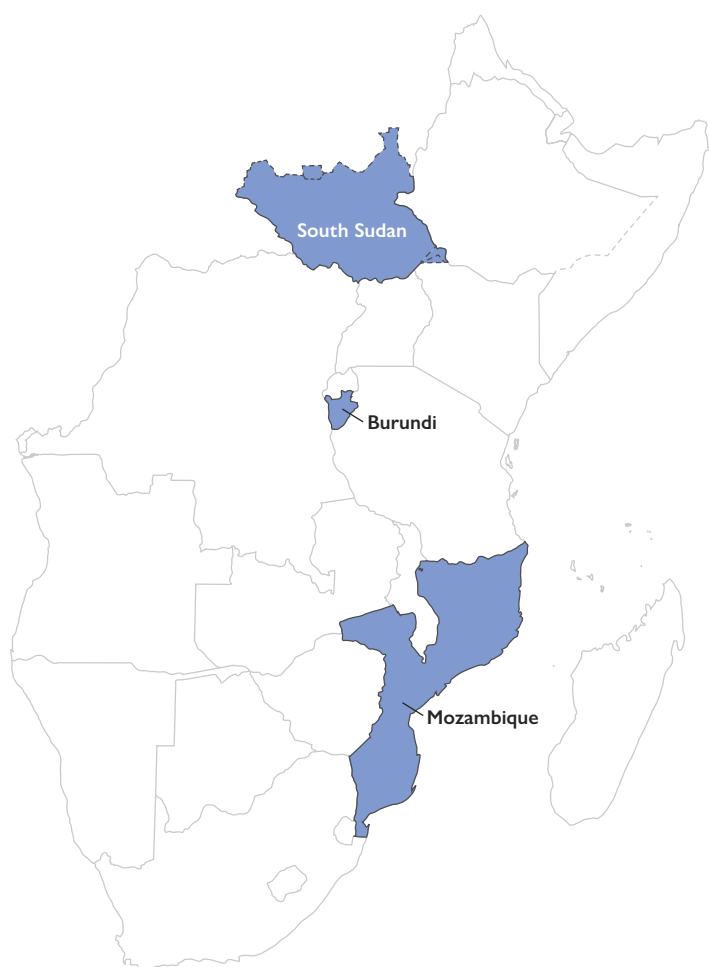


A woman worker carries a brick on her head for the construction of a shelter for people displaced by a natural hazard in Mutimbuzi, Burundi.

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CASE STUDIES: BURUNDI, MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH SUDAN

To delve into the data on internal displacement and solutions in the region, three short case studies are included: Burundi, Mozambique and South Sudan, followed by a deeper dive on Somalia. The selection of countries was based on the availability of robust multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) data from IOM's DTM.



As part of their core function, MSNAs capture diverse sectoral needs such as shelter, food security, education and health, among others. With the recent addition of indicators on durable solution intentions, these data also provide a country-wide overview of the durable solution intentions of IDP households. Where available, the analysis includes three population groups (IDPs, IDP returnees and host community) and follows indicators along sectoral need areas, which correspond with some durable solutions criteria outlined in the [IASC Durable Solutions framework](#). Data based on the IASC durable solutions criteria provide insights into households' living conditions in displacement-affected areas. Comparative analysis of IDP, IDP returnee, and host households' living conditions at the sub-national level enables context-specific interventions—either to help IDPs achieve parity with host communities or, where all groups face similar challenges, to inform the need for development-oriented approaches.

*Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Durable solutions criteria and sub-criteria covered in the MSNA country case study analysis

The criteria and sub-criteria for solutions covered in the case studies are outlined below. It is important to note that the specific indicators vary by country based on data availability.

Durable Solutions Criterion	Sub-criteria
Adequate standard of living	 Shelter and housing
	 Medical services
	 Education
Access to livelihoods	 Employment and livelihoods
Social cohesion*	 Perceptions of the relationship between population groups

*Note: Although social cohesion is not part of the IASC durable solutions framework, it has been incorporated as a relevant indicator in this analysis.

It is important to note that, while social cohesion is not a part of the IASC durable solutions criteria, it is considered an important factor in internal displacement contexts and durable solutions. As described further in the analysis, perceptions about the relationship between IDPs and the host community may be correlated to IDPs' access to livelihoods, services and durable solution intentions.⁵⁴

The case study analysis also considers the proportion of displaced persons that make up the population of sub-national areas at administrative level 1 for each of the countries studied.

The level 1 administrative areas⁵⁵ for each country were categorised into low and high IDP areas by dividing the area of displacement caseload (IDPs plus IDP returnees) by the overall level 1 administrative (state or province) population. Places with less than the average proportion were classified as low IDP areas and those above the average are classified as high IDP areas. This categorisation assesses the hypothesis that displacement caseload size may be associated with access to services and livelihoods.

54 UNDP (2020). Strengthening Social Cohesion: Conceptual Framing and Programming Implications. United Nations Development Programme. <https://www.undp.org/publications/strengthening-social-cohesion-conceptual-framing-and-programming-implications>

55 Administrative level 1 is the generic term for the largest subnational administrative unit within a country, such as a state, province, or department.

BURUNDI

Population

14 Million

UNDP Human Development Index

187th

GDP per capita

193 USD

IDPs*

89,114

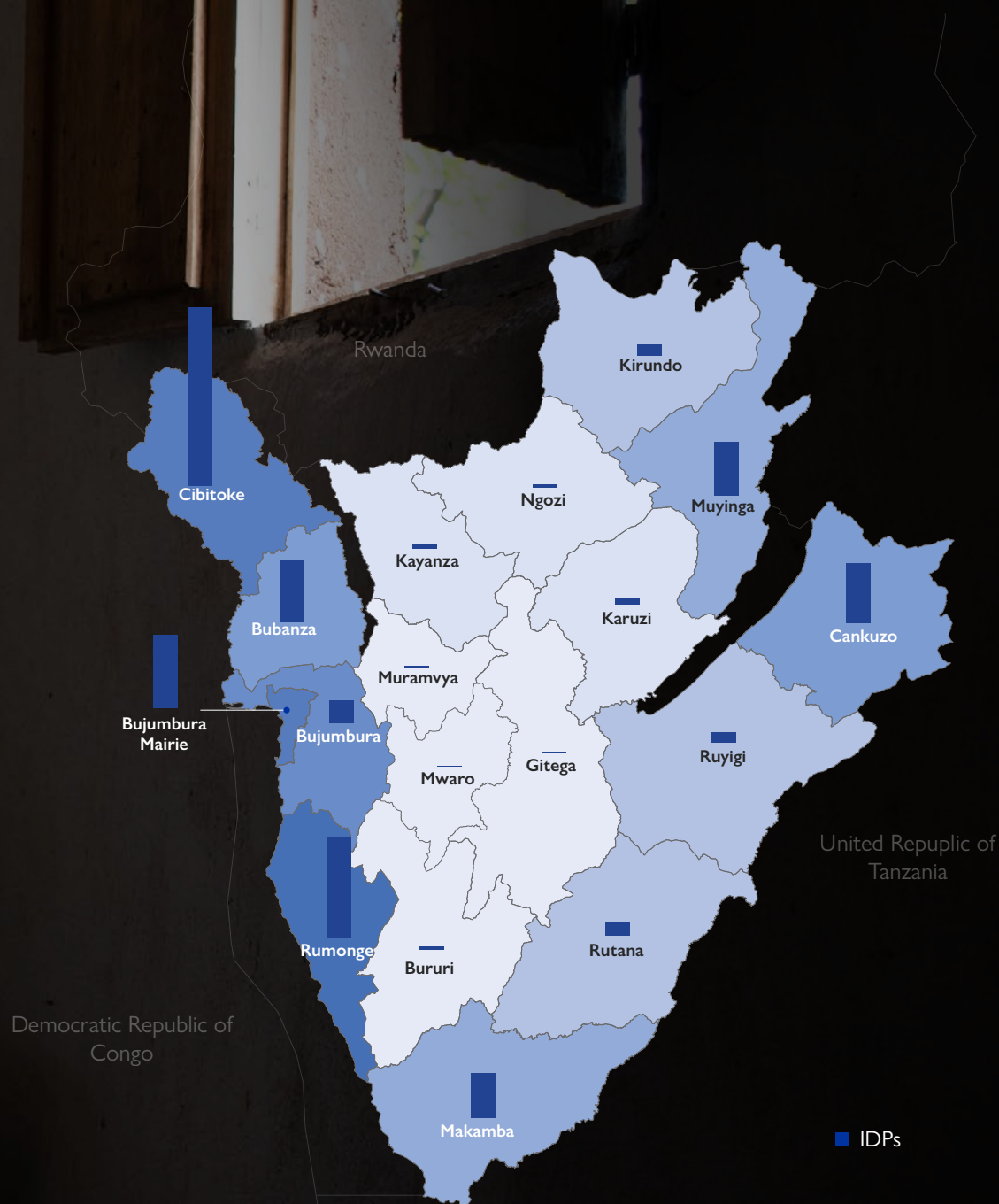
*as of July 2025



Portrait of Habonimana in her new home built with support from IOM in Gitaza, Burundi.

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Map 5.1 Geographical distribution of IDPs in Burundi



Source: DTM Burundi

*Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT

Burundi, a low-income country with a population of 14 million, has a GDP per capita of only USD 193.⁵⁶ One of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 187th out of 193 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index,⁵⁷ Burundi's economy is largely based on rain-fed subsistence agriculture making it particularly vulnerable to climate change. Lake Tanganyika, one of the world's largest freshwater lakes, has risen due to a combination of climate change-driven rainfall, reduced evaporation, and extreme weather events—leading to flooding. Less than 15 per cent of the population live in urban areas.⁵⁸ Burundi has a long history of displacement, resulting from widespread violence in 1972 and again in 1993 directed against the majority Hutu population, during which hundreds of thousands of Burundians lost their lives. Since the Arusha Peace Accords in 2000 and the adoption of a new constitution in 2005, conflict has abated. However, occasional episodes of political violence, particularly around the 2015 elections, have occurred.

More than 90 per cent of recent IDPs in the country were displaced due to disasters and environmental change. Between 2008 and 2023, Burundi experienced 253 natural hazards, resulting in a GDP loss of 5 to 17 per cent per event.⁵⁹ From September 2023 to April 2024, torrential rains and rising levels in Lake Tanganyika and rivers affected more than 200,000 people. In May 2024, OCHA reported that 240,000 people were affected by floods⁶⁰ and in July 2025, DTM Burundi reported over 89,000 IDPs, of whom 12 per cent were Burundians previously displaced abroad who were now in displacement situations in Burundi. The majority of IDPs (92%) were displaced by disasters and over one-third (35%) have remained displaced since the floods in 2024.⁶¹ Most IDPs are staying with host communities (90%) while the rest live in sites (10%).

Burundi faces escalating climate-driven disasters, with over 90% of internal displacement linked to natural hazards and climate change.

Floods and rising waters affected more than

240,000

people in May 2024

56 World Bank Group. *GDP per capita (current US\$)- Burundi* (2025), <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=BI>

57 UN Development Index. *Human Development Report* (2025), <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2025>

58 World Bank, *Rural Population (% of total population)*. 2024. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS>; Statista, *Burundi: Urbanization from 2013 to 2023*. 2025. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/455787/urbanization-in-burundi/>

59 Othering and Belonging Institute, *Burundi Case Study: Climate Refugees* (2021), <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/climatedisplacement/case-studies/burundi>

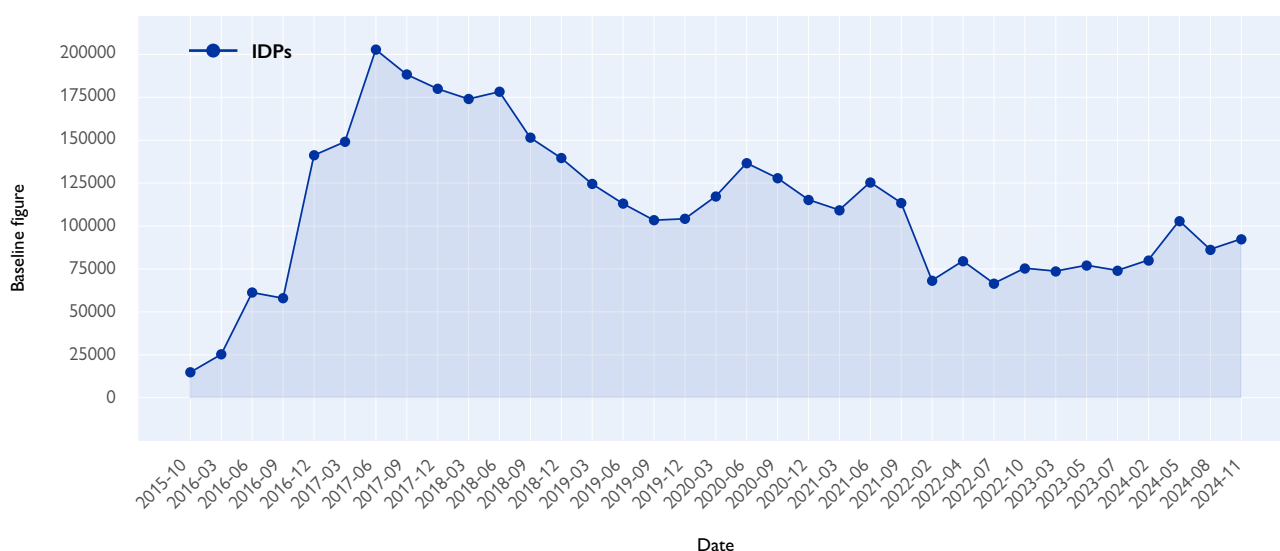
60 OCHA. *Heavy rains and flooding flash update #4* (30 May 2024). 2024. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/kenya/eastern-africa-heavy-rains-and-flooding-flash-update-4-30-may-2024>

61 IOM – Displacement Tracking Matrix. *Burundi – Internal Displacement Dashboard* (July 2025). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/burundi-internal-displacement-dashboard-july-2025>

Severe floods and extended periods of drought are predicted to lower agricultural yields in the next decade.⁶² Variable rainfall impacts on food production pose catastrophic challenges for Burundi, where more than half the population is already chronically food insecure, and the rapidly growing population is projected to more than double by 2050.⁶³ Burundi is among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, making it a priority to strengthen preventive measures aimed at reducing displacement. These measures are crucial to address risks associated with extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and increasing rainfall variability.⁶⁴

In 2017 Burundi adopted a National Strategy on Socio-Economic Reintegration of Affected People⁶⁵ which was renewed in 2022 and then complemented with an operational plan validated in 2025. The current plan requires additional data to inform operationalisation. Hence, the National Institute of Statistics (INSBU), the National Platform for Disaster Risk Management, and the Directorate General for Repatriation and Reintegration (DGRRR) are working closely with partners to gather and analyse data to assist with the implementation process. Furthermore, Burundi has developed disaster risk reduction policies which have been integrated into its development agenda and incorporate community-based risk reduction actions;⁶⁶ however, the policies require provisions only related to displacements from disasters.⁶⁷

Figure 5.1 Estimates of IDP baseline figures in Burundi, 2015-2024



62 UN Environmental Program. *Burundi: Climate Change*. <https://dicf.unepgrid.ch/burundi/climate-change>

63 UNDESA. Population Division, *World Population Prospects 2024*. Burundi. <https://population.un.org/wpp/graphs?loc=108&type=Demographic%20Profiles&category=Line%20Charts>

64 The World Bank. *Burundi Country Environmental Analysis 2017*. <https://documents.worldbank.org/pt/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/244311510936931800/burundi-country-environmental-analysis-understanding-the-environment-within-the-dynamics-of-a-complex-world-linkages-to-fragility-conflict-and-climate-change>.

65 Government of Burundi, *Burundi: Stratégie Nationale de Reintégration Socio-Economique de Personnes Sinistrées Document de la Stratégie Révisée sur la Base des Solutions Durables*. (2017), <https://www.refworld.org/policy/strategy/natlegbod/2017/fr/119471>

66 International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. *Burundi: Early Warning, Early Action Case Study: Burundi*. 2023. https://preparecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/IFRC_Burundi-EWEA_Case-study_EN-V3.pdf

67 IOM. *Republique du Burundi: Indicateurs de Gouvernance des Migrations*. 2024. <https://publications.iom.int/books/indicateurs-de-gouvernance-des-migrations-republique-du-burundi-profil-2024>

OVERVIEW OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN BURUNDI

The analysis for this chapter is based on data from 2024 MSNA household assessments of IDP households.⁶⁸ A stratified cluster design was used, with sample allocation based on August 2024 baseline data.⁶⁹ The sample size was 2,987 households (13,618 individuals) and drawn from ten of Burundi's 18 provinces, including 57 communes and 703 *collines* (Admin 3) across Burundi.⁷⁰ Results are representative at province level (Admin 1) and population group, with a 95 per cent confidence level and a 5 per cent margin of error. It is important to note the IDP caseload in Burundi includes individuals that were previously abroad and are now living as IDPs in camps, which are typically called returnees within Burundi policymaking and programme delivery context.

The analysis begins with an overview of Burundian IDP respondent households, examining their demographics, displacement and livelihoods in relation to their preferred durable solution.

Table 5.1 shows that, while the average age of IDP household heads in Burundi is 46.1 years, those who report their intention is to stay are more likely to be older (47.0 yrs average). In contrast, household heads intending to relocate were the youngest (41.9 yrs). Approximately two-thirds of IDP households are headed by men. Across the three country case studies in this chapter, Burundi has the highest percentage of male headed households (65.8 vs. 58.7% in Mozambique and 43.7% in South Sudan).

Education appears related to durable solution intentions. The percentage of IDP household heads without education is significantly higher among households who intend to stay (44.7%) compared to those who intend to relocate (23.7%) or who do not have a plan (35.7%). Household heads who intend to relocate have the highest proportions of secondary and university completion. Of those intending to relocate, 8.1 per cent have completed secondary school and 1.7 per cent university, both are more than double the share of those intending to stay (3.5 vs. 0.6% for secondary and university completion). Households intending to relocate also have the largest household size and more children.

Although more than half of all households (62.6%) receive their main income from agriculture, fewer of those intending to relocate gain income from this source (37.9%). In addition, among households indicating a preference for relocation, the share of those relying on non-agricultural livelihoods is significantly higher compared to other groups.

>80%

of IDP household heads have no or only primary education

Nearly two-thirds of Burundi's IDP households rely on agriculture as their main source of income.

⁶⁸ The analysis for Burundi only includes IDPs due to data availability.

⁶⁹ Burundi — Internal Displacement Dashboard (August 2024) | Displacement Tracking Matrix. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/burundi-internal-displacement-dashboard-august-2024>

⁷⁰ Burundi is subdivided into provinces (Administrative level 1), communes (Admin 2) and *collines* (Admin 3). In 2022, Burundi voted to reorder its administrative boundaries by consolidating to 5 provinces, 42 communes and 3,307 *collines*; pending confirmation after the 2025 elections. <https://regionweek.substack.com/p/why-burundi-will-only-have-5-provinces>.

Table 5.1 Who are the IDP households in Burundi? Characteristics by durable solution preference

Intentions	Stay	Return	Relocate	No plan	Total
Demographic					
Avg age head (yrs) N	47.0 (1,665)	46.3 (588)	41.9* (359)	45.4 (336)	46.1 (2,948)
Male head (%) N	67.0 (1,670)	63.1 (588)	68.5 (359)	62.2 (336)	65.8 (2,953)
Education head (%)					
None	44.7	39.8	23.7*	35.7*	40.4
Primary school incomplete	34.6	40.3	41.2	38.7	36.8
Primary school complete	8.4	8.7	13.6*	10.1	9.3
Secondary school incomplete	8.2	5.3*	11.7	8.6	8.1
Secondary school complete	3.5	5.3	8.1*	4.8	4.5
University	0.6	0.7	1.7	2.1*	0.9
N	(1,664)	(588)	(359)	(336)	(2,947)
Mean household size N	4.4 (1,670)	4.8* (588)	5.0* (359)	4.3 (336)	4.5 (2,978)
Mean # of children N	2.2 (1,670)	2.4* (588)	2.5* (359)	2.1 (336)	2.3 (2,953)
Displacement					
Type of displacement (%)					
Conflict	22.9	4.4*	3.1*	24.6	17.1
Disaster	77.1	95.6*	96.9*	75.4	83.0
N	(1,622)	(588)	(354)	(337)	(2,901)
Livelihood					
Main income source (%)					
Agricultural	67.2	67.2	37.9*	58.3*	62.6
Non-agricultural	28.9	28.4	58.2*	39.3*	33.5
No work	4.0	4.4	3.9	2.4	3.9
N	(1,670)	(588)	(359)	(336)	(2,953)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between stay and return, stay and relocate, and stay and no plan (*p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

DATA ANALYSIS

As indicated earlier, the analysis categorised all sampled provinces into provinces with lower or higher IDP populations by dividing each province's displacement caseload by the total population of the province.⁷¹ Those with a displacement caseload equal to or greater than the mean (1.26%) of the total province population are categorised as provinces with high IDP populations (see Figure 5.2). It is important to note that Burundi's displacement estimates are significantly lower compared to other case studies in this report, due to the country's comparatively smaller IDP caseload.

Rumonge and Cankuzo host the highest proportions of IDPs in Burundi, far above the national mean of 1.26%.

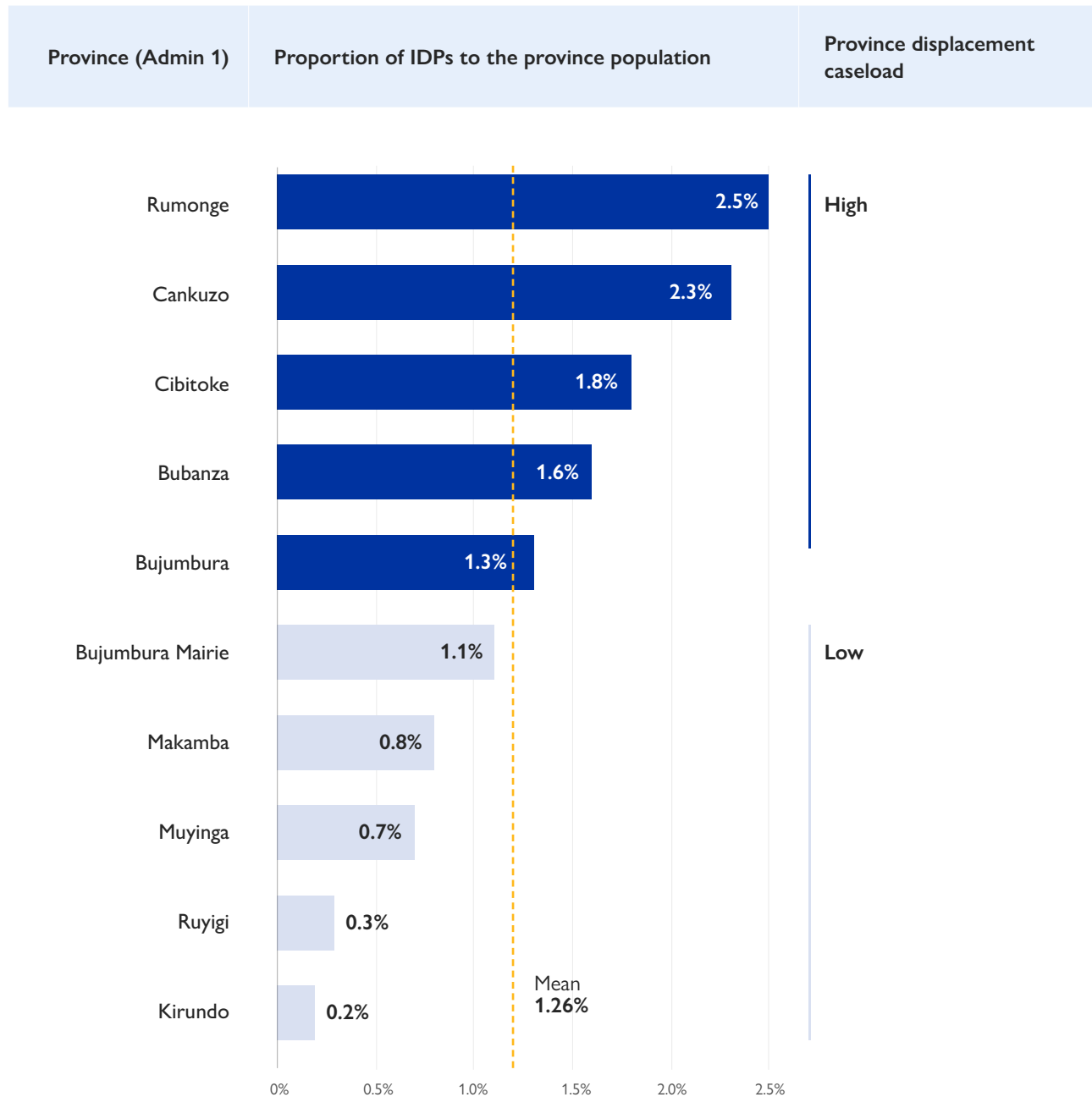


Francine, beneficiary of the PRM-funded project, walks with her tools to her field in Rugasa, Burundi.

© IOM 2024/Alexander Bee

⁷¹ The population of the province was based on 2022 population estimates developed by the Burundi National Institute of Statistics and UNFPA.

Figure 5.2 Burundi: Provinces categorised by IDP-to-Population ratio



DURABLE SOLUTION INTENTIONS OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN BURUNDI

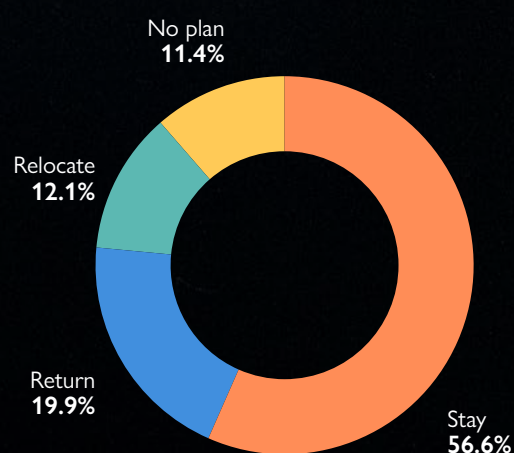
Most IDP households (56.6%) report that their durable solution intention is to remain where they are. Another 19.9 per cent intend to return, 12.1 per cent intend to relocate and 11.4 per cent had no plan at the time of assessment. As previously noted, while displacement in Burundi is predominantly due to disasters (92%) with a minority displaced by conflict (8%),⁷² there are statistically significant differences in the intentions of both groups. For example, conflict displaced households report higher levels of uncertainty about their intentions (16.9 vs. 10.5% disaster).

In contrast with the multi-country analysis in chapter 4, more conflict displaced than disaster displaced households indicate a preference to stay. Compared to the 28.5 per cent of all conflict displaced households in the multi-country sample intending to stay, 75.6 per cent of conflict displaced households in Burundi reported an intention to stay.

When considering how length of displacement is associated with solution intentions in Burundi, more IDPs report an intention to stay as the duration of displacement increases. Rising gradually from 43.7 per cent for households displaced for less than one year to 73.5 per cent for those displaced five years or more. This is in line with the finding in PROGRESS 24 that the preference to stay rises as the duration of displacement increases. Similarly, in this year's EHSA regional analysis (Chapter 4) the intention to stay is highest among IDP households displaced for five years or more (49.6% for those displaced up to a year vs. 56.1% for 5 years or more).

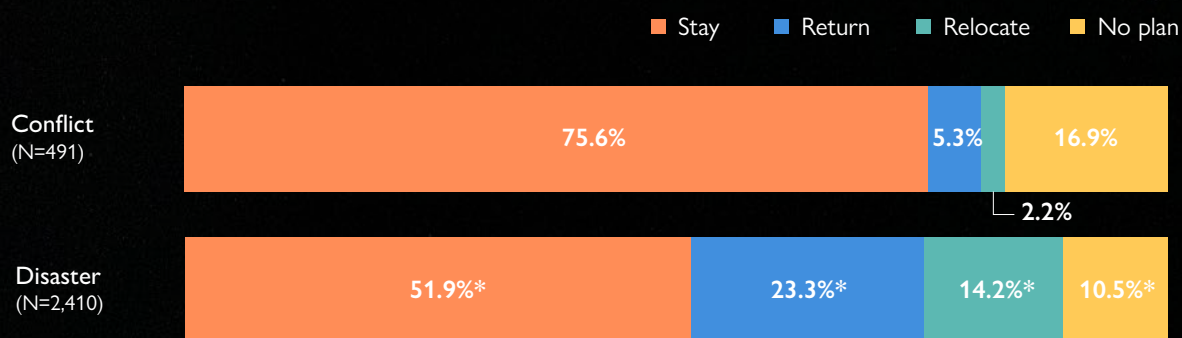
In Burundi, the intention to return decreases the longer households are displaced, shifting down from 25.8 per cent for households displaced for less than one year to 8.1 per cent for those displaced for five years or more. The preference for relocation is highest among more recently displaced IDP households. While 12.1 per cent of IDPs in Burundi intend to relocate, this intention is highest (19.5%) among households displaced for less than one year. Among those who are uncertain about their intentions, 11.0 per cent of IDP households displaced for less than one year report having no plan, but among those displaced for five or more years, 13.7 per cent report having no plan, although this difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 5.3 Percentages of IDP households' durable solution intentions in Burundi (N= 2,962)



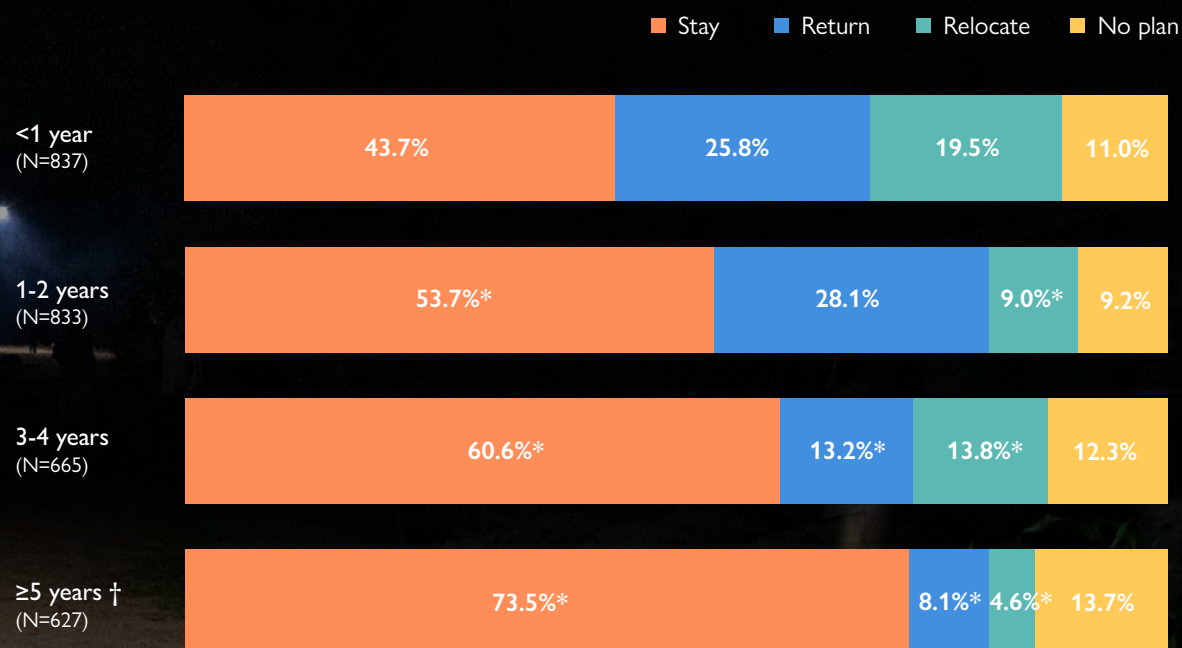
72 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mar 28, 2025, DTM Burundi — Internal Displacement Dashboard (November 2024). IOM, Burundi. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/burundi-internal-displacement-dashboard-november-2024>.

Figure 5.4 Percentages of IDP households' durable solution intentions by type of displacement (conflict/disaster) in Burundi (N=2,962)



Note: Significance tests assess the difference between conflict and disaster (*p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

Figure 5.5 Percentages of IDP households' durable solution intentions by duration of displacement in Burundi (N=2,962)



Note: Significance tests assess differences between less than 1 year and those displaced for longer (*p < 0.01). Total Ns vary due to missing data. †Maximum number of years at current location is 11 years.

IDP women working at night under the light from a street lamp installed by IOM to fight against GBV in Mutambara, Burundi.

© IOM 2023/Alexander Bee

Table 5.2 IDP households' durable solution intentions by province group in Burundi

Durable Solutions intentions	All provinces	Provinces with larger IDP populations	Provinces with smaller IDP populations
Stay	56.6	51.2	62.6*
Return	19.9	26.5	12.5*
Relocate	12.1	9.2	15.4*
No plan	11.4	13.1	9.4*
Total N	100.0 (2,962)	100.0 (1,565)	100.0 (1,397)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between states with larger and smaller IDP populations (* $p < 0.01$). Total Ns vary due to missing data.

Provinces with a larger proportion of IDPs had fewer households reporting a preference to stay or relocate, compared to those with smaller IDP populations (51.2 vs. 62.6%, and 9.2 vs. 15.4%). IDPs in provinces where they make up a smaller proportion of the population are more likely to stay than their counterparts in provinces where they comprise a larger proportion. The proportion of households that prefer to return is more than two times greater for those living in provinces with larger IDP populations compared to households in provinces with smaller IDP populations (26.5 vs. 12.5%).

While this does not imply causality, these findings suggest strong differences in intentions depending on the size of existing IDP populations in host areas. These differences are relevant to critical gaps in service provision and the absorption capacity of host communities, suggesting further investigation.

Table 5.3 IDP households' main reasons for reporting staying as their durable solution intention by province group in Burundi (multiple choice)

Reason for selecting the durable solution intention (only for those that intend to stay)	All provinces	Provinces with larger IDP populations	Provinces with smaller IDP populations
Feeling of security in current location	49.1	46.1	51.8
Lack of financial resources	42.3	50.1	35.1*
Activities here are starting to pay off	20	20.6	19.5
Place of origin not accessible	16.2	19.6	13.1*
Waiting to see how the situation at origin develops	9	6.1	11.7*
N	(1,677)	(802)	(875)

Note: Reasons for staying which do not exceed 10 per cent for at least one province group are not displayed. These include: Fear/trauma; Place of origin not accessible; Place of origin too far away; Failure to resume business activities in the place of origin; Better availability of services in this location; Humanitarian aid helps us more than if we returned; Other; No answer. Significance tests assess differences between provinces with smaller and larger IDP populations (*p < 0.01). Total Ns vary due to missing data.

Given that most IDPs indicate their preference for staying where they are, Table 5.3 above looks at the reasons given by IDPs for their preference to stay. More IDP households who report staying as their preferred durable solution feel more secure in their location of displacement (49.1%) and/or because they lack the financial resources to move (42.3%).

There are also significant differences between households in provinces with a larger share of IDPs than those with a smaller share when it comes to reporting a lack of financial resources and having an inaccessible place of origin.

More households in provinces with larger IDP populations (50.1%) report lacking financial resources as a reason for staying compared to households in provinces with smaller IDP populations (35.1%). A similar pattern is observed for those who report having an inaccessible place of origin (19.6% in larger IDP states vs. 13.1% in smaller IDP states). Data from key informant interviews are also in line with these findings, suggesting the salience of access to financial resources and accessible housing.

Criteria for solutions

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ACROSS HOUSEHOLD GROUPS



Portrait of Dorthée in Gasasa, Burundi

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The section below considers different durable solutions criteria as well as IDPs' perceptions about host households, highlighting differences between those living in higher versus lower IDP provinces. The analysis considers indicators related to adequate standards of living (housing/shelter, education, health care), access to livelihoods and employment, and perceptions about the relationship between IDPs and their host community.



Shelter and housing

Table 5.4 Vulnerability of IDP households' shelter by province group in Burundi

Vulnerability of the household shelter	All provinces	Provinces with larger IDP populations	Provinces with smaller IDP populations
Acceptable / suitable	57.7	62.8	51.9*
Moderately vulnerable	35.1	30.5	40.3*
Vulnerable	7.2	6.7	7.8
Total N	100.0 (2,987)	100.0 (1,579)	100.0 (1,408)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between provinces with smaller and larger IDP populations (* $p < 0.01$). Total Ns vary due to missing data.

In looking at indicators of durable solutions, the analysis begins by assessing access to adequate housing and shelter. While the original shelter data categorized shelters by type (e.g., adobe brick, straw-roof shelters, and tents), this analysis uses a reclassification based on vulnerability, developed in consultation with the DTM Burundi team.

Over half of IDP households report that their shelter is acceptable or suitable (57.7%), nearly one-third report it as moderately vulnerable (35.1%) and 7.2 per cent indicate that their shelter situation is vulnerable based on the permanence of the materials.

While data on the environmental stability of shelters was not available at the household level for this analysis, a key informant assessment⁷³ emphasised the importance of the environmental resilience of shelters in Burundi to weather-recurring climactic shocks. Of those households in provinces with larger IDP populations, more report having acceptable/suitable shelter (62.8%) compared to households in provinces with smaller IDP populations (51.9%). Key informants emphasised the lack of sustainable housing as a persistent challenge—an essential factor for achieving durable solutions.

73 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sep 23 2025. DTM Burundi – Stability Index Round 5 (June - December 2024). IOM, Burundi. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/burundi-stability-index-round-5-june-december-2024>



Health care

Table 5.5 Healthcare affordability of IDP households by province group in Burundi

Level of healthcare affordability	All provinces	Provinces with larger IDP populations	Provinces with smaller IDP populations
Yes	10.0	8.6	11.4*
Sometimes	70.9	70.2	71.6
No	19.2	21.1	17.0*
Total N	100.0 (2,984)	100.0 (1,576)	100.0 (1,408)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between provinces with smaller and larger IDP populations (* $p < 0.01$). Total Ns vary due to missing data.

This section explores the extent to which internally displaced households in Burundi can afford healthcare, revealing significant differences in affordability between provinces with larger and smaller IDP populations.

Most IDP households (70.9%) report that they can sometimes afford healthcare although 10.0 per cent report that they can consistently afford healthcare and another 19.2 per cent report that they can never afford healthcare. Fewer households in provinces with larger IDP populations report being able to consistently afford health care than those in smaller IDP provinces (8.6 vs. 11.4%).

Additionally, 21.1 per cent of households in provinces with larger IDP populations indicate they cannot afford health care, compared to 17 per cent in areas with smaller populations.



Education

Table 5.6 School attendance among IDP households with school-eligible children by province group in Burundi

Level of school attendance	All provinces	Provinces with larger IDP populations	Provinces with smaller IDP populations
All in school	46.2	45.2	47.2
None in school	34.5	37.2	31.7*
Some in school	19.3	17.6	21.1
Total N	100.0 (2,371)	100.0 (1,232)	100.0 (1,139)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between provinces with smaller and larger IDP populations (* $p < 0.01$). Total Ns vary due to missing data.

Education is another important indicator under the adequate standards of living criterion. Table 5.6 considers school attendance rates among households with children who are eligible to attend school.

Nearly half (46.2%) of IDP households report that all their school-eligible children attend school with no significant differences between those in larger versus smaller IDP provinces.

Among those living in provinces with larger IDP populations, 37.2 per cent report that none of their children are in school compared to 31.7 per cent of households in provinces with smaller IDP populations. Lastly, 34.5 per cent of all IDP households report that none of their school-eligible children attend school. With at least one-third of school-eligible children across all provinces out of school, the data underscores the need for programmatic interventions to increase school access and attendance.



Employment and livelihoods

Table 5.7 Main livelihood sources of IDP households by province group in Burundi

Type of source of livelihood	All provinces	Provinces with larger IDP populations	Provinces with smaller IDP populations
Agricultural	62.6	66.2	58.6*
Non-Agricultural	33.5	29.8	37.7*
No income	3.9	4.1	3.6
Total N	100.0 (2,978)	100.0 (1,576)	100.0 (1,402)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between provinces with smaller and larger IDP populations (* $p < 0.01$). Total Ns vary due to missing data. Non-agricultural livelihoods include activities such as daily labour, skilled and unskilled work, as well small business activities.

As emphasised in the last two editions of PROGRESS, economic self-reliance is an important factor for assessing progress toward durable solutions. Hence, we analysed main sources of livelihood among Burundian IDP households by provinces with larger and smaller IDP populations.

The majority of IDP households across all provinces rely on agricultural livelihood sources (62.6%), one-third (33.5%) rely on non-agricultural livelihoods, and 3.9 per cent report they have no income. More households in provinces with larger IDP populations report agriculture as their main source of livelihood than households in provinces with smaller IDP populations (66.2 vs. 58.6%). Conversely, non-agricultural livelihoods are more common in provinces with smaller IDP populations (37.7% vs. 29.8%).

The heavy reliance on agricultural activities that are vulnerable to climatic shocks places households at risk of multiple displacements and economic insecurity. As discussed in the intentions analysis, the lack of financial resources strains IDP households' choice and ability to act on their durable solution intentions.



Relationship with the host community

Table 5.8 IDP households' perceptions of relationship with the host community by province group in Burundi

Perception of relations with the host community	All provinces	Provinces with larger IDP populations	Provinces with smaller IDP populations
Good	90.4	87.5	93.7*
Average	7.3	9.6	4.7*
Bad	2.3	2.9	1.7
Total N	100.0 (2,978)	100.0 (1,576)	100.0 (1,402)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between provinces with smaller and larger IDP populations (* $p < 0.01$). Total Ns vary due to missing data.

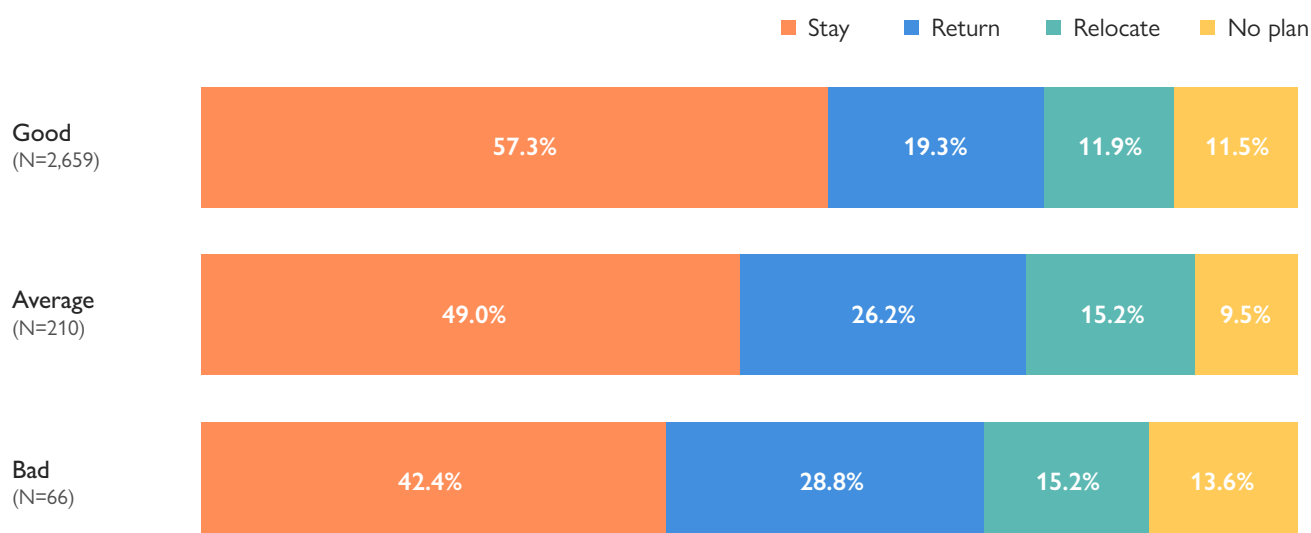
While social cohesion is not one of the criteria in the IASC durable solutions framework, reasons related to social ties between IDP and host households are often stated by IDPs when considering their durable solutions decision-making process.⁷⁴

Most households (90.4%) report having good relations with the host community. Although the difference is relatively small, more IDP households in provinces with smaller IDP proportions report having good relations with the host community than households in provinces with larger IDP populations (93.7 vs. 87.5%).

Twice as many households in provinces with larger IDP populations report average relations with the host community than households in provinces with smaller IDP populations (9.6 vs. 4.7%).

74 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, *PROGRESS 2024: Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions for Internal Displacement* (2024), <https://dtm.iom.int/progress-2024>

Figure 5.6 IDP households' durable solution preferences by perception of relationship with the host community in Burundi



Note: Significance tests assess differences between 'good' and 'average' and 'good' and 'bad' (*p < 0.01). Total Ns vary due to missing data.

Remaining in their current location is the most commonly stated intention among IDP households, regardless of their perception of relations with the host community. Households who perceive their relations with the host community as good are more likely to intend to stay (57.3%) compared to those perceiving their relations are bad (42.4%). IDP households who perceive good relations with the host community are less likely to report return (19.3%) compared to IDP households who perceive bad relations (28.8%).

Note, however, that none of these differences are statistically significant at the 0.01 level. Key informant assessments in 2024⁷⁵ also showed high levels of positive perceptions of social cohesion within communities. However, further investigation is needed to provide more insights.

⁷⁵ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sep 23 2025. DTM Burundi – Stability Index Round 5 (June - December 2024). IOM, Burundi. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/burundi-stability-index-round-5-june-december-2024>



Most IDPs in Burundi intend to remain where they are, and this preference strengthens the longer displacement lasts.

Workers construct shelters financed with support from IOM in Bugarama, Burundi.

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MOZAMBIQUE

Population

33.6 Million

UNDP Human Development Index

182nd

GDP per capita

623 USD

IDPs*

602,243

IDP Returnees*

701,462

*as of March 2025

In Mozambique, where cyclone Idai made landfall on March 14 before barrelling inland to Zimbabwe and Malawi, more than 73,000 displaced people have sought shelter in dozens of locations.

© IOM 2019/Amanda Nero



Map 5.2 Geographical distribution of IDPs and IDP Returnees in Mozambique



*Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT

Mozambique, a country with a population of 33.6 million with 38 per cent living in urban areas,⁷⁶ has a GDP per capita is USD 623⁷⁷ and ranks 182nd out of 193 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index. Internal displacement is geographically differentiated due to distinct causes of displacement between regions. In the north, displacement is primarily caused by conflict, while in central and southern provinces displacement is more closely linked to disasters. Mozambique, similar to the other countries included in this study, has a long history of civil conflict. Since 2017, an insurgency driven by Islamic State-Mozambique (ISIS-M) displaced more than a million people in Cabo Delgado province. When the violence ebbed in 2023, some 600,000 IDPs returned but faced difficulties with reintegration. Attacks in early 2024 then displaced almost 100,000 people and, to date, the situation remains unstable. The 2021-2024 Cabo Delgado Reconstruction Plan, focusing on rebuilding roads, telecommunication infrastructure, health facilities and schools in the conflict-affected province, offered some hope. However, due to increased insecurity in 2024, reconstruction efforts are on hold and delayed in many parts of the region.⁷⁸ Contested elections in October 2024 were followed by protests, violence, and more displacement.⁷⁹

As of March 2025, DTM Mozambique identified 609,243 IDPs and 701,462 IDP returnees across 400 assessed locations.⁸⁰ It is notable that the number of IDP returnees surpassed that of IDPs in 2025. This is a trend to track in future assessments and to consider for solutions programming in the country. Most IDPs (70%) in Mozambique reside in Cabo Delgado, a northern province where IDPs are primarily displaced due to conflict. In Cabo Delgado, 89 per cent of IDPs have experienced multiple displacement and more than half (53%) live in urban or peri-urban areas. In contrast, in central and southern Mozambique, displacement is closely linked to climate conditions (98%) including cyclones, heavy rains, flooding, and drought since 2024.

As of 2025, Mozambique has more IDP returnees than IDPs.

Recurrent cyclones and flooding uproot around

100,000
people each year

76 World Bank Group. *Urban Population (% of total population) - Mozambique*. 2025. Urban population (% of total population) - Mozambique | Data. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=MZ>

77 World Bank Group. *GDP per capita (current US\$) - Mozambique*. 2025. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=MZmo>

78 IDMC. *7 Years into the Conflict, Solutions to Displacement in Cabo Delgado remain elusive*. (2024), <https://www.internal-displacement.org/expert-analysis/7-years-in-to-the-conflict-solutions-to-displacement-in-cabo-delgado-remain-elusive/#:~:text=In%20total%2C%20from%20January%20to,2024%20triggered%20nearly%2050%2C000%20displacements>

79 International Crisis Group. *What's Driving Mozambique's Post-electoral protests?* (2024), <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/east-and-southern-africa/mozambique/what-driving-mozambiques-post-electoral-protests>

80 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Jun 03 2025. DTM Mozambique — Mobility Tracking Assessment Round 22 (April 2025). IOM, Mozambique. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-round-22-april-2025>

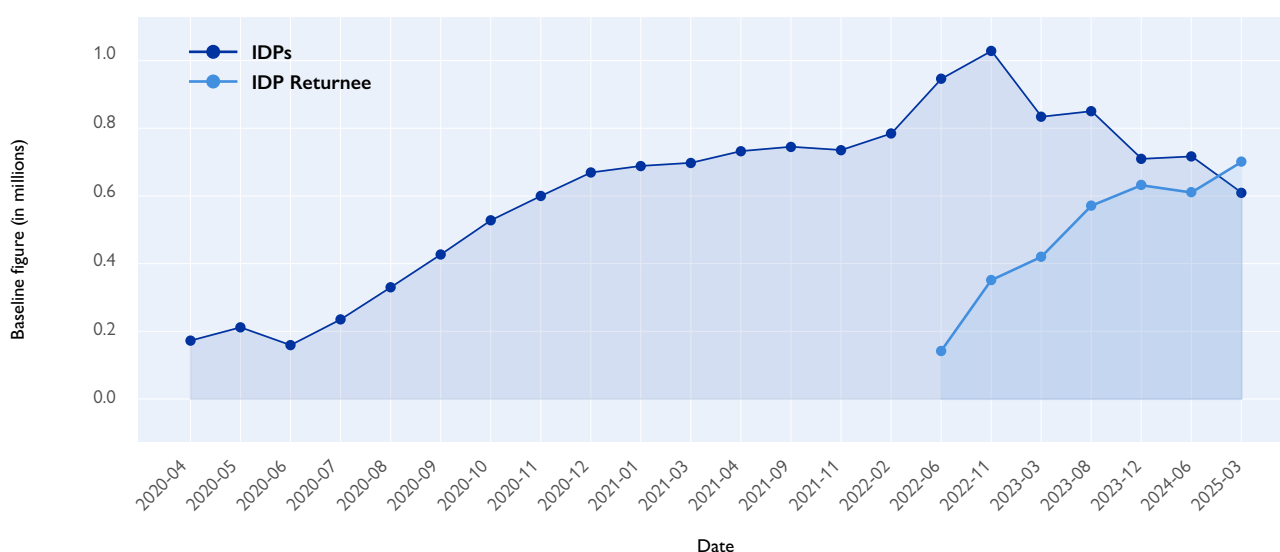
Climate related displacements have generally lasted longer than conflict displacements, spanning from 2017 to 2024. However, most IDPs in these areas reported being displaced once and more than half (57%) of IDPs in Sofala reside in urban and peri-urban areas.⁸¹ At the same time, recurrent tropical storms and floods since 2021 have further driven periodic displacement, particularly in central Mozambique. Most recently, Cyclones Chido (December 2024), Dikeledi (January 2025), and Jude (March 2025) disrupted central and northern provinces and led people to flee their homes. On average about 100,000 people per year are displaced by storms and flooding. The displacement landscape is complex, with many experiencing multiple displacements.

Regarding IDP returnees, 94 per cent reside in Cabo Delgado, followed by Nampula (4%). Despite the gradual increase in returns since early 2024, conditions remain fragile, with limited access to basic services, livelihoods, and

security. This highlights the need for multi-sectoral interventions to support sustainable reintegration and mitigate protection risks.

In 2021, Mozambique's Council of Ministers approved a National Policy and Strategy for Internal Displacement Management (PSIDM) that addressed all types of displacement and phases of humanitarian response. Later that year the government adopted Mozambique's Action Plan on the Management of Internally Displaced People (PEG-DI)⁸² in which the National Institute for the Management and Reduction of Disaster Risks (INGD) was named as the coordinating body for developing policies and programmes to aid the displaced. Several capacity building activities have been carried out in line with the Action Plan.⁸³ In April 2025, INGD announced that USD 700 million were needed to implement the action plan for IDPs.⁸⁴

Figure 5.7 Estimates of IDP and IDP returnee baseline figures in Mozambique, 2020 - 2025



81 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Jun 03 2025. DTM Mozambique — Mobility Tracking Assessment Round 22 (April 2025). IOM, Mozambique. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-round-22-april-2025?close=true>

82 Government of Mozambique. *Mozambique-Policy/Strategy on the Management of Internally Displaced People (Resolution 41/2021) (2021)*, <https://www.refworld.org/policy/strategy/natlegbod/2021/en/147633>

83 UNHCR. *Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement*. 2025. Document - UNHCR - Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement - February 2025. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/114894>

84 Alberto Massange. INGD needs over 700 million dollars to implement action plan on internally displaced. AIM News. 2 April 2025. <https://aimnews.org/2025/04/02/ingd-needs-over-700-million-dollars-to-implement-action-plan-for-internally-displaced/>

OVERVIEW OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN MOZAMBIQUE

The analysis for this chapter is based on 2024 MSNA household data. IDP and host community household samples are from 9 provinces while the returnee sample is drawn from 4 provinces. The analysis begins with an overview of the Mozambican IDP households, examining their demographics and displacement by their preferred durable solution intention.

Table 5.9 shows that household heads who prefer to stay are older than those in households who report that they have no plans. Among those who intend to stay, the share of male headed households (60.7%) is highest, and on average, the IDP households have 4.3 members and 2.2 children.

Among households that prefer to stay, the share of conflict displaced households is much lower (51.6%) than for those that intend to return (96.6%), relocate (83.7%), and those that are uncertain (83.7%). In addition, 47.3 per cent of households who intend to stay were displaced due to a disaster, which is a much higher percentage than for households intending to return (0.7%), relocate (1.7%), and those without a plan (13.4%).

On average, IDP households have been displaced for an average of 3.3 years, while those intending to stay have been displaced for at least 3.6 years, the highest average duration of displacement among respondents.

Among households that intend to stay, the share of households living in urban areas is lower than that of households who intend to return, relocate or do not have a plan. Approximately, 80 per cent of households who intend to stay are in rural areas. In addition, at least two-thirds of those intending to return, relocate or without a plan reside in rural areas. Among those intending to relocate, 27.3 per cent live in urban areas.

Conflict remains the dominant driver of displacement, affecting three-quarters of IDP households.

Average duration of displacement
3.3 years

Table 5.9 Who are the IDP households in Mozambique? Characteristics by durable solution preferences

Intentions	Stay	Return	Relocate	No plan	Total
Demographic					
Avg age head (yrs) N	42.4 (2,216)	41.2 (592)	42.8 (473)	40.9* (4,197)	41.5 (7,748)
Male head (%) N	60.7 (1,670)	54.7* (592)	51.4* (473)	59.0 (4,196)	58.7 (7,476)
Mean household size N	4.3 (2,216)	4.2 (592)	4.5 (473)	4.3 (4,197)	4.3 (7,748)
Mean # of children N	2.2 (2,216)	2.1 (592)	2.1 (473)	2.2 (4,197)	2.2 (7,478)
Displacement					
Type of displacement (%)					
Conflict	51.6	96.6*	83.7*	83.7*	75.2
Disaster	47.3	0.7*	1.7*	13.4*	21.7
Other	1.1	2.7*	14.6*	3.0*	3.1
N	(2,215)	(592)	(473)	(4,196)	(7,478)
Avg duration of displacement (yrs) N	3.6 (2,216)	3.0 (592)	3.3 (473)	3.2 (4,197)	3.3 (7,478)
Geographic location (%)					
Urban	12.0	15.2	27.3*	14.7*	14.7
Peri-Urban	7.9	15.0*	8.5	10.6*	10.0
Rural	80.1	69.4*	63.8*	74.6*	75.1
N	(2,216)	(592)	(473)	(4,197)	(7,748)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between stay and return, stay and relocate, and stay and no plan (*p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 5.8 shows that households in Cabo Delgado province represent 54.4 per cent of IDP households (N=7,769), 37.7 per cent of host community households (N=14,576) and 86.9 per cent of returnee households (N= 2,602). This illustrates the predominance of Cabo Delgado among all household groups. Given the distribution⁸⁵ of the data, the analysis below groups IDP households in two categories: Cabo Delgado and all other provinces.

More than half of the IDP households interviewed in Mozambique are located in Cabo Delgado.

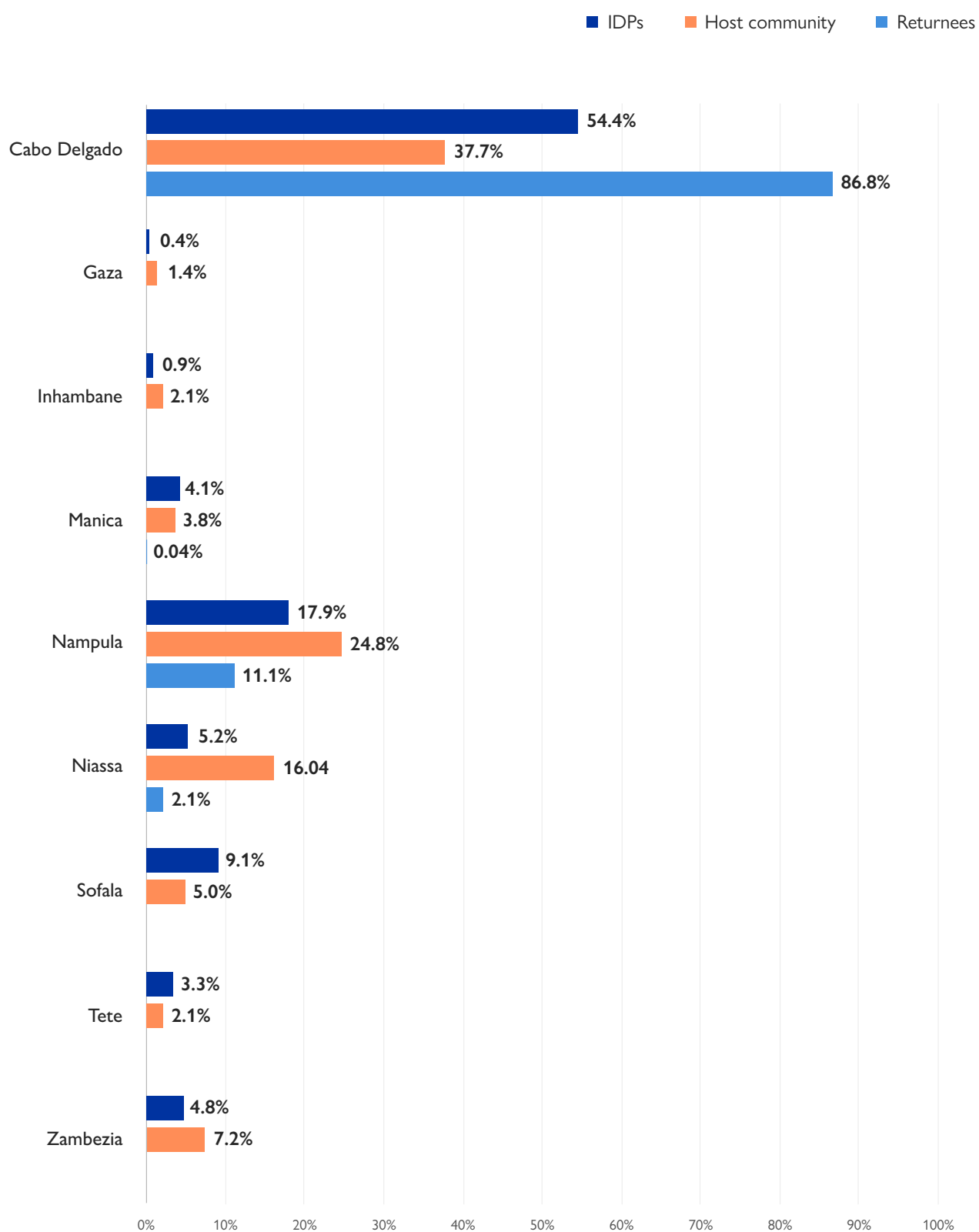


IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix staff conducting the Mobility Tracking Assessment in Corrane resettlement site.

© IOM 2024/Gerson Fanequico

⁸⁵ After applying the same methodology as for Burundi and South Sudan, e.g. dividing each level 1 area's displacement caseload (IDPs plus IDP returnees) by the overall level 1 administrative (state or province) population, only Cabo Delgado is the level 1 administrative area where the proportion of displaced persons is high. Note also that in Mozambique, physical access to some of the targeted populations was restricted due to terrain conditions and insecurity.

Figure 5.8 Mozambique: Distribution of IDP, host community and returnee households by province group



DURABLE SOLUTION INTENTIONS OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN MOZAMBIQUE

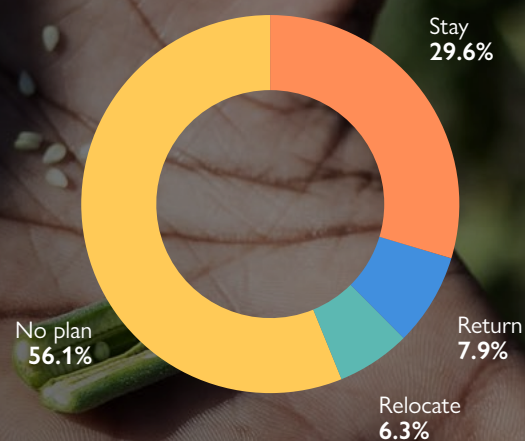
This analysis begins by examining the durable solutions intentions of IDPs, with comparisons drawn between the cause of displacement (conflict/disaster) and settlement type (camp/no camp).

Overall, 29.6 per cent of IDP households intend to stay, 7.9 per cent intend to return, 6.3 per cent plan to relocate, and 56.1 per cent were uncertain about their solutions intentions. Uncertainty about intentions is evident in both the Mozambique and Burundi case studies, with a notable difference between the two countries (56.1 vs. 11.4%, respectively). Additionally, a higher prevalence of uncertainty among conflict displaced households is observed in both countries.

When considering the cause of displacement in Mozambique, uncertainty is more prevalent among conflict displaced IDPs (62.4%) than disaster displaced (34.6%) households. IDPs displaced by disasters were more likely to report a plan to stay (64.6%) compared to conflict-displaced IDPs (20.3%), while conflict displaced households were much more likely to report an intention to return (10.2%) compared to disaster displaced households (0.3%).

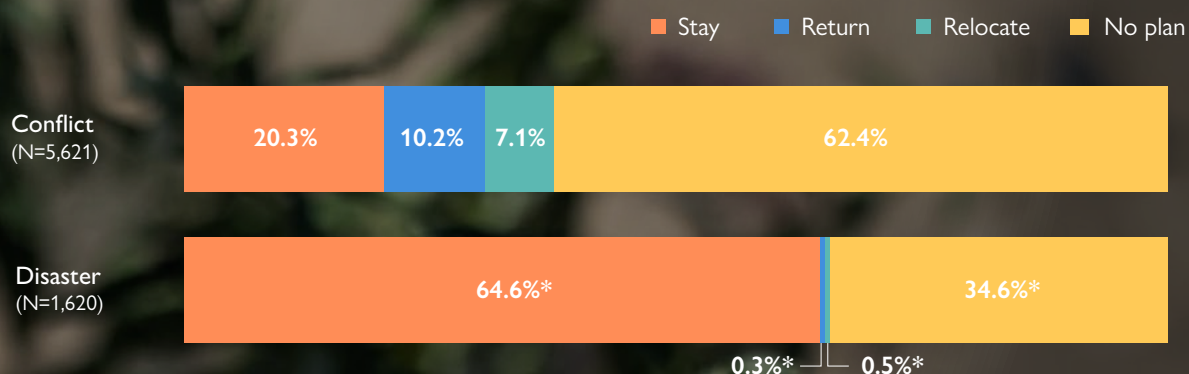
Analysis was conducted on the intentions of IDPs in displacement sites (52%) versus host communities (48%) due to the higher proportion of IDP households living in sites in Mozambique.⁸⁶ The difference in intentions between IDPs in camp-like settings and those living in host communities is not as pronounced as the difference associated with type of displacement. More IDP households in camps intend to stay (32%) but fewer report having no plan (53.6%), compared with those IDPs who do not live in camps (27.5% stay vs. 58.3% no plan).

Figure 5.9 Percentages of IDP households' durable solution intentions in the next 12 months in Mozambique (N=7,748)



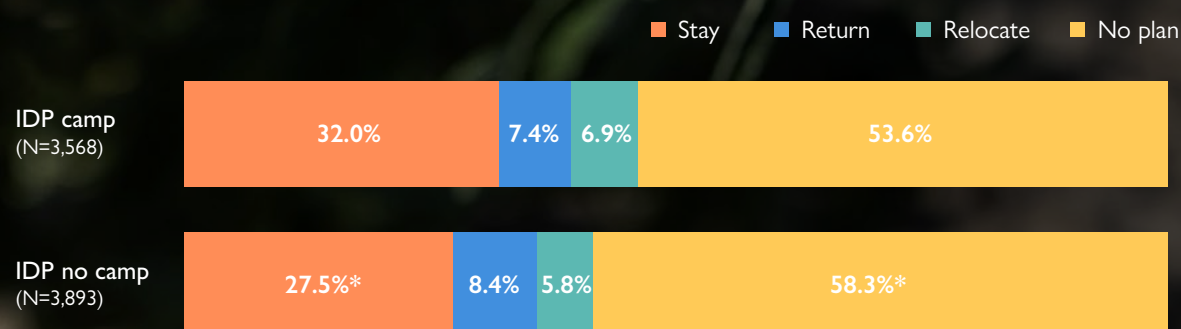
86 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Jun 03, 2025. DTM Mozambique — Mobility Tracking Assessment Round 22 (April 2025). IOM, Mozambique. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-round-22-april-2025>.

Figure 5.10 Percentages of IDP households' durable solution intentions in the next 12 months by type of displacement (conflict/disaster) in Mozambique (N=7,748)



Note: Type of displacement 'other' (n=235) is not displayed. . Significance tests assess differences between conflict and disaster (*p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

Figure 5.11 Percentages of IDP households' durable solution intentions in the next 12 months by settlement type in Mozambique (N=7,748)



Note: Type of displacement 'other' (n=235) is not displayed. Significance tests assess differences between camp and non-camp (*p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

At the Ngunga Resettlement Centre in Mozambique, home to families displaced by violence and later affected by Cyclone Chido, the need for basic hygiene and protection became urgent.

Criteria for solutions

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ACROSS HOUSEHOLD GROUPS



Around 400 people were relocated in the newly build camp Samora Machel where 82 tents were built to shelter the families in Mozambique.

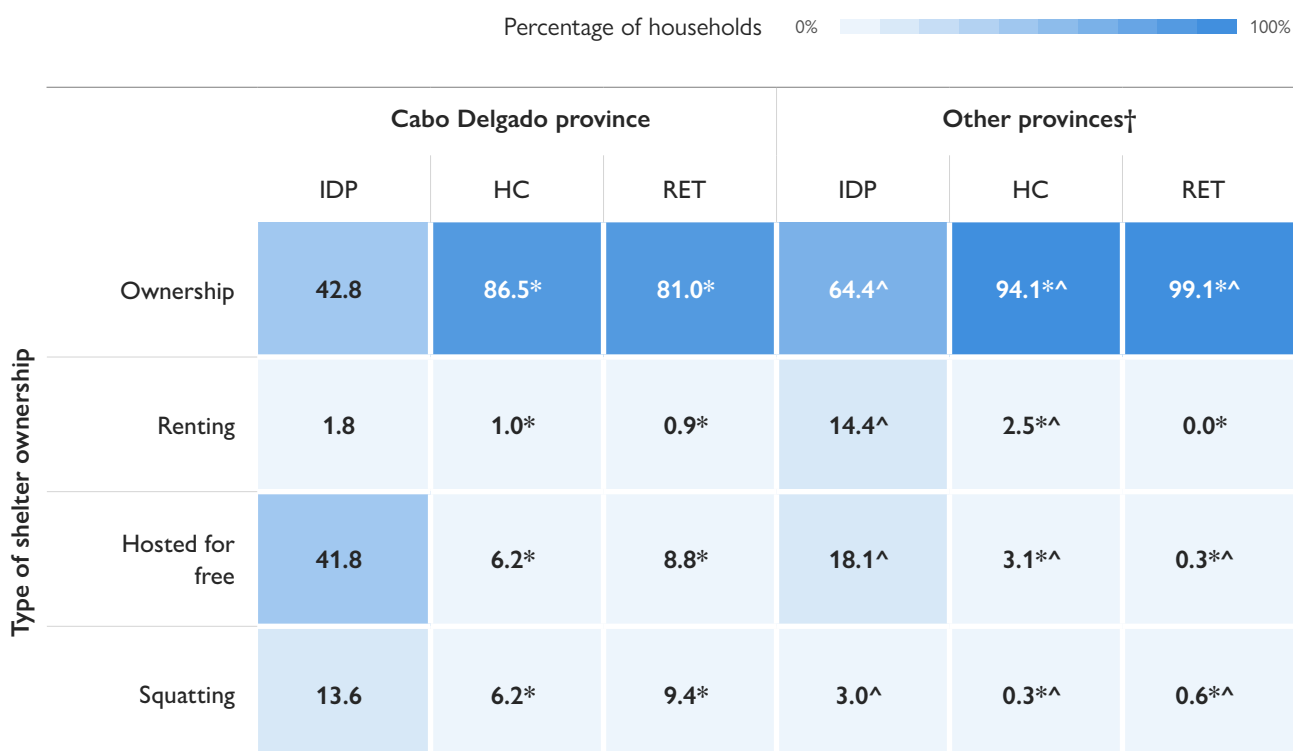
© IOM 2019/Amanda Nero

The section below compares three groups: IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community households. This comparison, done across a few indicators within the durable solutions criteria, highlights the differences and similarities in conditions and needs across population groups in Mozambique.



Shelter and housing

Figure 5.12 Shelter ownership for current shelter by population and province group in Mozambique



Note: Significance tests assess the differences between IDP and host community and IDP and returnees within Cabo Delgado and within other Provinces (*p < 0.01) and the differences between each population group across Cabo Delgado and other Provinces (^p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. †Other Provinces include Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia.

The analysis on housing, land and property considers the ownership of homes and shelters.

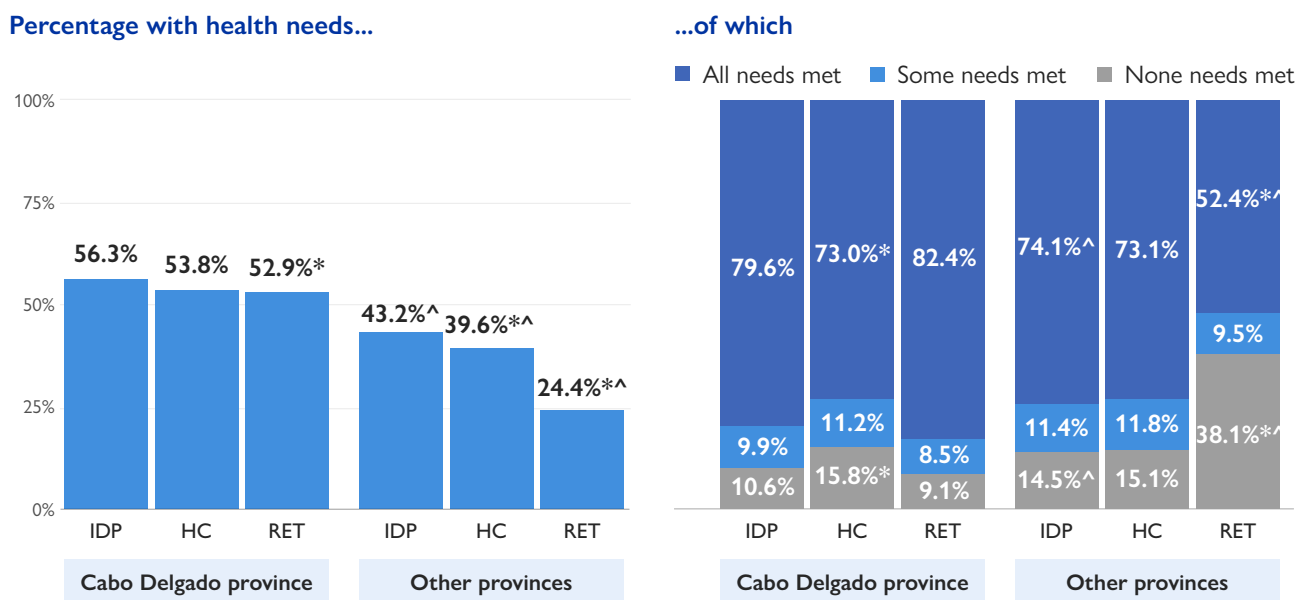
Generally, across all provinces a much lower percentage of IDP households report owning their shelter than both host and returnee households. However, when comparing shelter conditions between IDP households in Cabo Delgado and IDPs elsewhere, IDPs in Cabo Delgado face greater difficulties in securing stable shelter solutions. IDPs in the province reported the lowest rate of shelter ownership compared to other population groups; only 42.8 per cent of IDP households owned their shelter, versus 86.5 per cent of host households and 81.0 per cent of IDP returnee households. In other provinces, 64.4 per cent of IDPs own their homes which is also lower than that for host households (94.1%) and IDP returnee households (99.1%).

Furthermore, shelter conditions in Cabo Delgado appear particularly precarious: 41.8 per cent of IDP households reported being hosted for free, compared to 18.1 per cent in other provinces. The proportion of IDPs squatting is also highest in Cabo Delgado (13.6%), while very few households report renting accommodations (1.8%). These shelter conditions place IDPs in Cabo Delgado at a higher risk of eviction and potential re-displacement.



Health care

Figure 5.13 Households with at least one member who has health needs and the extent to which those were met by population and province group in Mozambique



Note: Significance tests assess the differences between IDP and host community and IDP and returnees within Cabo Delgado and within other Provinces (* $p < 0.01$) and the differences between each population group across Cabo Delgado and other Provinces (^ $p < 0.01$). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. †Other Provinces include Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia.

The IASC criteria use access to medical services as a key indicator for assessing the health dimension of adequate standards of living. For the Mozambique case study, the presence of health needs among different population groups and the ability to meet them is a proxy indicator used to evaluate access to medical services, permitting an assessment of households that were unable to have their healthcare needs met. Of households in Cabo Delgado, more than half of IDP, IDP returnee and host households reported having family members with health needs (56.3 vs. 52.9 vs. 53.8%, respectively). While the percentage of IDPs reporting members with health needs in other provinces is lower, there is a statistically significant difference between IDP returnees and IDP households (43.2 vs. 24.4 vs. 43.2%, respectively).

The most notable observation from Figure 5.13 is that more than half of all households across all provinces and household groups report their health needs are being met, ranging from 52.4 per cent (returnees in other provinces) to 82.4 per cent (returnees in Cabo Delgado). In Cabo Delgado province, the difference between IDP households and host community households reporting that all their health needs were met is statistically significant (79.6 vs. 73.0%).

Conversely, in Cabo Delgado, the percentage of IDP households reporting that none of their needs were met was lower for IDP than host households (10.6 vs. 15.8%). In cases where the host community reports slightly higher rates of unmet needs, it is important to investigate further why access to services for non-displaced host populations is lower. Strengthening access to health services is particularly important in areas where a large proportion of IDPs are living in host communities, as services may be overstretched and assistance may not be adequately targeted.⁸⁷

While IDP returnee households in other provinces reported the lowest presence of members with healthcare needs, they report the highest number of members with unmet needs (38.1%) compared to IDP and host households. When comparing access to healthcare across population groups, IDPs reported levels of access similar to those of host community members, indicating a degree of parity with their non-displaced counterparts. Overall, IDP and IDP returnee households in Cabo Delgado are more likely to have their health needs met and less likely to report unmet needs than comparable households outside the province.

⁸⁷ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mozambique, Jun 03 2025. DTM Mozambique. Mobility Tracking Assessment Round 22 (April 2025). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-round-22-april-2025>



Education

Table 5.10 School attendance among households with school-eligible children by population and province group in Mozambique

Province	Cabo Delgado province			Other provinces†		
Household group	IDP	HC	RET	IDP	HC	RET
Level of school attendance						
All in school	65.7	62.3*	68.4	65.9	64.9^	50.4*^
None in school	17.2	19.8*	17.9	13.8^	19.0*	28.7*^
Some in school	17.1	17.9	13.7*	20.3^	16.0*^	20.9^
Total N	100.0 (3,346)	100.0 (4,357)	100.0 (1,868)	100.0 (2,787)	100.0 (7,194)	100.0 (268)

Note: Significance tests assess the differences between IDP and host community and IDP and returnees within Cabo Delgado and within other Provinces (*p < 0.01) and the differences between each population group across Cabo Delgado and other Provinces (^p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. †Other Provinces include Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia.

Among IDP, host community and IDP returnee households across all provinces, approximately two-thirds report that all their eligible children attended school in 2024 (62.3% or higher). The only exception is for returnee households in other provinces, where 50.4 per cent reported that all their children are attending school.

In Cabo Delgado, the share of IDP households with school-aged children who report that all attend school (65.7%) is slightly higher than for host community households (62.3%), but smaller than for returnee households (68.4%). Host community households are more likely than IDP households to report having none of their eligible children in school (19.8% in Cabo Delgado, 19.0% in other provinces). In other provinces, a larger share of returnee households report having no children in school (28.7%), suggesting access to education as a potential barrier to overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities for IDP returnees in those provinces. In Cabo Delgado, a larger share of returnee households report having all their eligible children in school compared to those in other provinces (68.4 vs. 50.4%).

In addition, a smaller share of returnee households in Cabo Delgado than in other provinces report having none of them in school (17.9 vs. 28.7%).

Overall, returnees in other provinces have the lowest access to schooling, with more households reporting that none or some of their children attended school during 2024. Coupled with the highest level of healthcare needs, these findings call for further development investments across disaster affected areas to address residual displacement-related vulnerabilities of IDP returnee populations.

IDPs and IDP returnees in Cabo Delgado report higher rates of school-aged children attending school and a higher rate of met health needs compared to the host community. This gap warrants a closer look at conditions and programming to further direct recovery efforts towards the rehabilitation of facilities to ensure equal access for all population groups.



Employment and livelihoods

Table 5.11 Main livelihood sources in the last 30 days by population and province group in Mozambique

Province	Cabo Delgado province			Other provinces†		
Household group	IDP	HC	RET	IDP	HC	RET
Type of livelihood source						
Salaried work	35.2	33.1	45.2*	36.7^	31.6*	30.5^
Casual or daily labour	8.6	9.3	9.1	8.8	13.6*^	5.8
Income from own business/regular trade	35.2	42.0*	37.9	41.6^	51.3*^	63.1*^
Remittances	3.0	1.6*	3.8	3.3	0.3*^	0.3*^
Humanitarian assistance	2.6	1.7*	0.7*	1.6^	1.4	1.5
Other‡	11.9	11.9	13.4	8.7^	9.1*^	6.2
No income	11.8	13.4	3.4*	4.4^	3.1*^	3.5
Prefer not to answer	6.7	4.0*	3.8*	5.7	2.5*^	0*^
N	(4,218)	(5,495)	(2,258)	(3,542)	(9,081)	(344)

Note: Significance tests assess the differences between IDP and host community and IDP and returnees within Cabo Delgado and within other Provinces (*p < 0.01) and the differences between each population group across Cabo Delgado and other Provinces (^p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. †Other summarizes the following answer categories: income from own production (agriculture); government social benefits or assistance; income from rent; loans or support from family and friends; loans, support, donations from community; other and don't know. ‡Other Provinces include Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia.

Please note that households provided more than livelihood source, so the percentages sum up to more than 100 per cent in some cases.

In Mozambique, access to employment and livelihoods was measured based on the main types of livelihood sources reported by heads of household. Across all provinces, salaried work and income from businesses or regular trade were the most reported sources of income among all population groups. In Cabo Delgado, salaried work was more frequently reported by IDP returnees than IDPs and host community households (45.2 vs. 35.2% vs. 33.1%, respectively). Income from own businesses and regular trade was highest among IDP returnee and host community households in other provinces (63.1 and 51.3%, respectively).

The least self-reliant household economies are those with no income (11.8% for IDPs vs. 13.4% for host households) and those who rely on humanitarian assistance (2.6% for IDPs vs. 1.7% host households) in Cabo Delgado. Reliance on humanitarian assistance was least reported by IDP and host community households in other provinces, where households reported higher rates of salaried work and income from businesses. This could indicate a better economic self-reliance in areas outside Cabo Delgado but also gaps in the provision of humanitarian support to address displacement-related vulnerabilities. Additional information and analysis would be needed to determine this.



Relationships between IDP and host community households

Table 5.12 Perception of community relationship among IDPs, host community and IDP returnees by province group in Mozambique

Province	Cabo Delgado province			Other provinces†		
Household group	IDP	HC	RET	IDP	HC	RET
Community relationships						
Good	83.8	87.5*	94.6*	93.0^	96.1*^	100.0*^
Neutral	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9^	0.4*^	0.0
Poor	14.8	12.1*	4.4*	4.1^	2.7*^	0.0*^
I don't know/prefer not to answer	1.2	0.2*	0.7	2.0^	0.7*^	0.0*
Total N	100.0 (4,215)	100.0 (5,392)	100.0 (2,177)	100.0 (3,519)	100.0 (6,803)	100.0 (344)

Note: Significance tests assess the differences between IDP and host community and IDP and returnees within Cabo Delgado and within other Provinces (*p < 0.01) and the differences between each population group across Cabo Delgado and other Provinces (^p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. †Other Provinces include Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia.

As discussed in the introduction, the relationships between IDPs and their host communities may play an important role in the local integration of IDPs. Below is an analysis of the perceptions reported by members of each group about their community relationships.

Across the board, community relations are viewed very positively by all groups in the assessed provinces. The share of IDP returnee households that reported having good relationships with other household groups is highest, compared to IDP and host community households. Despite overall positive reports, good community relationships were less likely to be reported by households across the three groups in Cabo Delgado than in other provinces. Particularly, IDP households located in the northern, conflict-affected province were slightly less likely to report good community

relationships. Another household assessment⁸⁸ across three districts in Cabo Delgado found that social cohesion is linked to access to basic services. Programming that improves access to medical services, education and livelihoods may directly support community integration and cohesion in communities that are generally perceived as welcoming. However, Cabo Delgado—which hosts a large proportion of IDPs and IDP returnees—highlights how strained community relationships emerge in high displacement areas. This mirrors findings from Burundi, where IDPs in high displacement areas reported lower levels of positive community relationships despite overall good relationships (see Table 5.8). In addition, the percentage of IDP households reporting poor community relations is higher among IDPs (14.8%) than other households (12.1% in host community and 4.4% in IDP returnee households).

88 International Organization for Migration (IOM), May 09 2025. DTM IOM Mozambique – Solutions Mobility Index Report - Cabo Delgado (January 2025). IOM, Mozambique. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/iom-mozambique-solutions-mobility-index-report-cabo-delgado-january-2025>

SOUTH SUDAN

Population

11.48 Million

UNDP Human Development Index

193rd

GDP per capita

351 USD

IDPs*

1,992,513

IDP Returnees*

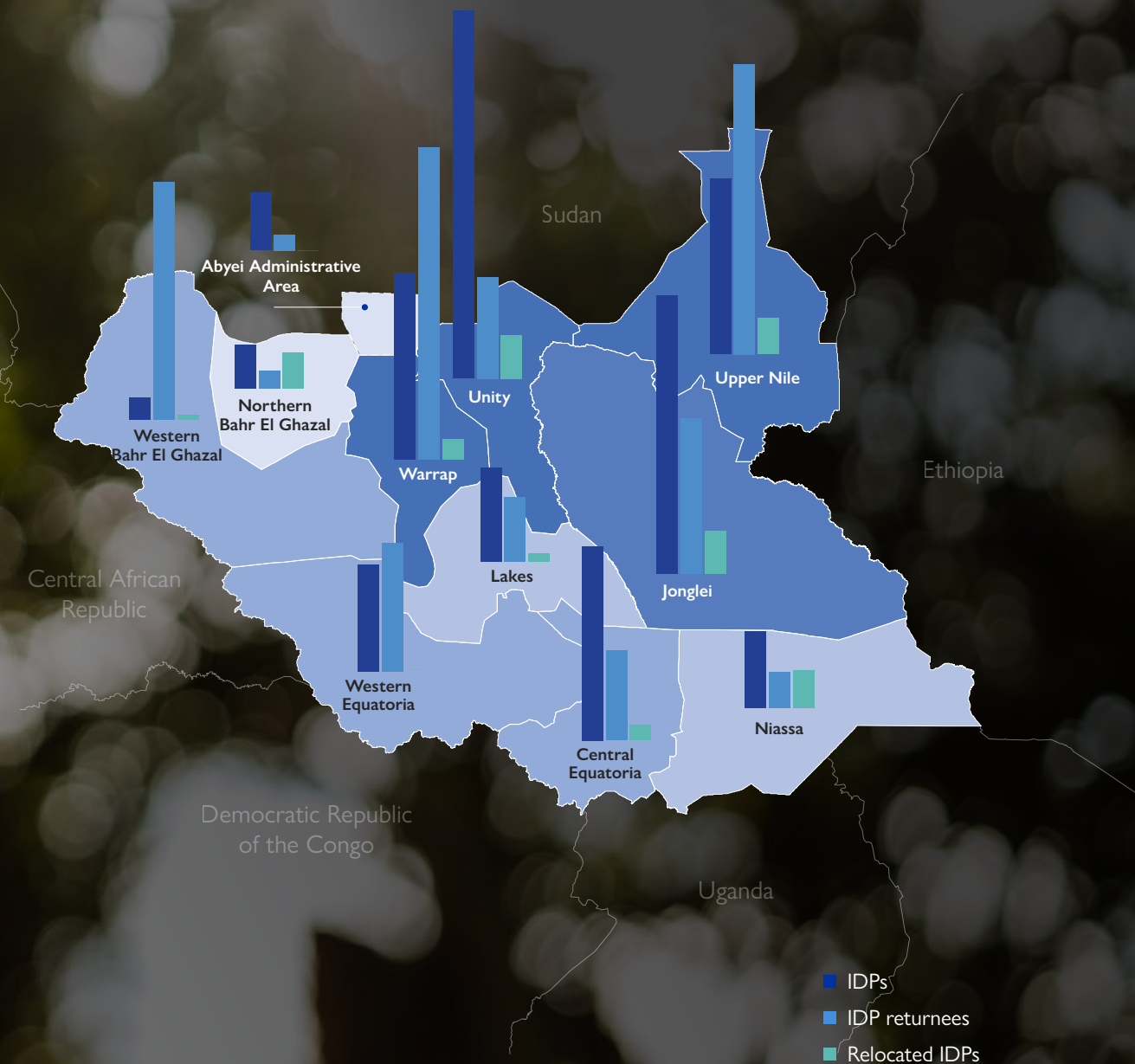
1,847,974

*as of February 2025

In the conflict-scarred town of Malakal, South Sudan, a new generation is fighting to break free from the tribal violence that has defined the country for decades. Lunia, is among the youth who are leading the charge on building peace. As a Youth Peace Ambassador, her mission is to help her peers rise above the divisions sown by their elders. "The past is behind us," she says, speaking of the long-standing tribal tensions. "But our elders won't let it go."

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Map 5.3 Geographical distribution of IDPs, IDP Returnees and Relocated IDPs in South Sudan



*Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT

With a population of 11.48 million of whom 21 per cent live in urban areas,⁸⁹ South Sudan's per capita GDP is USD 351, and the country ranks 193rd out of 193 on UNDP's Human Development Index.⁹⁰ Following a brutal war for independence, South Sudan has continued to experience conflict and instability. The 2018 peace accord remains unstable with government actions threatening renewed civil war and forcing civilians to flee. Since early 2025, there has been a surge in clashes between the government, militarised youth groups (e.g., White Army), and factions like the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO). Access to affected populations is extremely limited due to the security situation, leaving many without access to assistance. In early June, UNMISS (the UN Mission in South Sudan) called for government intervention to respond to the escalating intercommunal violence in Tonj East, including cattle raids, revenge killings and land disputes.⁹¹

As of February 2025, DTM reported 1,992,513 IDPs and 1,847,974 IDP returnees.⁹² Thirteen per cent of IDPs were returnees from abroad, including returnees from Sudan, who are now re-displaced within South Sudan. Nearly half of IDPs were displaced due to conflict or communal clashes (47.4%), followed by natural hazards (31.6%) and other reasons (21%).⁹³ Additionally, nearly half of IDPs have been displaced for more than two years, and over one-third are residing in five counties (Rubkona, Juba, Twic, Malakal, and Bor South). Three quarters (75%) are staying with host communities while the remaining 25 per cent reside in displacement sites. For IDP returnees, the majority are hosted in Wau, Luakpiny (Nasir), Gogrial West and Twic, which collectively host 30 per cent of IDP returnees. Since the onset of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023, 1,188,688 people have arrived in South Sudan; the majority are South Sudanese (68.2%), followed by Sudanese nationals (31.3%).⁹⁴

**Over one million South Sudanese
have returned from Sudan since
April 2023**

**Unprecedented floods affected
around**

735,000
people in 2024

89 World Bank Group. *Urban Population (% of total population) – South Sudan*. 2025. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=SS>

90 Statista. *Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita from 2011 to 2030 in South Sudan*. 2025. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/727344/gross-domestic-product-gdp-per-capita-in-south-sudan/>

91 UN Mission in South Sudan. *UNMISS calls for Government Intervention and Deployment of Security Services to Prevent Persistent Intercommunal Conflict in Tonj East, Arrap* (2025), <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/unmiss-calls-government-intervention-and-deployment-of-security-services-to-prevent-persistent>

92 International Organization for Migration (IOM), May 06 2025. *DTM South Sudan — Mobility Tracking (Round 16)*. IOM, South Sudan. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-mobility-tracking-round-16?close=true>

93 *Ibid.*

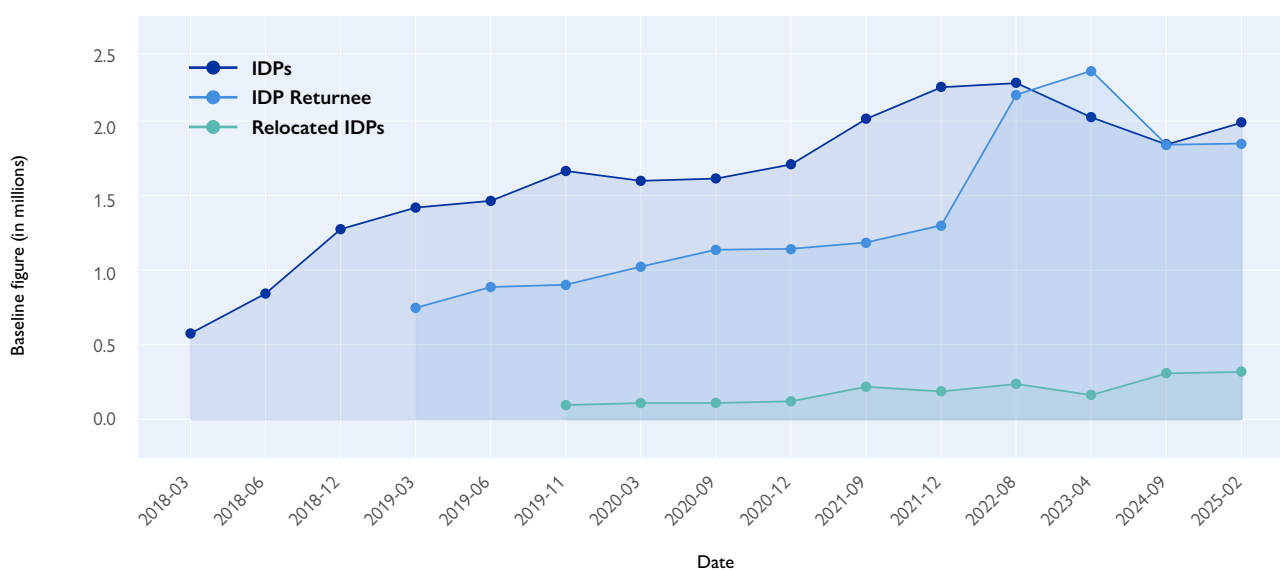
94 IOM and UNHCR Arrivals from Sudan to South Sudan Dashboard. <https://dtm.iom.int/node/25851>.

In March 2025, clashes in the southeastern part of Upper Nile state, bordering Jonglei, displaced over 80,000 people. Tensions were also recorded in Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Unity states leading to the displacement of at least 4,000 people who moved into IDP camps in the capital city of Juba as a precaution due to fears of continued intercommunal violence.⁹⁵

Seasonal flood cycles—linked to upstream dam activity in Uganda and climate change—have repeatedly displaced hundreds of thousands of people, especially in lowlands such as the Sudd. Over the past year, unprecedented floods, triggered by heavy rains and lake overflows, affected around 735,000 people, displacing about 65,000 internally, mostly in the Warrap and Jonglei regions.⁹⁶ Climate researchers suggested that altered climate patterns around the Sudd wetland region could result in the first mass-population displacement caused by climate change, due to the permanent expansion of uninhabitable wetlands caused by prolonged rainfall and flooding.⁹⁷

In 2019, South Sudan adopted a National Policy for the Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons in Achieving Durable Solutions, which was developed through a participatory law-making process. In 2020, the governments of Sudan and South Sudan agreed on a framework to address the then-7 million displaced Sudanese and South Sudanese crisis, including both refugees and IDPs in the two countries.⁹⁸ In 2024, the government adopted the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities, with the support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the European Union and UNHCR.⁹⁹ But progress in implementing the policy has reportedly been stalled.¹⁰⁰

Figure 5.14 Estimates of IDP, IDP returnee, and relocated IDP baseline figures in South Sudan, 2018 - 2025



95 UN OCHA. South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot (March 2025). 9 April 2025. <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-snapshot-march-2025>

96 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), South Sudan Floods Snapshot, 29 November 2024. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-floods-snapshot-29-november-2024>

97 Liz Stephens and Levi Jacob, 'South Sudan floods: the first example of a mass population permanently displaced by climate change?' *The Conversation*, 2024. "South Sudan floods: The first example of a mass population permanently displaced by climate change?" *The Conversation* (2024), <https://phys.org/news/2024-09-south-sudan-mass-population-permanently.html>

98 UNHCR *Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement*. 2025. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/114894>

99 Government of the Republic of South Sudan. *Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities*. 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-durable-solutions-strategy-and-plan-action-refugees-internally-displaced-persons-returnees-and-host-communities-october-2024>

100 Gift Friday Bullen, "The National Framework for Return, Relocation and Reintegration of Displaced Persons in South Sudan: Durable Solutions and a Safe Environment for IDP Returns?" *Researching Internal Displacement* (2022), https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Gift-Friday-Bullen_South-Sudan_260522.pdf

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL FRAGILITY IN SOUTH SUDAN



Conflict displacement

Civil war, inter-communal violence, and political instability have driven large-scale internal displacement and weakened state structures.



Environmental displacement

Intensifying floods and droughts have forced many to flee, especially in vulnerable rural and low-lying areas.



Economic and food insecurity

Economic collapse, famine, and hunger have deepened vulnerabilities and prolonged displacement cycles.



Fragility varies on the county level

Pibor county has the highest level of societal fragility, and Rubkona county has the highest level of political and legal fragility.

As noted in the introductory paragraphs to this section, South Sudan is characterised by a fragile complex landscape and consequently a variety of conditions leading to internal displacement.

Together with Duke University, IOM developed a fragility index based on six dimensions of fragility—societal, economic, political/legal, security, environmental and human. Each of these dimensions was measured through specific questions on household-level surveys. Fragility scores were calculated for each dimension along the vertical Y-axis and the nine counties (administrative 2 level) along the horizontal X-axis. Darker shades indicate higher fragility scores on a normalised scale from 0 to 100, indicating the most fragile. The Fragility Index enables comparisons of fragility among the nine counties along each fragility dimension. For example, Bor South's environmental fragility (60) is higher than Yei's (48) and Wau's security fragility (73) is higher than Morobo's security fragility (58). Thus, the methodology allows for comparison of the levels of fragility along a specific dimension among counties.

Figure 5.15 Fragility scores for nine South Sudanese counties¹⁰¹

	Yei	Wau	Rubkona	Pibor	Morobo	Malakal	Lainya	Kajo-keji	Bor South
Environmental fragility	48.00	55.00	66.00	57.00	57.00	49.00	51.00	55.00	60.00
Economic fragility	53.00	46.00	69.00	60.00	53.00	47.00	57.00	59.00	54.00
Societal fragility	36.00	33.00	32.00	53.00	39.00	31.00	39.00	29.00	29.00
Security fragility	53.00	73.00	59.00	64.00	58.00	59.00	63.00	61.00	77.00
Political and legal fragility	58.00	51.00	64.00	54.00	47.00	58.00	54.00	47.00	61.00
Human fragility	36.00	45.00	38.00	51.00	39.00	46.00	40.00	39.00	49.00

Source: IOM South Sudan and Duke University, The Fragility Index: A Household Survey in South Sudan, May 2024. The comprehensive report is currently in its final stages of preparation.

¹⁰¹ Although normalisation facilitates visualisation of the results on a common scale, it is important to recognise that different types of fragility capture fundamentally different concepts that are not easily comparable.

IOM. *Introducing the Fragility Index: A Tool for Evidence-based Transitional and Recovery Programming* (fragility index report no. 2024115) February 2025. https://southsudan.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11046/files/documents/2025-02/2024115_introducing-the_fragility-index_report_0.pdf. Note that this publication contains more detail about the methodology used in constructing these indices.

OVERVIEW OF DISPLACED SOUTH SUDANESE IDPs

The analysis for this chapter is based on MSNA household data from three subsequent years (2022 - 2024). It begins with an overview of South Sudanese IDP households, examining their demographics, displacement and livelihoods by their preferred durable solution intention.

Table 5.13 shows that household heads who are uncertain about their intentions and those who prefer to stay are the oldest among the four groups (42.1 and 40.5 years, respectively). Households with a preference to return or relocate are on average headed by younger household heads. Overall, the majority of interviewed household heads are female (+50% across all durable solution intentions). Households who intend to return are more highly educated (secondary school and university). Uncertainty about intentions is more prevalent among larger households, including those with the highest average number of children.

Households who prefer to relocate are the most likely to have been displaced by conflict, while those that are uncertain are more likely to have been displaced by disasters. Households who prefer to relocate reported the highest average distances from their location of origin. Conversely, the lowest average distance was reported by households with a preference to return. Reliance on emergency sources of income is highest among households who are uncertain about their intentions (11.3%) and lowest among those who intend to relocate (5.8%).

Most South Sudanese IDPs were uprooted by conflict, often facing long periods of displacement and limited access to stable livelihoods.

Table 5.13 Who are the IDP households in South Sudan? Characteristics by durable solution preference: 2024

Intentions	Stay	Return	Relocate	No plan	Total
Demographic					
Avg age head (yrs) N	40.5* (1,090)	39.3 (2,383)	38.9 (675)	42.1* (168)	39.7 (4,316)
Male head (%) N	43.5 (1,091)	44.7 (2,384)	41.2 (675)	41.1 (168)	43.7 (4,318)
Education head (%)					
None	61.2	57.2	56.3	59.2	58.0
Primary school	24.5	24.8	30.1*	23.8	25.7
Secondary school	12.5	14.0	10.2*	15.2	13.1
University	1.8*	4.0	3.3	1.8	3.3
N	(1,077)	(2,369)	(664)	(164)	(4,274)
Mean household size N	5.6* (1,083)	5.3 (2,364)	5.2 (668)	5.8 (167)	5.4 (4,282)
Mean # of children N	2.9* (1,091)	2.6 (2,384)	2.8 (675)	3.1* (168)	2.8 (4,318)
Displacement					
Type of displacement (%)					
Conflict	71.3*	75.7	77.3	70.5	74.6
Disaster	27.2	23.6	21.1	29.5	24.4
N	(1,052)	(2,269)	(629)	(166)	(4,116)
Avg duration of displacement (yrs) N	4.1* (1,090)	4.9 (2,361)	4.3* (671)	4.9 (168)	4.6 (4,290)
Avg distance to origin (km) N	73.6 (950)	70.3 (2,179)	83.8* (601)	86.1 (152)	73.8 (3,882)
Displaced within county (%) N	53.2* (1,047)	61.3 (2,289)	64.7 (641)	58.0 (157)	59.7 (4,134)
Settlement type (%)					
Camp	19.1*	37.2	32.7	34.5	31.8
Rural	66.5*	52.1	59.9*	57.1	57.2
Urban	14.4*	10.7	7.4*	8.3	11.1
N	(1,091)	(2,384)	(675)	(168)	(4,318)
Livelihood					
Main income source (%)					
Agricultural	39.8	42.7	44.3	35.1	41.9
Non-agricultural	52.9*	48.4	49.9	53.6	50.0
Emergency*	7.3	8.9	5.8*	11.3	8.1
N	(1,091)	(2,384)	(675)	(168)	(4,318)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between IDP durable solution preference groups and all IDP households (*p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. Type of displacement "Other" (n=43) is not displayed. *Emergency includes the 'sale of food assistance', 'sale of NFI assistance', 'begging', and 'no livelihood'.

DATA ANALYSIS

South Sudan's 79 counties are organised into 10 states and 3 administrative areas. The analysis compares states with a high proportion of IDPs relative to their total population; states are grouped into those with higher and lower proportions of IDPs, as shown in Figure 5.16. The methodology used was to divide the state caseload of IDPs and IDP returnees¹⁰² by the state population. The state population data is based on the latest available estimates from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). States with a displacement caseload that is more than 33 per cent (the mean) of the total state population were classified as states with larger IDP populations.

This table highlights that there is wide variation in the proportion of IDPs by state: while only 8 per cent of Northern Bahr el Ghazal's population are displaced, 65 per cent of Abyei's population is internally displaced.

Some South Sudanese states host relatively few IDPs, while others face extremely high displacement levels.

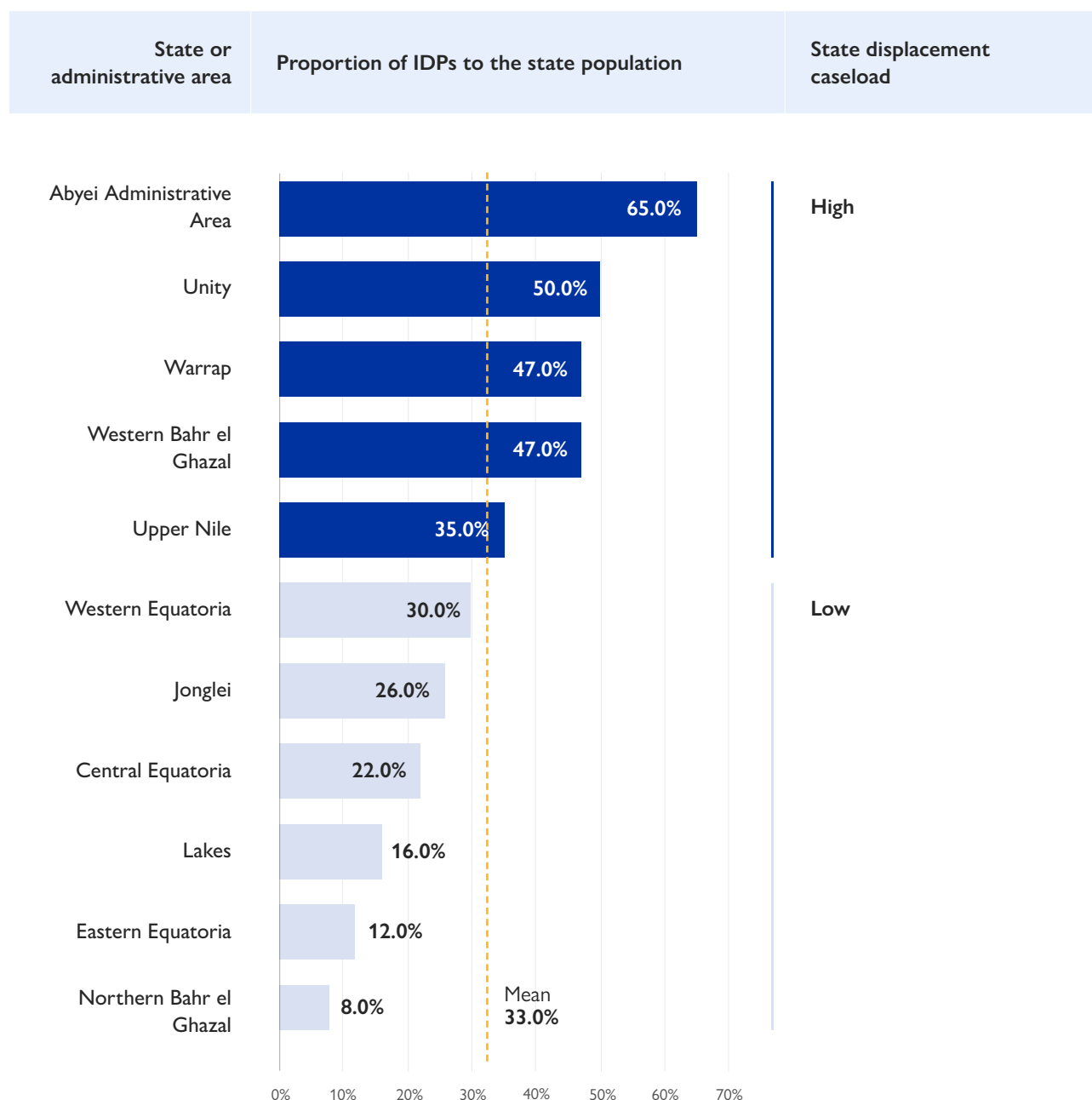


In Wau, South Sudan, IOM is providing psychosocial support programs to help communities cope with the lasting impacts of displacement, conflict, and trauma. Through counseling sessions, community healing dialogues, and social support activities, IOM helps individuals and families rebuild emotional resilience and restore a sense of normalcy.

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102 Based on IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix internal displacement baseline figures for 2024.

Figure 5.16 South Sudan: States categorised by IDP-to-population ratio



DURABLE SOLUTION INTENTIONS OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTH SUDAN

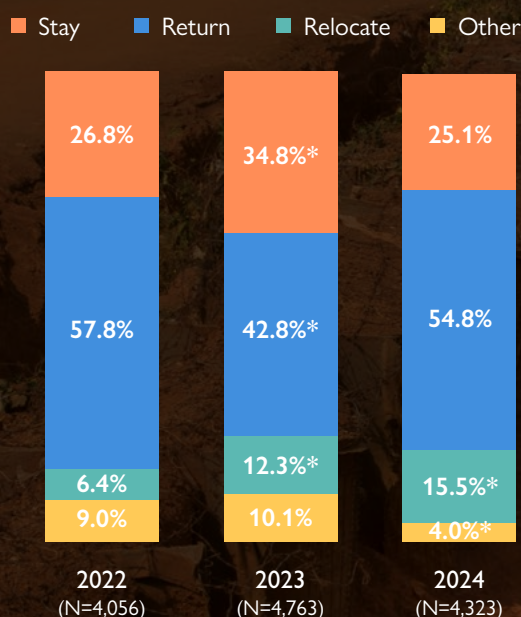
In contrast to Burundi (19.9%) and Mozambique (7.9%), the most preferred solution reported in South Sudan is return (54.8% in 2024). In 2022 and 2024, over half of surveyed IDP households preferred to return, compared to 42.8 per cent in 2023. During the same period, the share of households preferring to stay in their current location increased from 2022 to 2023 (from 26.8 to 34.8%) before dropping to 25.1 per cent in 2024. IDPs in South Sudan also report higher intentions of relocation compared to their counterparts in Burundi and Mozambique, with a steady increase, from 6.4 per cent in 2022 to 15.5 per cent in 2024.

Findings indicate that return remains the most prevalent durable solution intention among both conflict- and disaster-displaced households. While this overall trend holds, differences emerge depending on whether IDP households are located in states with large or small IDP populations.

When considering the reason for displacement alone, more than half of IDP households—both disaster and conflict displaced—prefer return. However, when factoring in the proportion of IDPs in the state, notable variations emerge. For instance, among conflict-displaced households, the preference for return is slightly lower in smaller IDP states compared to those with larger IDP populations (52.4 vs. 58.6%).

The gap is wider among disaster-displaced households, where 45.6 per cent prefer return in smaller IDP states compared to 58.2 per cent in larger IDP states. This decline in the preference to return in smaller IDP states corresponds with an increase in the preference to stay—from 24.9 per cent in large IDP states to 34.3 per cent in smaller ones. In states such as Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (states with smaller IDP populations), recurring floods since 2021 have inundated large areas, limiting mobility and the feasibility of returns or relocation. Thus, potentially leading to higher rates of intentions to stay in neighbouring areas in these states.

Figure 5.17 Durable solution intentions of IDP households in South Sudan 2022-2024



Note: T tests assess the difference between IDP households surveyed in 2022 and those surveyed in subsequent years (*p<0.01). Other includes IDP who stated that they did not know or preferred not to answer.

Figure 5.18 Durable solution intentions of IDP households in South Sudan: 2022-2024 Average

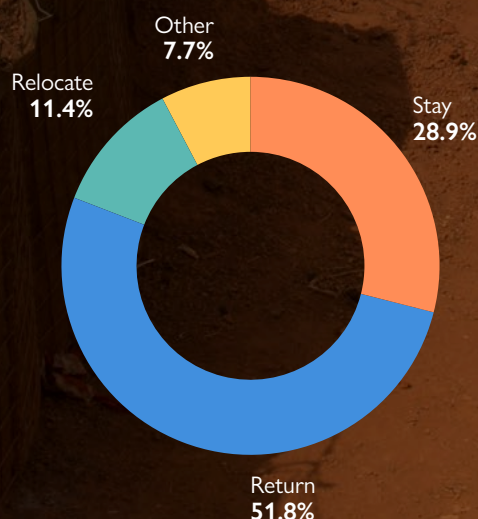


Table 5.14 IDP durable solution preferences by type of displacement (conflict or disaster) in South Sudan

States	Total		States with larger IDP population		States with smaller IDP population	
Cause of displacement	Conflict	Disaster	Conflict	Disaster	Conflict	Disaster
Durable Solutions intentions						
Stay	24.4	28.5*	22.1	24.9	27.6^	34.3*^
Return	55.9	53.3	58.6	58.2	52.4^	45.6^
Relocate	15.8	13.3	14.6	13.7	17.5	12.6
Other	3.9	5.0	4.8	3.3	2.5^	7.5*^
Total N	100.0 (3,074)	100.0 (1,004)	100.0 (1,759)	100.0 (615)	100.0 (1,311)	100.0 (388)

Note: Significance tests assess the differences between conflict and disaster displaced households (*p < 0.01) and between states with larger and smaller IDP population (^ p< 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. Type of displacement "Other" (n=43) is not displayed.



The Wau Protection of Civilians site where the Emergency Shelter team fixes the homes of vulnerable displaced families.

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GENDER DIFFERENCES IN DURABLE SOLUTIONS VARIABLES IN SOUTH SUDAN

Across all population groups, female-headed households report a slightly higher rate of access to health-care compared to their male-headed counterparts. However, they are also more likely to indicate that they are unable to afford healthcare when needed. Female-headed households are also less likely to own a house or plot of land. Among IDPs, a notably higher proportion report that land has been provided to them, with a significant gender gap: nearly half of IDP female-headed households report that land has been allocated to them, compared to just over one-third of male-headed households. This may suggest targeted efforts to address land access for women who may traditionally have difficulties to own or inherit land in their own right.¹⁰³

In terms of livelihoods, female-headed IDP households are more likely to have no income or engage in precarious activities such as begging (9.8%), and to rely on non-agricultural sources of income (53.4%). Regarding access to education, female-headed households in host communities are the least likely to report being able to access a nearby education facility.

On social cohesion, the majority of households—across all groups—report feeling either “a lot” or “moderately” welcome and accepted in their communities. Nevertheless, more IDP female- than male-headed households report they feel only “a little” welcome and accepted by those around them.

103 Antonio, Danilo et. All. Working to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals Through Enhancing Women's Access to Land in Post Conflict Context: the Case of Wau State in South Sudan. CSRF. 2020. https://www.fig.net/resources/proceedings/fig_proceedings/fig2020/papers/ts07f/TS07F_wanyonyi_antonio_et_al_10509.pdf



My hope is that my girls become professionals—teachers, doctors, pilots,” says Rose, a mother from Athur Boma in Western Bahr el Ghazal, her eyes bright with determination. In a community where girls were once excluded from education, Rose’s vision for her daughters represents a profound shift.

© IOM 2024/Muse Mohammed

Table 5.15 South Sudan: Durable solution variables by population group and gender of household head

Population group	IDP		Host		Returnee	
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Access to healthcare N	68.2 (2,440)	65.87 (1,881)	65.83 (4,995)	63.8 (4,704)	71.31 (1,464)	68.36 (1,846)
Ability to afford healthcare N	25.1 (1,660)	33.4* (1,234)	38.5 (3,280)	42.7* (2,988)	28.5 (1,041)	33.6* (1,256)
Home/shelter ownership						
Own house/plot	26.0	30.3*	75.3	78.0*	58.5	66.7*
Rent house/plot	3.4	5.0*	5.6	5.4	4.6	6.6*
Hosted (no cost)	14.3	18.5*	7.9	6.8	17.8	13.1*
House/plot of relatives	4.7	6.2	4.1	3.8	7.5	6.2
Squatting	3.4	3.9	1.5	1.1	3.3	1.6*
Land provided	48.2	36.1*	5.6	4.9	8.2	5.8*
N	(2,447)	(1,886)	(5,015)	(4,722)	(1,469)	(1,939)
Most important livelihoods						
Agricultural	36.8	48.2*	57.8	61.9*	52.8	65.8*
Non-agricultural	53.4	45.9*	37.7	35.4	42.0	32.3*
Precarious activities	9.8	5.9*	4.5	2.7*	5.2	1.9*
N	(2,459)	(1,895)	(5,036)	(4,738)	(1,482)	(1,867)
Access to nearby education facility N	60.6 (2,452)	60.3 (1,886)	59.6 (5,024)	60.1 (4,721)	65.9 (1,472)	66.5 (1,851)
Feeling welcomed and accepted?						
A lot	34.6	39.4*	37.8	42.5*	38.0	39.1
Moderately	46.6	44.5	44.9	44.5	43.9	43.6
A little	14.5	11.9*	13.4	10.1*	12.7	13.4
Not at all	4.4	4.1	3.9	2.9*	5.4	3.8
N	(2,432)	(1,877)	(4,977)	(4,689)	(1,457)	(1,847)

Note: Significance tests assess the difference between female and male (*p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. Precarious activities include households without livelihoods and households engaging in activities like begging

UNDERSTANDING RETURN DYNAMICS: DRIVERS AND PERCEPTIONS

Considering that return is the preferred durable solution in South Sudan, it is important to examine the factors influencing households to return to their areas of origin as well as the level of satisfaction with the decision to return. As mentioned earlier, many IDPs have already returned to their communities, with the number of IDP returnees reaching 1.8 million as of February 2025.¹⁰⁴

Over the past three years, improved security was the most frequently cited reason for return in South Sudan. Furthermore, the ability to access services and the availability of livelihood sources in areas of origin were also key factors influencing the decision to return. This aligns with the key findings from last year's report, which emphasised the importance of safety and security and livelihoods as factors influencing solutions preferences.

The key factors IDP returnees cited as reasons for return, based on the average percentage of mentions between 2022 and 2024, are improved security (67.7%), improved

livelihoods (41.7%) and improved services (38.8%), all in the location of origin. Most reasons were pull factors associated with improvements in the area of origin. A few push factors were mentioned such as disasters in the area of displacement (5.8%), with the most frequently mentioned being political developments (12.4%) and conflict in the area of displacement (11.6%).

Yet, many IDP returnee household heads were satisfied with their decision to return.

In 2022, close to two-thirds of IDP returnee households stated they were satisfied with the decision to return, although the shares in 2023 and 2024 declined somewhat. Nearly one-third of households were dissatisfied yet planned to remain in their current location. Only a small share (2.2 to 5.4%) expressed regret about their decision to return and indicated that they planned to move back to their area of displacement. The highest percentage expressing regret (5.4%) was recorded in 2023.

Improved security remains the leading driver of return for South Sudan's IDP returnees.

Average duration of displacement

4.6 years

104 International Organization for Migration (IOM), May 06 2025. DTM South Sudan — Mobility Tracking (Round 16). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-mobility-tracking-round-16?close=true>

Table 5.16 Ten most frequently mentioned reasons driving returns in South Sudan: 2022-2024

Year of assessment	2022	2023	2024	Average
Reason for return				
Improved security	67.7	65.1	70.4	67.7
Improved livelihood	41.6	39.9	43.7	41.7
Improved services	39.5	37.2	39.8	38.8
Political developments	16.1	10.2*	10.8*	12.4
Conflict in area of displacement	6.9	10.4*	17.4*	11.6
Reduction in aid	14.0	8.2*	10.9*	11.0
Personal reasons	12.5	7.7*	9.9*	10.0
Financial support	7.7	6.4	8.7*	7.6
Shelter in location of origin	8.1	5.1*	5.3*	6.2
Disaster in area of displacement	8.1	4.7*	4.4*	5.8
N	(1,475)	(3,037)	(3,344)	

Note: Households can provide up to three reasons for their decision to return, therefore, percentages will not total 100 per cent. Significance tests assess the difference between IDP returnee households surveyed in 2022 and those surveyed in other years (* p < 0.01).

Table 5.17 Satisfaction with the decision to return among returnee households in South Sudan: 2022-2024

Year of assessment	2022	2023	2024
Level of satisfaction among returnee households			
Satisfied	67.2	60.4*	62.3*
Not satisfied, but will remain	30.0	32.2	31.2
Regret the decision, plan to move back	2.2	5.4*	4.5*
Other	0.5	2.1*	2.0*
Total N	100.0 (1,759)	100.0 (1,311)	100.0 (1,311)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between IDP returnee households surveyed in 2022 and those surveyed in other years (*p < 0.01).

Criteria for solutions

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ACROSS HOUSEHOLD GROUPS



Abur in front of her new IOM home. "When I returned from the collective center, I went back to a small house without roof and that is where I was living. Then IOM came and built me a home".

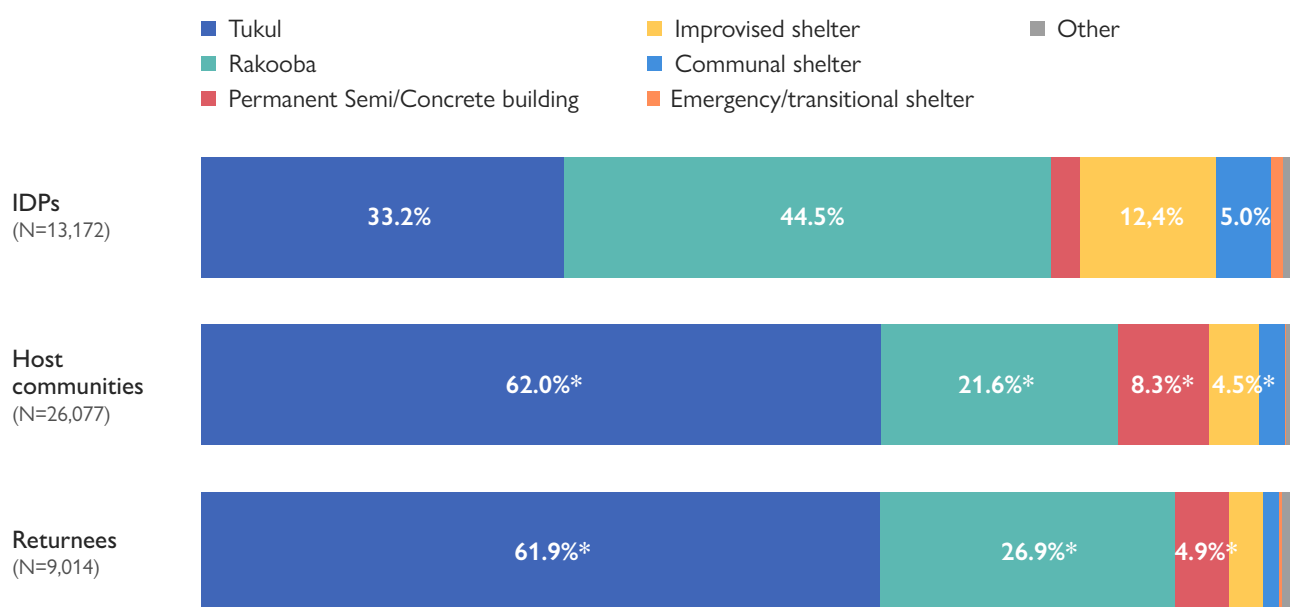
© IOM 2020

The section below compares all three household groups including IDPs, IDP returnees and host households. This comparison, based on five indicators across three of the eight durable solutions criteria, plus social cohesion, highlights the differences and similarities between the population groups. Furthermore, where the data allowed, findings over 3 years further highlight these differences and similarities over time.



Shelter and housing

Figure 5.19 Type of shelter for South Sudanese IDP, host and returnee households: 2022-2024



Note: Tukuls are traditional round houses built with mud and clay walls and a thatched roof, these shelters are considered well-suited to the local climate and provide shelter from the elements. A rakoooba, is a traditional veranda structure made of wood, typically without walls that provides shade. Other types of shelter include those who reside in community buildings and those with no shelter. Significance tests assess the difference between IDP and other population groups (* $p < 0.01$).

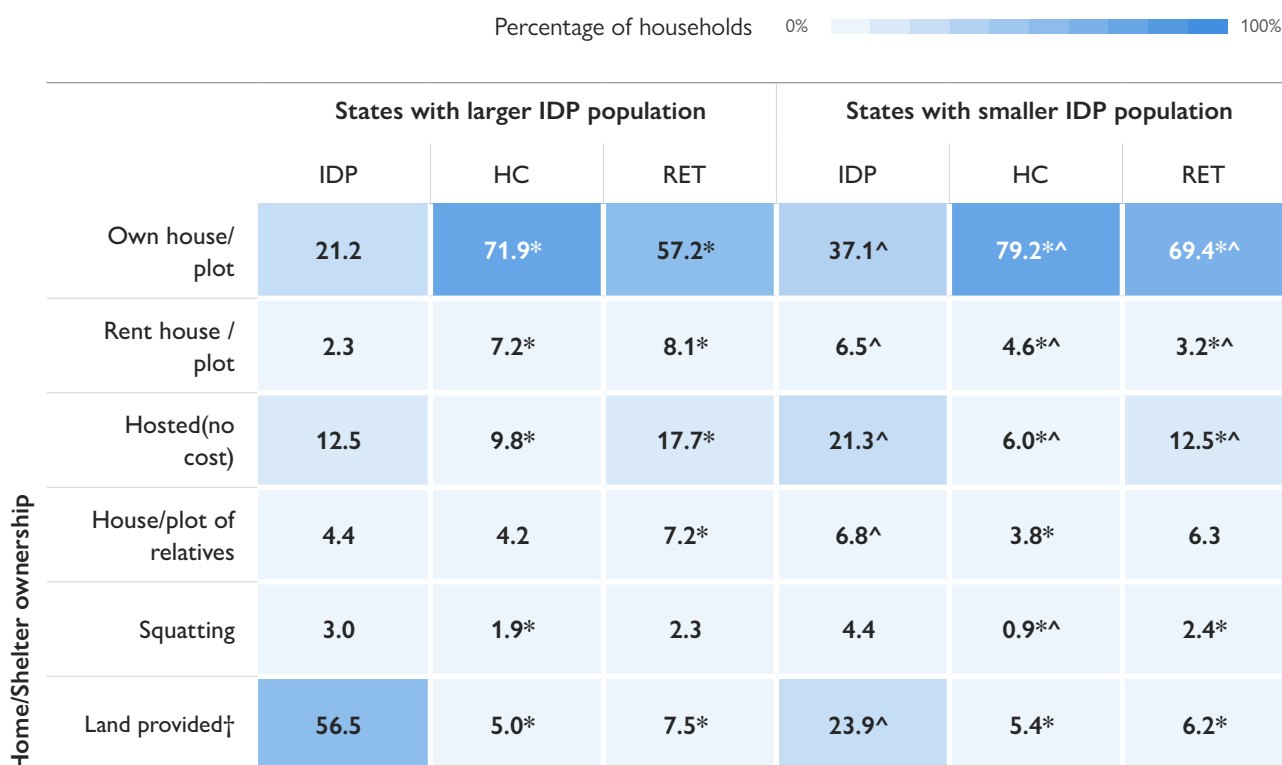
The results show that on average over a three-year period (2022 – 2024), IDP households (33.2%) are less likely to have secure types of shelter (Tukul) than host communities (62%) and IDP returnees (61.9%). More IDPs live in rakooobas (shelters without walls) than host and returnee households who are more likely to live in tukuls (shelters with mud and clay walls). Additionally, the third most common type of shelter cited by IDPs are improvised shelters (12.4%).

The last two editions of PROGRESS emphasized the importance of housing and shelter as key factors for achieving durable solutions. This year's analysis indicates a high level of satisfaction with return and housing stability among IDP returnees.



Housing, land and property (HLP)

Figure 5.20 Home/shelter ownership by population group: 2024



Note: Significance tests assess differences between IDP and host, and IDP and returnee, HHs (*p < 0.01), and between states with larger and smaller IDP populations (^p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. †Land has been provided by the community leader; chiefs; sultan; government or humanitarian partner.

In addition to questions about shelter quality, households were asked whether they owned or rented their homes. Shelter ownership was highest among host households, followed by returnee households, with IDP households being the least likely to own their shelters. Among all population groups, higher ownership of shelter and land is reported in areas with smaller IDP populations. IDP households are generally more likely to rely on land provided by external actors than the other groups with twice as many relying on external actors in larger IDP states (56.5%) than in lower IDP states (23.9%).

Generally, across all states, IDPs and IDP returnee households depend on being hosted at no cost to meet their shelter needs. This is more prevalent in states with smaller IDP populations, where on average one in five IDP households (21.3%) rely on free shelter.

Given the importance of housing on durable solutions, relying on being hosted at no cost places households at risk of evictions and possible re-displacement.¹⁰⁵ In states with smaller IDP populations, IDPs are more likely to rent (6.5%) than those in larger IDP states (2.3%), potentially related to the availability and affordability of housing and land in areas with a lower proportion of IDPs. The opposite is true for host community and IDP returnee households, where they are more likely to rent their accommodation in larger IDP areas (7.2 and 8.1%, respectively).

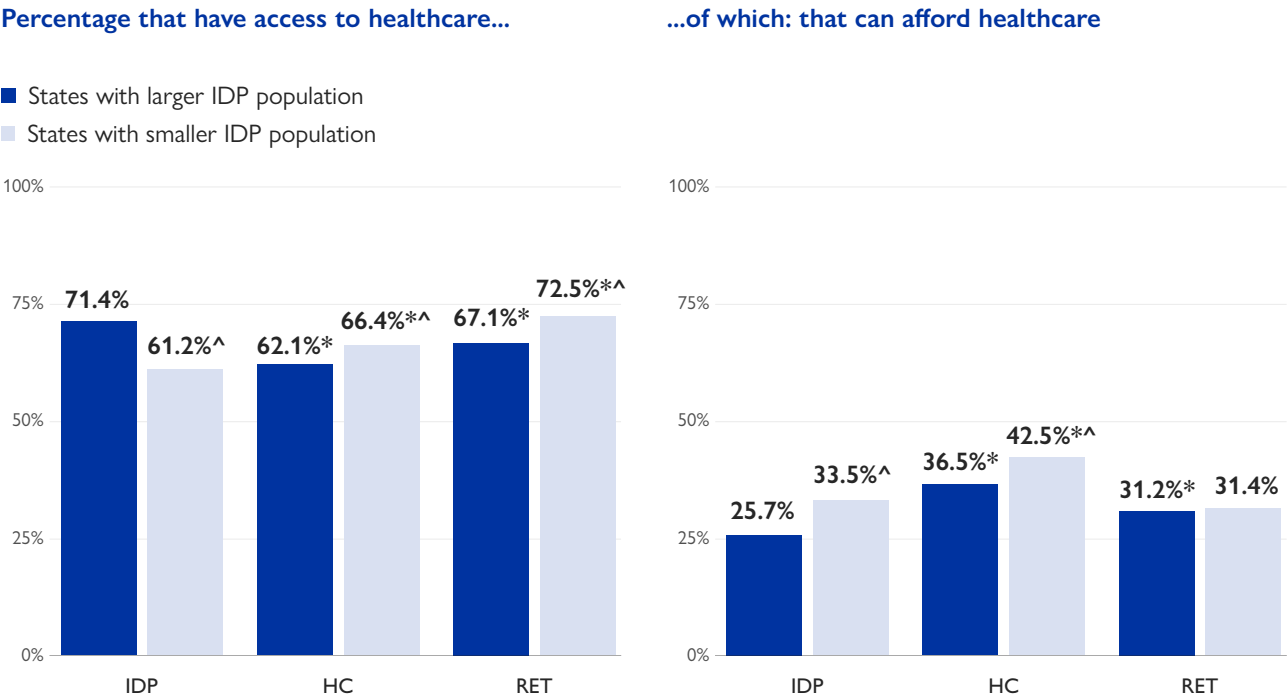
The largest discrepancy between groups emerged along housing indicators. This gap between IDPs and that of other population groups underscores housing and shelter as a distinct displacement-related vulnerability, disproportionately affecting displaced households.

105 As observed in last year's focus group discussions with IDPs in Haiti, households who were hosted by family or friends emphasised that these were temporary and precarious shelter solutions as there as expectation for them to move out as soon as possible. International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Georgetown University, December 2024. Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS). IOM, Geneva. <https://dtm.iom.int/progress-2024>



Health care

Figure 5.21 Access to and ability to afford healthcare by population and state group in South Sudan: 2024



Note: Significance tests assess differences between IDP and host, and IDP and returnee, households (*p < 0.01), and between states with larger and smaller IDP populations (^ p< 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

Most IDP, host, and IDP returnee households report having access to healthcare—both in states with larger and smaller IDP populations. However, there are differences within states, as well as across states with larger and smaller IDP populations. IDP household heads in larger IDP states report having higher access to healthcare than IDP households in smaller IDP states (71.4 vs. 61.2%). The converse is true for host community and IDP returnee households, where higher access to healthcare is reported by them in areas with smaller IDP populations (from 62.1 to 66.4% for host community, and 67.1 to 72.5% for IDP returnee households).

Access to healthcare differs from the ability to benefit from medical services due to possible affordability constraints. In addition to analysing access to healthcare, the affordability of medical services was evaluated for households who reported having access.

While more than 60 per cent of the households reported having access to healthcare, less than half of those with access—across all three population groups—report being able to afford healthcare. However, again there are significant differences across household groups and state categories.

IDP households in states with both larger and smaller IDP populations are less likely to be able to afford healthcare than host households. In states with larger IDP populations, fewer IDP households can afford healthcare compared to host and returnee households. In addition, fewer IDP and host households in states with larger IDP populations can afford healthcare compared to their counterparts in states with smaller IDP populations. These findings suggest that resources are under strain in highly populated areas.



Education

Table 5.18 Access to nearby education facility by population and state group in South Sudan: 2024

States	States with larger IDP population			States with smaller IDP population		
Household group	IDP	HC	RET	IDP	HC	RET
Yes	61.7	62.2	65.7*	58.7	58.5^	66.7*
N	(2,532)	(3,446)	(1,731)	(1,806)	(6,299)	(1,592)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between IDP and host, and IDP and returnee, HHs (*p < 0.01), and between states with larger and smaller IDP populations (^ p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

The following analysis examines access to education for different household groups in both large and small IDP states.

Overall, while the majority of the population reports having high access to education, on average, two in five households still do not have access to nearby education facilities. Nevertheless, in both states with larger and smaller IDP populations, returnee households have the highest level of access to education facilities, and they are significantly more likely to access to education facilities than IDP households. Host community households living in states with larger IDP populations are slightly more likely to report having access to nearby education facilities compared to host community households residing in states with smaller IDP populations.

Earlier analysis considered the levels of education completed by heads of households (Table 5.13), where 58.0 per cent reported having no formal education. The findings suggest the association between educational levels and access to livelihoods and solution pathways, with households intending to return reporting higher rates of secondary education completion. Higher levels of education among IDP heads of household and their families have the potential to unlock better livelihood opportunities and enhance economic security for affected households.¹⁰⁶

106 Informing better access to education for IDPs. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. [221114_IDMC_Informing-Better-Access-to-education-for-IDPs.pdf](#), September 2021



Employment and livelihoods

Table 5.19 Main source of livelihood by population and state group in South Sudan: 2024

States	States with larger IDP population			States with smaller IDP population		
Household group	IDP	HC	RET	IDP	HC	RET
Type of livelihood						
Agricultural	33.7	51.2*	54.3*	53.2^	64.5*^	66.3*^
Non-agricultural	54.7	43.4*	41.1*	43.6^	32.9*^	31.8*^
Precarious activities	11.6	5.4*	4.6*	3.2^	2.6^	1.9^
Total N	100.0 (2,543)	100.0 (3,462)	100.0 (1,749)	100.0 (1,811)	100.0 (6,312)	100.0 (1,600)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between IDP and host, and IDP and returnee, households (*p < 0.01), and between states with larger and smaller IDP populations (^ p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data. Non-agricultural livelihoods include activities such as casual labour, skilled work, as well small business activities. Precarious activities include households without livelihoods and households engaging in activities like begging.

This section focuses on the main livelihoods of IDPs, host communities, and returnees in states with high and low percentages of IDPs.

Host and returnee households are generally more likely than IDP households to depend on agriculture, whereas IDPs tend to rely more on non-agricultural sources of livelihood. However, the gap in reliance on agriculture between IDPs and the other household groups is higher in states with a larger IDP population.

High reliance on agriculture may prove unsustainable due to potential disruption from ongoing disasters, particularly floods in lowlands which already limit access to arable land.

Irrespective of the household group, those residing in states with larger IDP populations are less likely to rely on agriculture and more likely to rely on precarious activities such as begging or having no source of income.



Relationships between IDP and host community households

Table 5.20 Level of community acceptance between South Sudanese IDP, host community and IDP returnees by state group

States	States with larger IDP population			States with smaller IDP population		
Household group	IDP	HC	RET	IDP	HC	RET
Feeling welcomed						
A lot	35.1	41.2*	37.4	38.9^	39.5	39.9
Moderately	45.8	41.6*	41.1*	45.5	46.4^	46.6^
A little	14.4	13.4	15.6	11.9	10.9^	10.4^
Not at all	4.7	3.8	5.9	3.7	3.2	3.1^
Total N	100.0 (2,512)	100.0 (3,405)	100.0 (1,712)	100.0 (1,797)	100.0 (6,261)	100.0 (1,592)

Note: Significance tests assess differences between IDP and host, and IDP and returnee, HHs (*p < 0.01) and between states with larger and smaller IDP populations (^ p < 0.01). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

Households were asked the extent to which they feel welcomed by the community—a factor that may play an important role in achieving durable solutions.

Overall, roughly three-quarters of IDP, host, and returnee households report that they feel welcomed and accepted in their community, either a lot or moderately. The table also shows some statistically significant differences between household groups as well as between larger and smaller IDP states. For example, IDP and IDP returnee households feel more welcome in communities where they represent a smaller proportion of the population.

In states with larger IDP populations, host community households (41.2%) are more likely to feel very welcomed and accepted (a lot) compared to IDP households (35.1%) and IDP returnee households (37.4%). Conversely, host community (41.6%) and returnee households (41.1%) are less likely to feel moderately welcomed and accepted compared to IDP households (45.8%).

IDP households are more likely to feel very welcomed (a lot) in states with smaller IDP populations (38.9%) compared to their counterparts in states with larger IDP populations (35.1%). Returnee households in states with larger IDP populations are more likely to report feeling 'not at all' welcomed compared to their counterparts in states with fewer IDP households.

A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a red dress with white polka dots and a matching shawl, stands with her back to the camera. She is looking towards a row of bamboo-thatched walls in a camp. The walls are made of woven bamboo and are ready for collection. In the background, there are other people and structures, including a small hut with a thatched roof and some orange plastic jerrycans. The ground is dry and dusty. The sky is clear and blue.

In South Sudan, IDP households remain consistently more vulnerable than host and returnee households across all key durable solutions criteria.

Bamboo-thatched walls ready for collection by beneficiaries in exchange for commodity vouchers

© IOM 2018/Rikka Tupaz

06

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SOLUTIONS IN SOMALIA: AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW



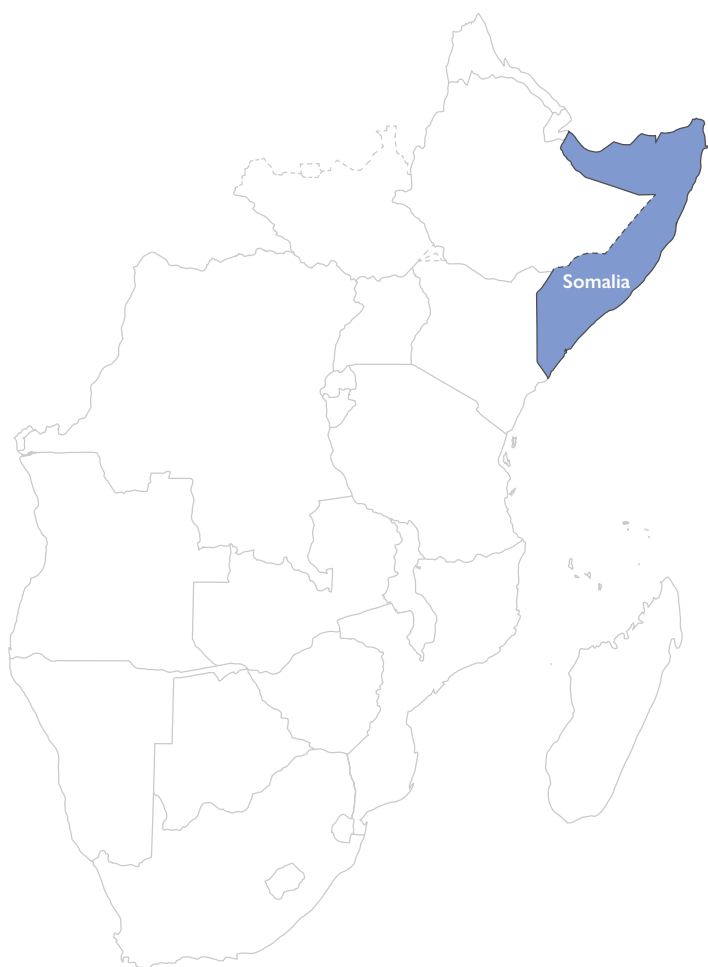


People in the village fetch water from this water point inside their village and carry it all the way to their homes. The water point is established by IOM Somalia as part of their Deegaan Bile projects in Bilcil, Abudwaq - Galmudug in June 2023

© IOM 2023/Trans.Lieu/Moustapha Negueye

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SOLUTIONS IN SOMALIA: AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW

This in-depth review includes an overview of the internal displacement and solutions context in Somalia. It also provides a summary of key takeaways from the government-led Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Survey, which is supported by IOM and partners, and aims to inform the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan. It follows with an analysis of key aspects of the Somalia context, including rural-urban mobility and urban displacement dynamics.



Introduction

Among Somalia's 3.86 million IDPs, more than 80 per cent have fled from rural areas to urban centres in search of safety and services. The root causes of displacement – state fragility, marginalization and poverty – have combined with disasters and conflict, forcing families from their homes.¹⁰⁷ Mostly originating from rural agro-pastoralist communities, families are typically displaced to urban centres based on family and community ties, coupled with perceptions of safety and livelihoods opportunities.¹⁰⁸

*Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

¹⁰⁷ According to the OECD, fragility is a combination of risk exposure and limited capacities of the state and communities to mitigate them, and Somalia was the ranked the second most fragile country in the world in 2025. Refer to: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *States of Fragility 2025 Report*. 2025. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/states-of-fragility-2025_81982370-en.html

¹⁰⁸ IOM Somalia and GIST. *Understanding the key drivers of displacement in Somalia, during the 2021-22 drought*. 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/understanding-key-drivers-displacement-somalia-during-202122-drought?close=true>

Characterised by densely populated settlements in urban and peri-urban settings, the displacement crisis is concentrated in the southern part of the country, with around 60 per cent of the nation's IDPs residing in the cities of Mogadishu, Baidoa, Doolow and Kismaayo.¹⁰⁹ The remaining displaced families live across 47 districts, mainly in small anchor towns – safe economic centres which are the subject of increased attention by development actors with potential for inclusive growth, taking the pressure off major urban centres such as Mogadishu and Baidoa.¹¹⁰ However, persistent threats of violence, evictions, and disasters often force families into secondary displacement – with one in three IDPs having been displaced at least once before arriving to their current location.¹¹¹ This cycle of displacement hampers national development, with 62 per cent of the country living below the poverty line – weakening resilience to shocks amid a worsening climate and violence with non-state armed groups.¹¹²

In response to these challenges, in September 2024, the Federal Government of Somalia launched the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan.¹¹³ The plan is based on a strategy to support 1 million IDPs to advance towards solutions by 2029 through integrated and development-oriented solutions interventions. Since the Action Plan was launched, IOM has been working with partners to develop data tools to support the government in its implementation. This includes the country's first government-led solutions assessment – the Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Survey,¹¹⁴ as well as support in developing a Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the Action Plan.¹¹⁵ The plan, centered on strengthening communities' resilience to environmental shocks, minimising conflict and alleviating poverty, is enabled through inclusive governance and social cohesion.

109 Sixty-four per cent of the country's IDPs reside in these four cities. IOM DTM Somalia. Baseline Assessment Round 3. 2024. <https://dtm.iom.int/datasets/somalia-baseline-assessment-dataset-round-3-february-2024-september-2024>. Most IDPs in the country come from marginalised clans from the Bay and Bakool regions, and along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, with many having been historically included from economic opportunities and services. While in displacement, they regularly face challenges accessing humanitarian services, contributing to secondary displacement. See: Jaspars S, Majid N, Adan GM (2023). Somalia's Evolving Political Market Place: From Famine and Humanitarian Crisis to Permanent Precarity. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-modern-african-studies/article/somalia-evolving-political-market-place-from-famine-and-humanitarian-crisis-to-permanent-precarity/CF5449011697902A3EF15640C42090F8>

110 World Bank. Somalia Urbanization Review: *Fostering Cities as Anchors of Development* 2021. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35059>

111 Federal Government of Somalia. *Durable Solutions Progress Survey – Key Findings Document*. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/somalia-durable-solutions-progress-dsp-survey-2024-2025-key-findings/>

112 Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS). 2022 Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS). Main report. 2022 <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SOMALIA-INTEGRATED-HOUSEHOLD-BUDGET-SURVEY.pdf>

113 Federal Government of Somalia. National Solutions Pathways Action Plan. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/national-solutions-pathways-action-plan-2024-2029/>

114 Federal Government of Somalia. Durable Solutions Progress Survey – Key Findings Report. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/somalia-durable-solutions-progress-dsp-survey-2024-2025-key-findings/>

115 National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (2025). *National Solutions Pathways Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2025*. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiOGMtOTVjOGMtNTMzZC00YjY0LTkyY2U0YUwMTIhMWZlNTA2IiwidCI6IjE1ODgyNjJkLTlzMltNDNiNC1iZDZlWjZlZTQ5YzhIN-jE4NlslmMiOjh9>

SOMALIA

Population

18.1 Million

UNDP Human Development Index

192nd

GDP per capita

763 USD

IDPs*

3,869,000

IDP Returnees*

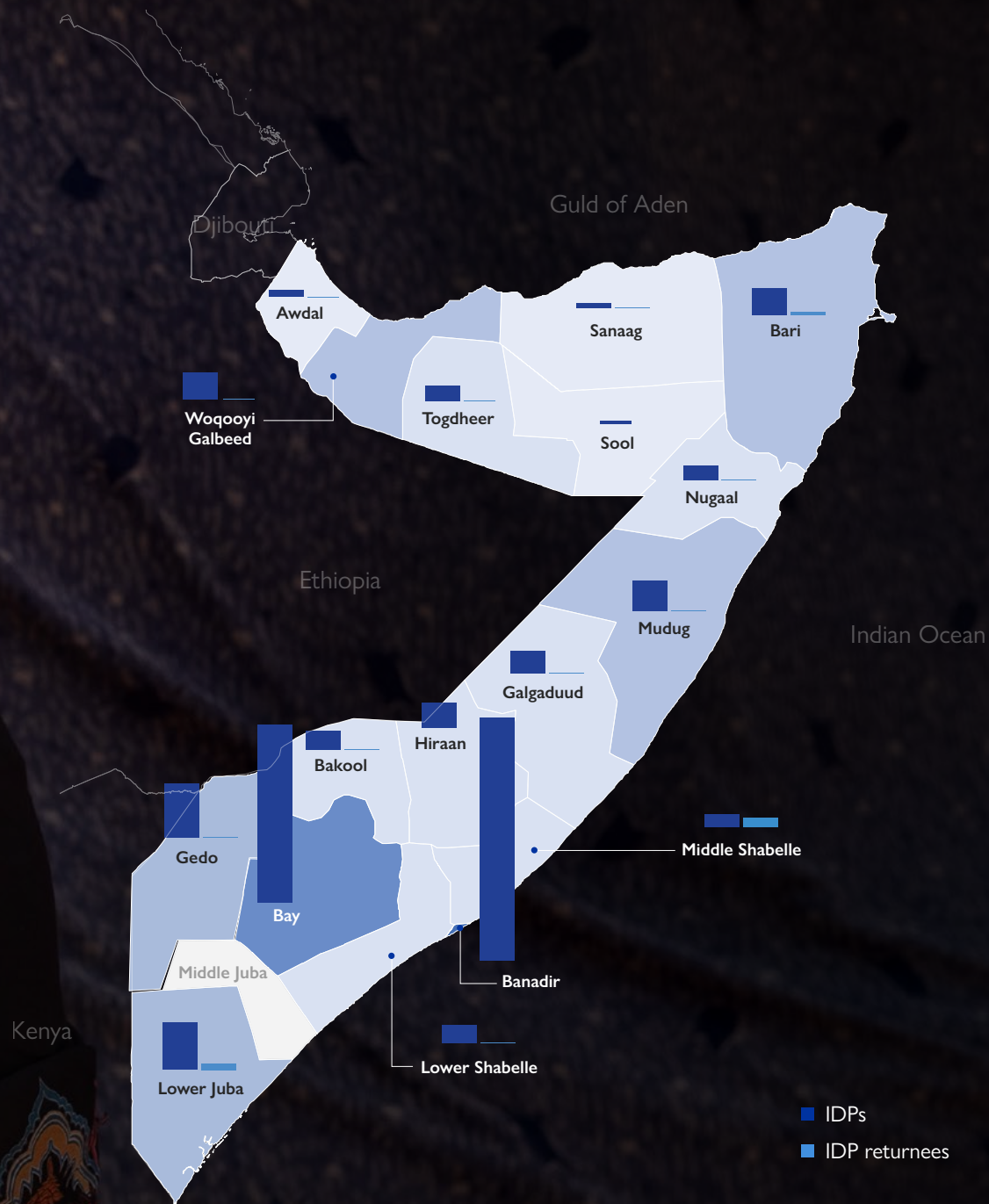
96,227

*as of September 2024

An informal settlement for displaced person in Burao, Somaliland. They often live in makeshift shelters located in informal sites, where they lack access to the most basic services.

© IOM 2021/Claudia Rosel

Map 6.1 Geographical distribution of IDPs and IDP Returnees in Somalia

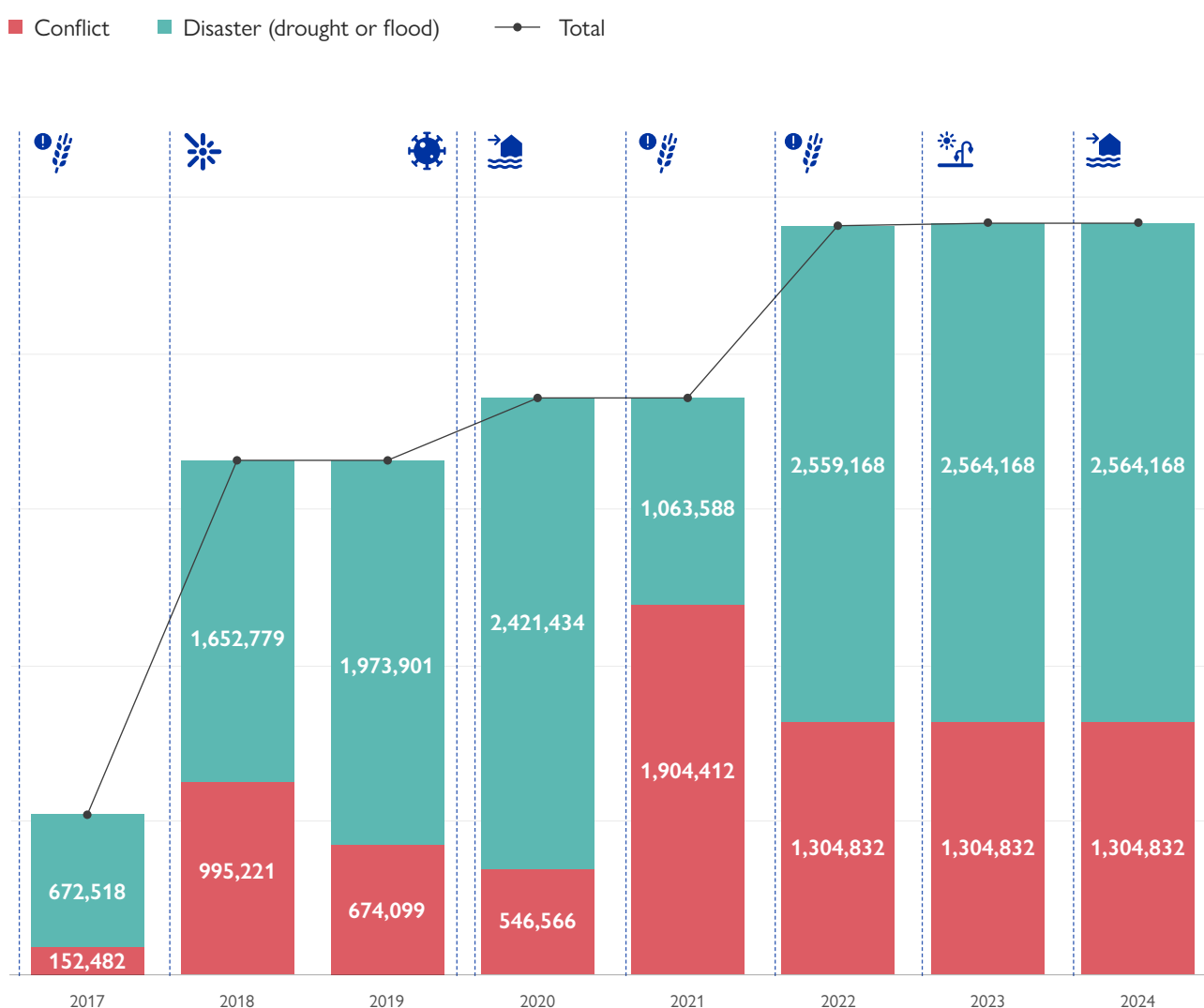


*Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT

For over a decade, Somalia has grappled with one of the world's largest displacement crises, with 3.86 million IDPs residing across the country – around a fifth of the country's total population.¹¹⁶ Figure 6.1 shows that, between 2017 and 2024, the number of IDPs in Somalia has more than tripled throughout successive and compounding displacement crises.

Figure 6.1 Increase in the number of Somali IDPs by conflict and disasters, 2017 to 2024¹¹⁷



116 OCHA. *Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan*. 2025. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2025-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-hnnp>

117 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. *Data Portal – Somalia Summary*. 2024. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data/>.

Note that these figures present combined data from various sources, including estimates from DTM and the CCCM Cluster, which are gathered in a complex and fluid scenario, and at times differ from the figures published in the Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans (HNRP). These challenges are compounded by the high mobility of people between displacement locations, and the limitations on the availability of legal identity for all citizens which in some cases allows people to have multiple registrations across several locations in order to maximise their access to the limited services and humanitarian assistance available in a given area, in a process that is taken as a survival strategy.

Figure 6.2 Summary of key events causing internal displacement in Somalia



DISPLACEMENT AND RAPID URBANISATION

According to DTM, amongst the country's IDPs, 95 per cent reside in urban centres after mostly fleeing rural locations, with almost all residing in emergency or transitional shelters across recognised IDP camps.¹¹⁸ This rural-urban displacement trend is part of a wider phenomenon of rapid urbanisation facing the country, with the city-dwelling population projected to triple from around 7.4 million to 22.8 million by 2050.¹¹⁹ However, the high concentration of IDPs in major cities also poses a challenge to service delivery, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable.

95%

of IDPs in Somalia now live in urban centres after mostly fleeing rural areas.



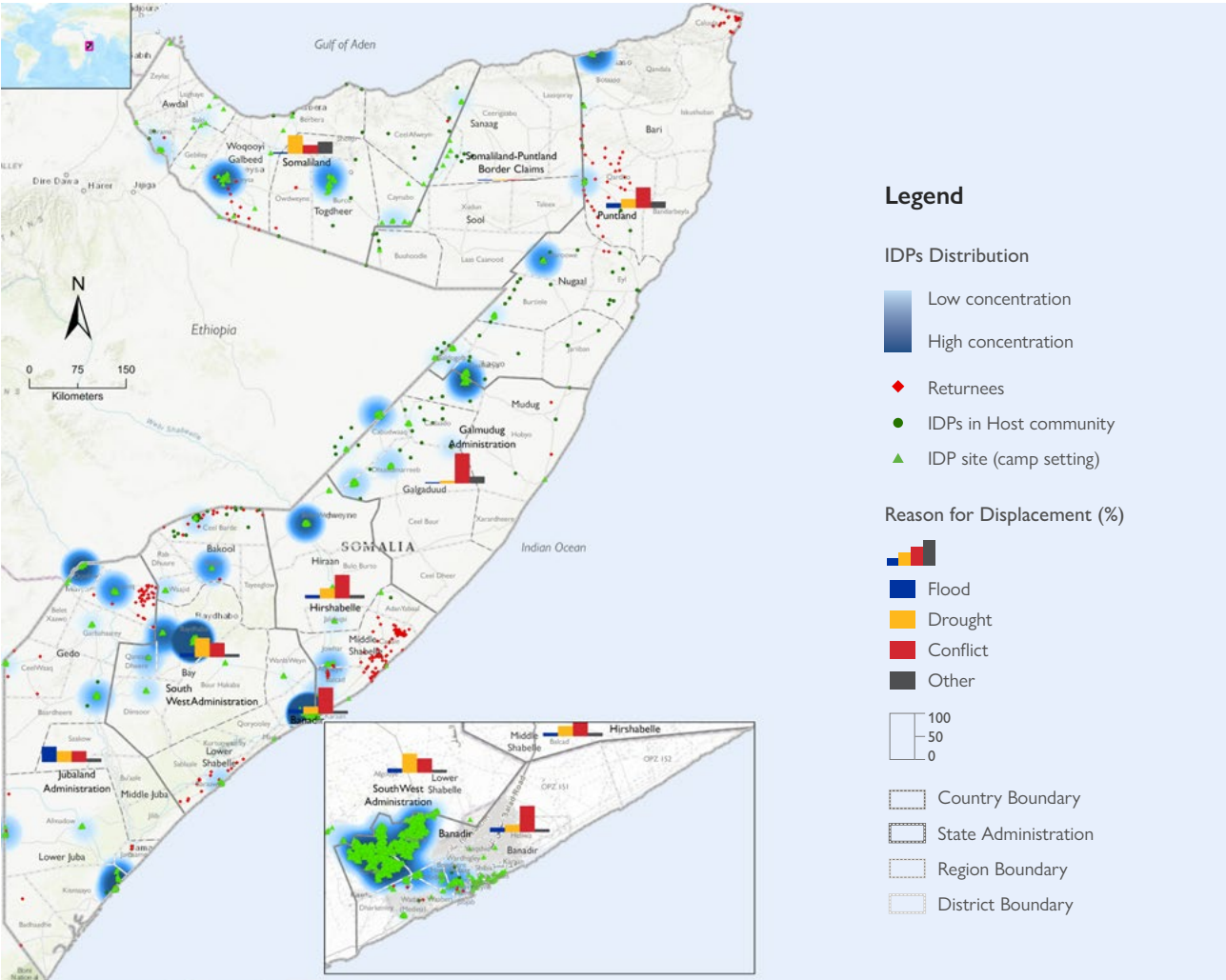
Hamdi lives in a makeshift home made from sticks and fabric in an IDP camp in Doolow, Somalia.

© IOM 2023/Muse Mohammed

118 IOM DTM Somalia. Baseline Assessment Round 3. 2024. <https://dtm.iom.int/datasets/somalia-baseline-assessment-dataset-round-3-february-2024-september-2024>. The Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) and the CCCM Cluster define IDP sites as fixed areas which host a minimum of 50 displaced households. Refer to: SoDMA and CCCM Cluster (2022). Site Definition Guideline. <https://www.cccmcluster.org/resources/example-idp-site-definition-guideline-somali-disaster-management-agency>

119 World Bank (2021). Somalia Urbanization Review: Fostering Cities as Anchors of Development. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35059>. Driven by conflict and environmental degradation in rural areas, as well as opportunities for security and livelihoods in urban centres, urbanization in Somalia is recognized by the government and development partners as critical for the country's development.

Map 6.2 Distribution of IDP settlements nationwide, including reasons for displacement



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the the International Organization for Migration.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

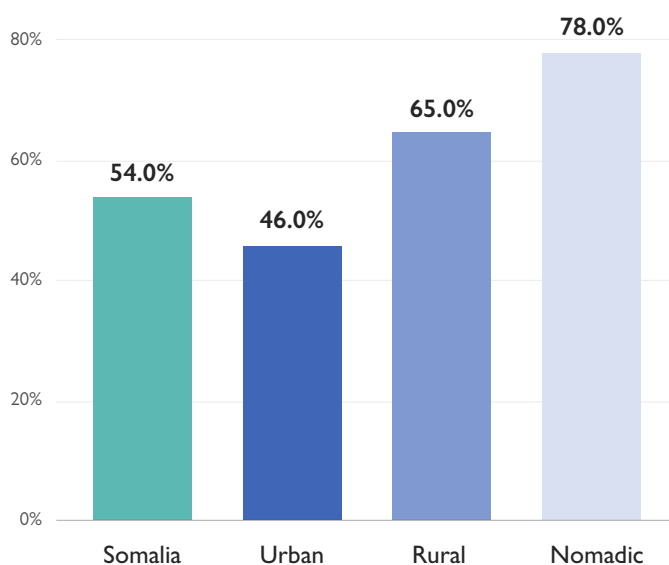
Addressing the root causes of vulnerability

Poverty and fragility are central factors in Somalia's displacement crisis. According to the Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS),¹²⁰ over half of the country were living below the monetary poverty line in 2022.¹²¹ As Figure 6.3 shows below, rural and nomadic groups are most likely

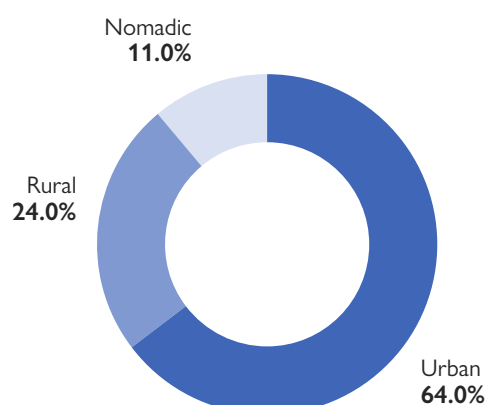
to suffer from multi-dimensional poverty. Rates of non-monetary poverty – characterised by households with a lack of access to food security, housing and basic services – is even higher, especially among nomadic families.¹²²

Figure 6.3 Percentage of Somali households below the poverty line, by population group

Poverty headcount



Share of the poor



120 Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS). 2022 *Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS)*. Main report.2023.: <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SOMALIA-INTEGRATED-HOUSEHOLD-BUDGET-SURVEY.pdf>

121 World Bank. Five Facts about Poverty in Somalia. 2025. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/african/five-facts-about-poverty-in-somalia-afe-0425>

122 Note that the SIHBS 2022 did not collect data specifically amongst IDPs, therefore findings are not disaggregated by displacement status. The World Bank also identified that areas with higher poverty rates also have a greater share of the population exposed to climate shocks, stressing the need to address the root causes of displacement in at-risk locations to break the displacement cycle. It also emphasises the need for climate-sensitive approaches to solutions, ensuring the resilience of displaced communities to future environmental shocks is strengthened as they advance towards self-reliance. See: World Bank. Five Facts about Poverty in Somalia. 2025. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/african/five-facts-about-poverty-in-somalia-afe-0425>

In September 2024, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) launched the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan – a costed strategy to support 1 million IDPs in progressing toward durable solutions by 2029.¹²³ Resulting from extensive government-led consultations with subnational authorities, the UN, NGOs, civil society, and displacement-affected communities, the Action Plan lays out a framework to support IDPs through the provision of services across six pathways.

Led by the National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (NCRDS), the plan was launched by Prime Minister Hon. Hamza Abdi Barre – representing a turning point for IDP solutions in Somalia. The plan is anchored in the country's National Transformation Plan (2025-2029), emphasising the country's commitment to development-oriented solutions.¹²⁴

The NCRDS provides strategic leadership in coordinating the implementation of the Action Plan and coordinates the national Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) and the Data for Solutions Sub-Working Group. These platforms bring together national and subnational authorities and partners to guide the implementation of the Action Plan, ensuring interventions are grounded in evidence and aligned with national priorities.¹²⁵

1 million

IDPs targeted by the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan

¹²³ Federal Government of Somalia. *National Solutions Pathways Action Plan*. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/national-solutions-pathways-action-plan-2024-2029/>

¹²⁴ Since the Action Plan was launched, the government has led the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation plan to support its implementation. Over the next 12 months, the government will work with partners to develop a financing strategy for the Action Plan

¹²⁵ The NCRDS also emphasises the importance of knowledge exchange as a cornerstone of the national solutions agenda. Through peer learning exchanges, the NCRDS engages with partners domestically and internationally in sharing best practices, thereby fostering innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement to solutions policy and practice.



Fadumo, a business owner, received a grant and business coaching from IOM to expand and improve her shop.

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THE GOVERNMENT-LED DURABLE SOLUTIONS PROGRESS (DSP) SURVEY: INFORMING THE NATIONAL SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS ACTION PLAN

In 2024, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) led the country's first household-level assessment on IDP solutions, the Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Survey. Led by the NCRDS jointly with the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS), and supported by IOM's DTM and the Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium and partners, the survey provides representative data in cities hosting a combined 2.07

million IDPs – around 60 per cent of the country's caseload at the time of data collection.¹²⁶ The survey provides representative data for IDPs and host communities on progress towards solutions, to support prioritisation and monitoring under the Action Plan.¹²⁷ In 2025, phase two of the survey will bring the national IDP coverage to around 75 per cent.

Key Insights from the DSP Survey

The first phase of the survey was rolled out in eight urban centres across Mogadishu (Daynile and Kahda), South-West State (Baidoa, Berdaale and Xudur), and Jubaland State

(Doolow, Baardheere and Kismaayo). Three key insights from the first phase are detailed below.

Key insight #1

Displacement-related vulnerabilities hamper pathways to self-reliance: IDPs are 35 per cent worse off than the host community.

Key insight #2

Despite living in better conditions than IDPs, host communities face persistent vulnerabilities and displacement risks.

Key insight #3

There is no statistical relationship between longer durations in displacement and more positive feelings about integration with the host community.

¹²⁶ The survey is co-funded by the Saameynta Joint Programme and the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF)

¹²⁷ Federal Government of Somalia. *National Solutions Pathways Action Plan*. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/national-solutions-pathways-action-plan-2024-2029/https://mop.gov.so/national-solutions-pathways-action-plan-2024-2029/>

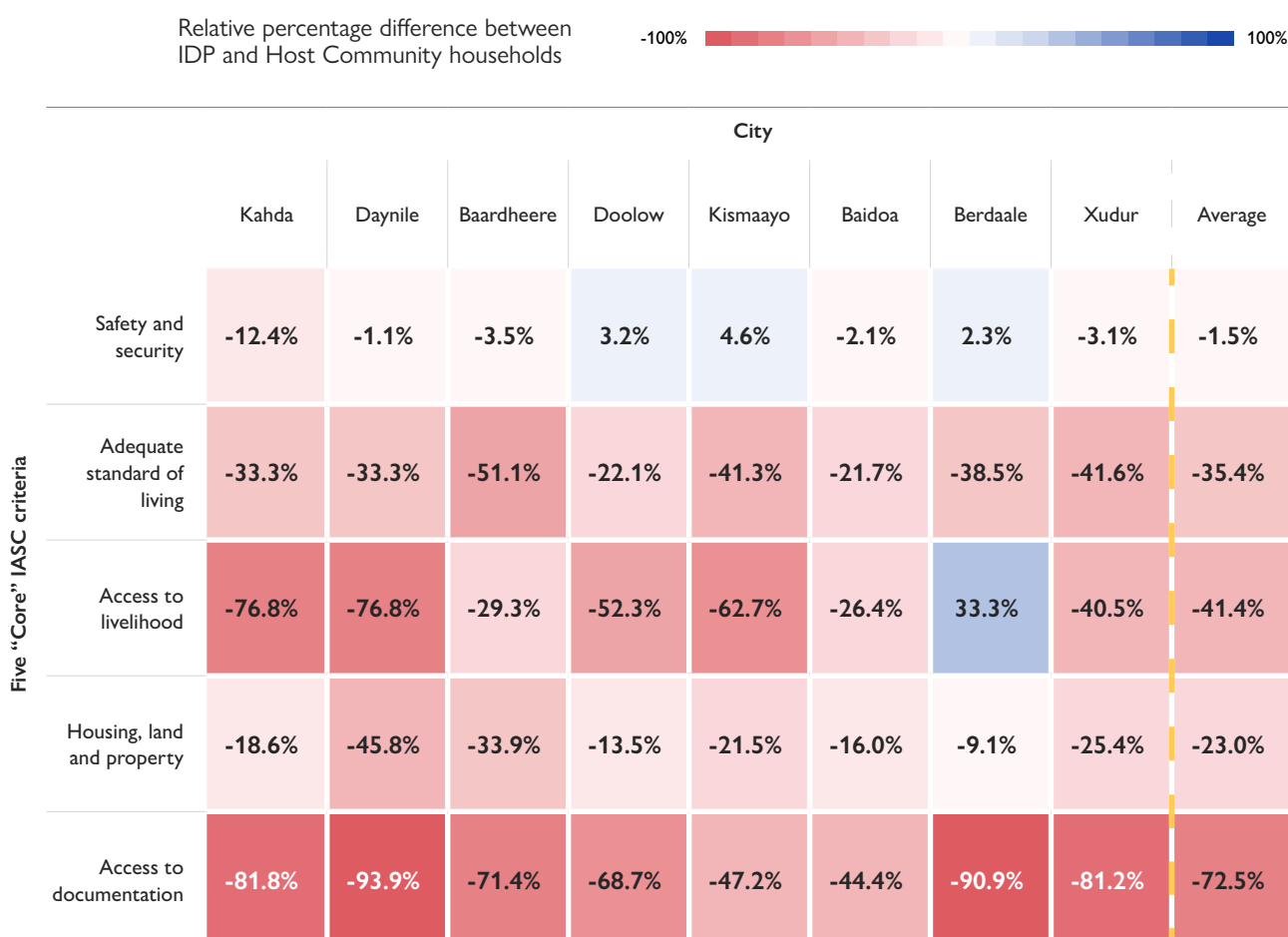
Key Insight #1

Displacement-related vulnerabilities hamper pathways to self-reliance: IDPs are 35 per cent worse off than the host community

On average IDPs are 35 per cent worse off than the host community.¹²⁸ IDPs face higher barriers to accessing livelihoods and are less likely to achieve economic stability. Displaced households also face significant inequalities in terms of adequate standard of living through access to basic services and housing, land and property (HLP), often facing higher risks of eviction than the non-displaced.¹²⁹ Figure 6.4

shows a comparison of these inequalities between assessed cities, where lower values (red) show host community households performing better than IDP households, while higher values (blue) show IDPs performing better than host community households.

Figure 6.4 Inequalities between Somali IDPs and host communities across five core IASC criteria, by city¹³⁰



128 Federal Government of Somalia. *Durable Solutions Progress Survey – Key Findings Report*. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/somalia-durable-solutions-progress-dsp-survey-2024-2025-key-findings/> This refers to the relative percentage difference between IDPs and host communities as an aggregate of all eight cities covered by the first phase of the survey

129 While inequalities are observed in access to documentation, less than half of the community from both displaced and non-displaced groups possess legal documentation

130 The IRIS recommends using the top five criteria from the IASC durable solutions framework. Refer to: Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics. International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS). 2020. <https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/The-International-Recommendations-on-IDP-Statistics.pdf>

Key Insight #2

Despite living in better conditions than IDPs, host communities face persistent vulnerabilities and displacement risks

Better access to livelihoods, services and HLP among hosts compared with IDPs does not amount to positive outcomes for the non-displaced. While host communities have a greater level of access to livelihoods than IDPs across all cities, less than 40 per cent of hosts in all locations have access to long-term employment and income generation. A similar trend applies to HLP: despite better access to secure housing and land than IDPs, more than a third of the host community (39%) continue to suffer with poor housing conditions – living in poor quality shelters and risking eviction.

This highlights the need for integrated, development-oriented solutions programming to assist both groups to overcome vulnerabilities arising from multi-dimensional poverty – minimising the risk of displacement in the future. Figure 6.5 presents the proportion of households in each city who responded positively to indicators under each of the eight IASC Durable Solutions criteria.¹³¹

39%

of the host community continue to suffer with poor housing conditions

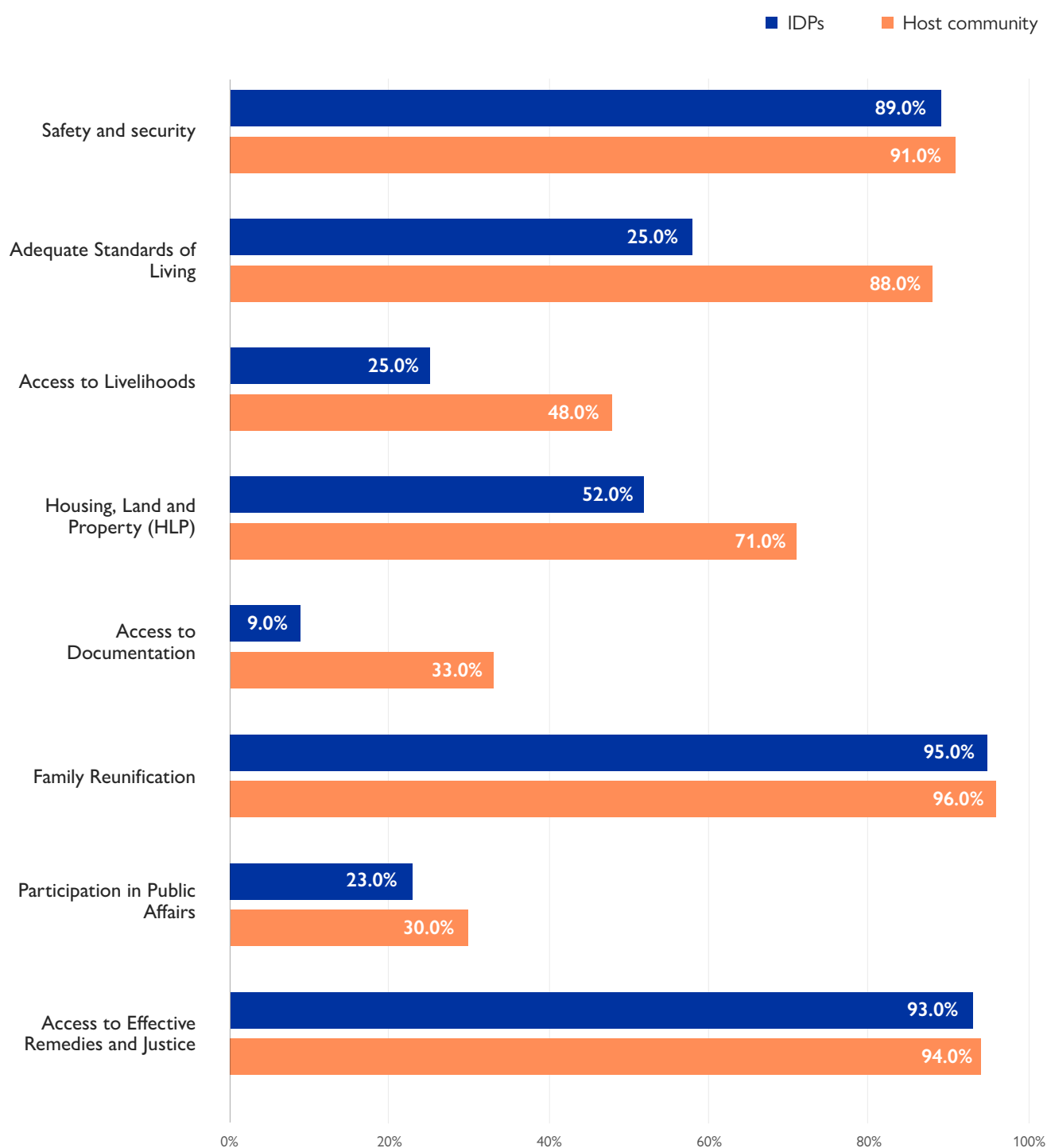


As climate change strains Somalia's path to peace, communities hold the key.

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131 For a detailed overview of the methodology used to develop the IASC composite indicators and the DSP Index, refer to the following: Federal Government of Somalia. *Durable Solutions Progress Survey – Terms of Reference*. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/somalia-durable-solutions-progress-dsp-survey-2024-2025/>

Figure 6.5 Progress towards solutions amongst IDP and host communities in Somalia across the IASC criteria¹³²



132 Federal Government of Somalia. *Durable Solutions Progress Survey – Key Findings Report*. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/somalia-durable-solutions-progress-dsp-survey-2024-2025-key-findings/> Inter-Agency Standing Committee; Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons* (2010), <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

The federal government, with support from DTM, has also developed the Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Index – an aggregate solutions progress measurement for Somalia. The index is based on a composite measurement, showing the number of the top five IASC criteria which households have “passed.”¹³³ Across the eight cities covered under phase one of the survey, host communities have scored positively on

an average of 3.31 out of the 5 criteria – significantly higher than IDPs who scored 2.32 out of 5.

Consistent with Figure 6.6, Figure 6.7 shows that host communities enjoy significantly better living conditions than IDPs across all cities, but both groups in all cities face persistent vulnerabilities

Figure 6.6 The Federal Government of Somalia’s solutions measurement: The Durable Solutions Progress Index for host communities and IDPs, overall scores

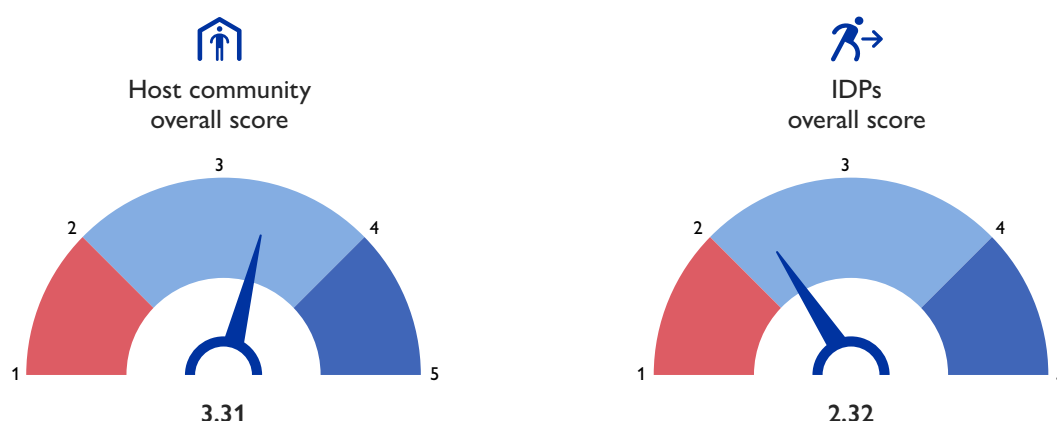
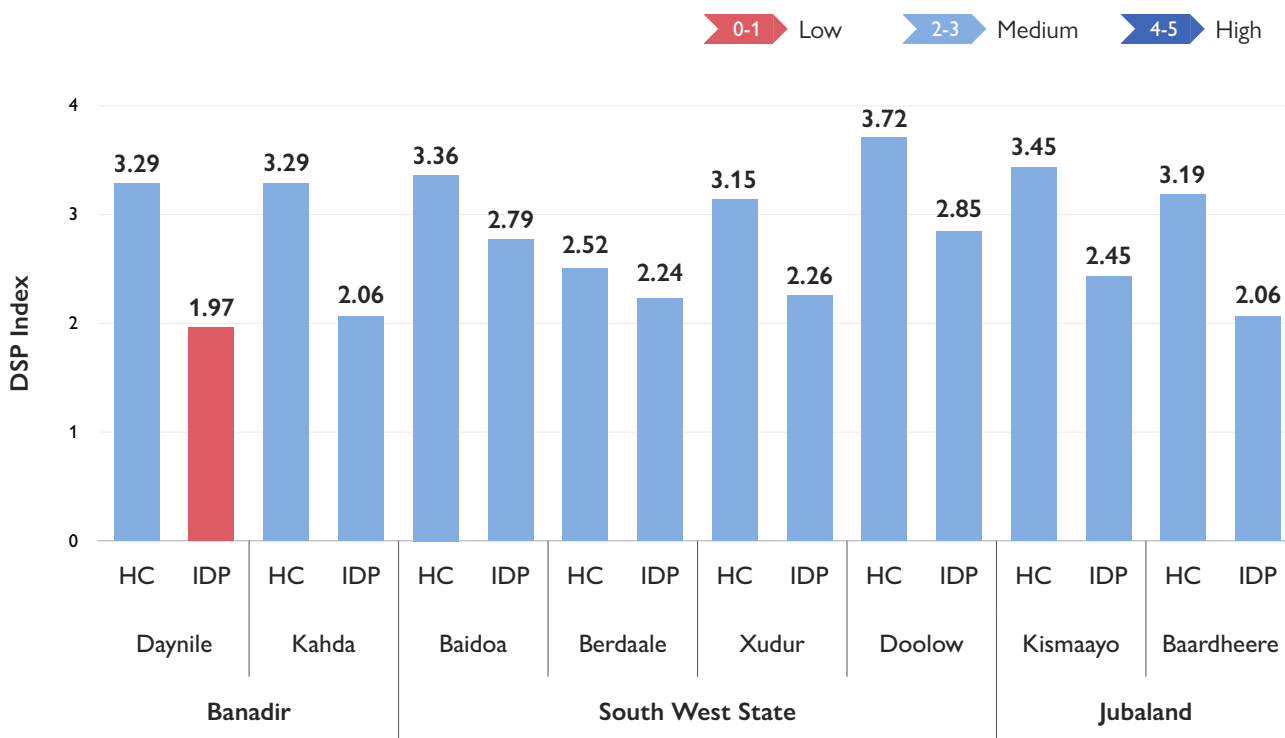


Figure 6.7 The Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Index for host communities and IDPs, scores by city



133 Expert Group on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) (2020), <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>



Somalia's first government-led solutions assessment - the DSP Survey - makes a major step towards nationally owned solutions, grounded in evidence

IOM teams actively engaged and consulted with community members and local representatives throughout the reconfiguration planning process. Many of those individuals actively participated in the construction works as pictured above.

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GENDER DIFFERENCES

Notably, gender is an important factor in advancing towards solutions amongst IDPs and host communities. For example, female household heads face greater barriers in accessing education amongst both IDPs and host communities. In addition, they face higher exposure to protection risks than male household heads.

IDP households also face disadvantages at the intersection of gender and disability. For example, households with at least one family member living with a disability reported restricting their movements due to fear of gender-based violence (40%) compared to households without a member living with a disability (25%).

There are also gender differences among IDP households in terms of feelings of integration. While 65 per cent of male-headed IDP households report feeling integrated with the host community, only 61 per cent of female-headed IDP households report such integration. Among host communities, 63 per cent of female household heads reported feeling integrated or very integrated compared to 70 per cent of male household heads.

Understanding the barriers faced by women and girls is critical to supporting displacement-affected communities to overcome vulnerabilities and progress towards solutions.

Daida, a 19-year-old Ethiopian, also came to Somalia intending to cross to Yemen and then Saudi Arabia. She was stranded along the way and after reaching Bosaso, decided to seek IOM's help to return home.

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Table 6.1 Somalia: local Integration variables by population group and gender of household head

Population group	HC		IDP	
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male
Ability to afford healthcare (%) N	59.5 (983)	58.4 (1,826)	60.0 (1,482)	57.8 (2,984)
Access to healthcare (%) N	71.0 (982)	70.7 (1,825)	58.1 (1,482)	61.2* (2,984)
Access to education (%) N	59.8 (983)	70.1* (1,826)	40.1 (1,482)	48.1* (2,984)
Feel integrated?				
Integrated	62.9	70.0*	61.4	65.5*
Neutral	31.2	26.0*	34.9	31.8*
Not integrated	5.9	4.0*	3.7	2.6*
N	(968)	(1,748)	(1,415)	(2,850)
Land ownership				
Free	17.9	14.5*	70.8	69.8*
Own	45.9	50.9*	15.7	13.8*
Rent	36.2	34.5*	13.5	16.3*
N	(983)	(1,826)	(1,482)	(2,984)
Shelter ownership				
Free	16.7	13.5*	68.2	65.4
Own	48.0	52.1*	19.2	20.4
Rent	35.3	34.3*	12.6	14.2
N	(983)	(1,826)	(1,482)	(2,984)

*Note: Significance tests assess the difference between female and male headed household (*p < 0.05). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

Key Insight #3

There is no statistical relationship between duration of displacement and positive feelings about integration with the host community

IDPs' feelings about integration with host communities vary significantly across cities, ranging from 81 per cent in Kisumu to just 39 per cent in Baardheere.¹³⁴ However, there is no association between duration of displacement and feelings of integration, with only minor differences observed between IDPs who have been in the current location for 1-3 years, 3-5 years, and more than 5 years in most locations.¹³⁵

Time in displacement does not improve Somali IDPs' sense of integration.

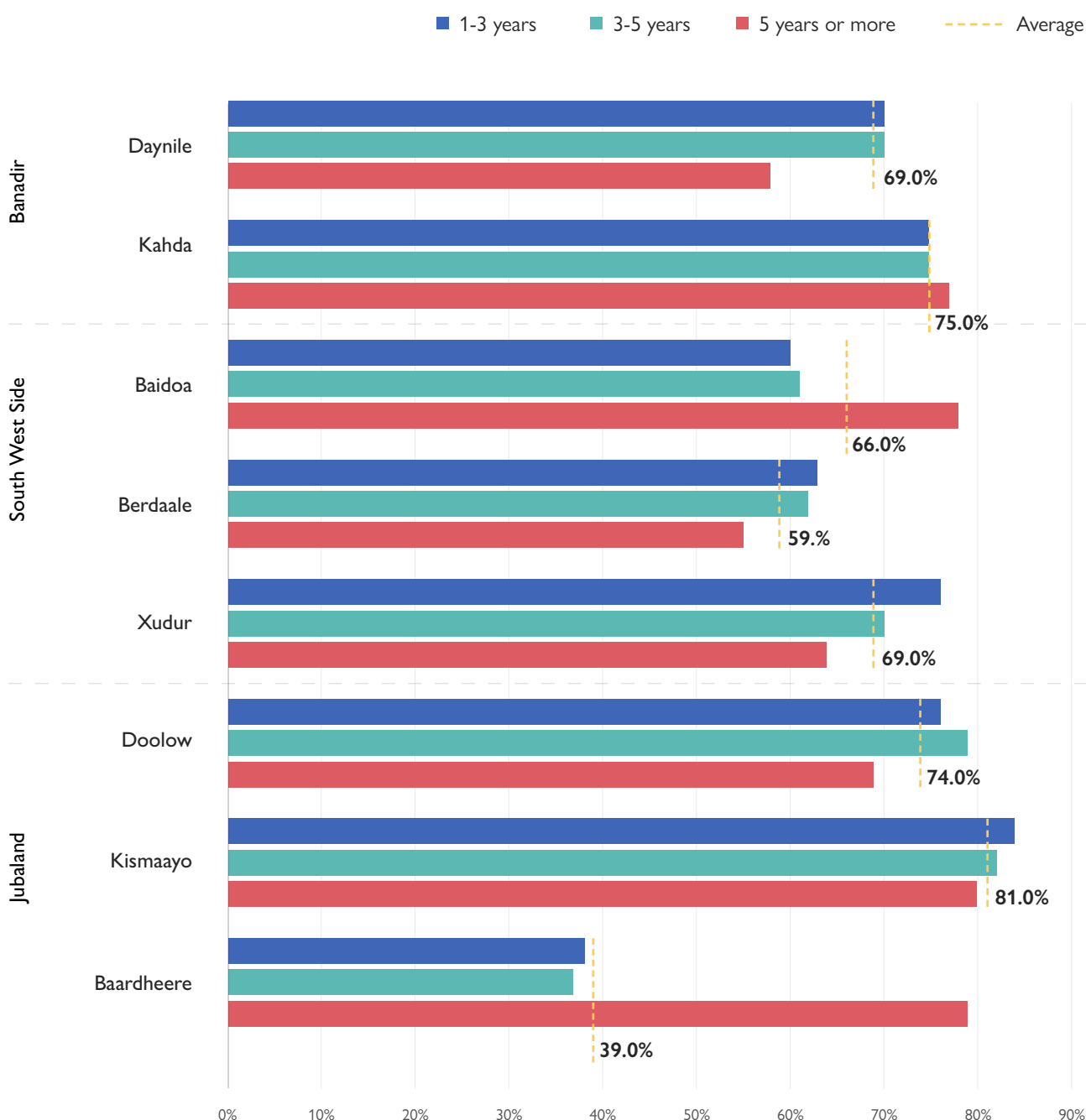
IOM teams actively engaged and consulted with community members and local representatives throughout the reconfiguration planning process. Many of those individuals actively participated in the construction works as pictured above.

© IOM 2021/Claudia Rosel

¹³⁴ Federal Government of Somalia. *Durable Solutions Progress Survey – Key Findings Report*. 2024. <https://mop.gov.so/somalia-durable-solutions-progress-dsp-survey-2024-2025-key-findings/>

¹³⁵ Regression analysis was conducted to determine any statistical associations between 1) a longer time in displacement and greater feelings of integration, as well 2) number of times in displacement and greater feelings of integration. No association was found in either test, suggesting they are not linked

Figure 6.8 Positive feelings about integration among Somali IDPs by duration of displacement and city¹³⁶



136 The reason for the significant proportion of households reporting high levels of integration in Baardheere is likely due to the low subset of households who have been displaced in that city for five or more years. As such, this data point should be observed bearing in mind this limitation. Before being asked how integrated they feel in the local community, households were provided with the following definition of local integration: Integration means that households have access to the social, economic and political aspects of life in the community, where they have access to equal rights, systems and services as the people among whom they live, in peaceful coexistence.

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING RURAL – URBAN LINKAGES

For all the progress attained since the civil war, Somalia remains a fragmented “archipelago” of sociopolitical islands, separated by insecure and logistically challenging hinterlands. Millions have been forced to abandon rural areas due to conflict, insecurity and loss of livelihoods, in search of stability. Islands of stability are connected by people on the move (traders and pastoralists, entrepreneurs, IDPs, transiting migrants, and dynamic diaspora); digital networks (penetrating deeper and broader than many areas on the continent, connecting communities on every island to each other and to the world); and natural ecosystems (impacting and impacted by the changing climate of the greater Horn of Africa).

Somalis seek to form a country that is not characterised by division. The bridges between islands are the key to this effort, bridges that are fundamentally rural-to-urban and urban-to-rural, both domestically and internationally. By facilitating and harnessing human mobility, Somali stakeholders demonstrate how bridges can be broadened and divisions can be overcome, enabling the dynamic networks that provide choice and agency to vulnerable populations. Ultimately this will enable the country to replace exclusionary systems with inclusive governance mechanisms that can prevent and resolve crises and displacement.

Mother and child in IDP camp in Galkayo.

© IOM 2021/Rikka Tupaz

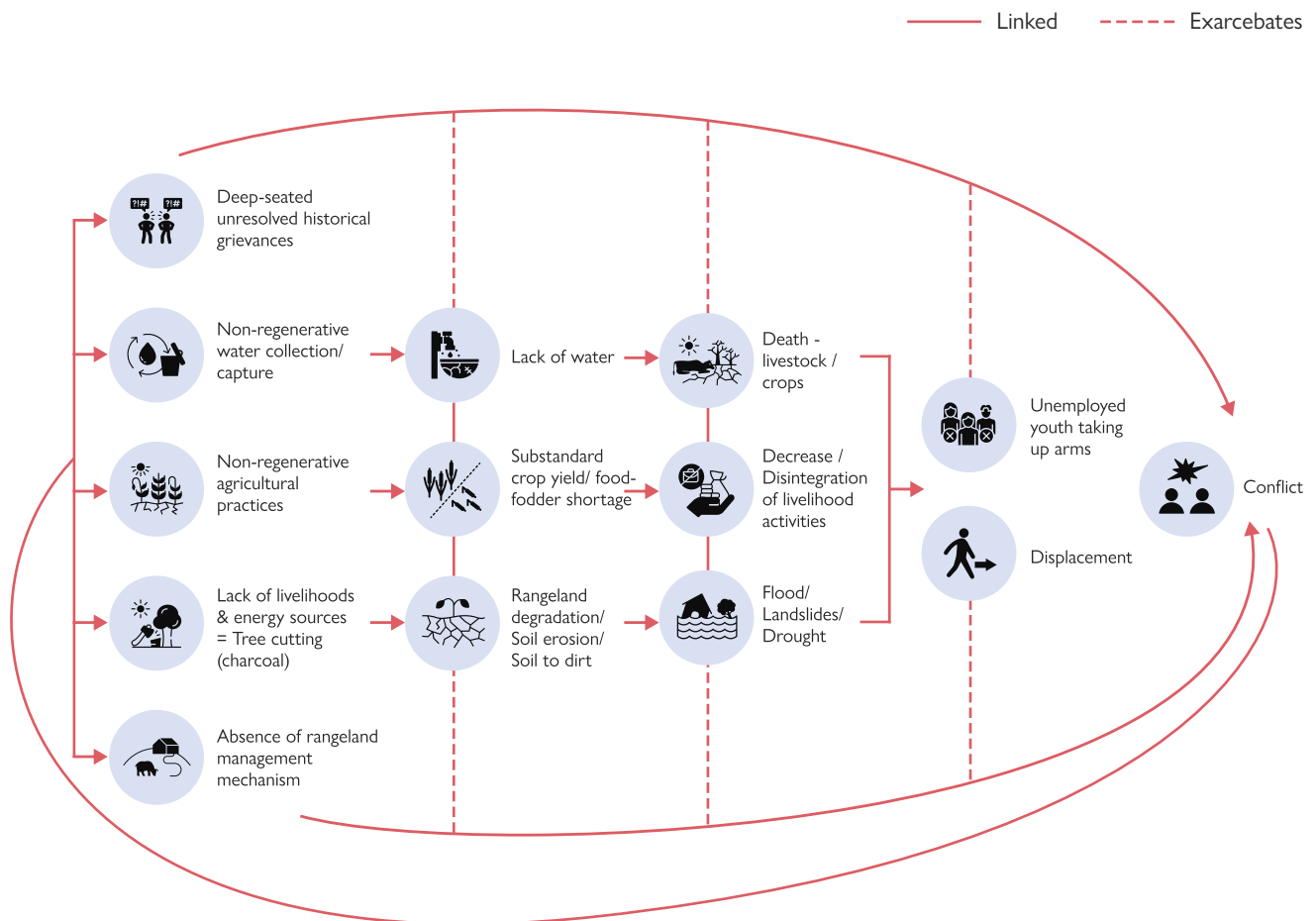


RURAL TO URBAN DISPLACEMENT: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, OPPORTUNITIES

The slow consolidation of state presence in peripheral areas has allowed violent groups to operate with impunity, exploiting local grievances and resource competition. At the same time, severe climate events disproportionately impact rural and nomadic populations reliant on natural resources for

their livelihoods. Without effective natural resource management and governance structures in these regions, communities remain exposed to both environmental shocks and insurgent influence.

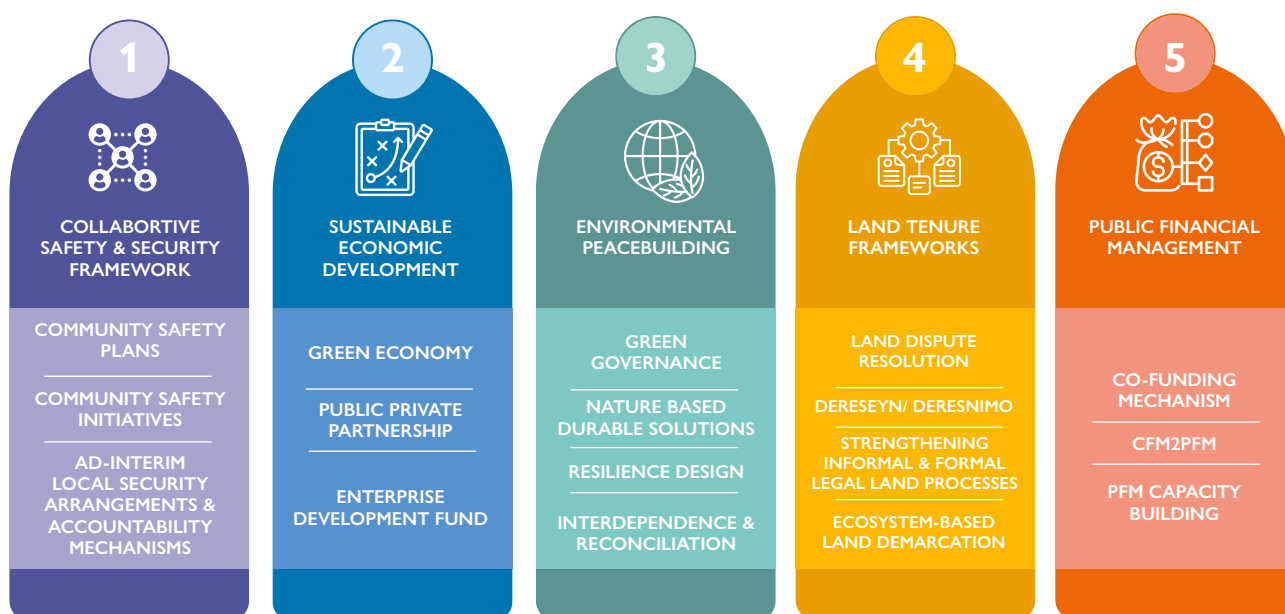
Figure 6.9 The climate-conflict cycle in Somalia



The change envisaged by IOM, which has a portfolio that incorporates humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding programmes, is about enabling Somali-owned processes of crisis and displacement prevention by building local resilience to manmade and environmental shocks. Designing a contextualised and comprehensive approach to achieving these objectives relies on an understanding of how the overarching challenges, highlighted above, percolate down to the local level and are felt by communities and households on a day-to-day basis. In many communities in Somalia, expectations of local governance are low, often limited to provision of basic security and justice. However, even this basic provision is challenged by the perennial lack of resources that local authorities face. This leads to an “accountability gap,” where predatory rent-seeking is incentivised over the regulation and allocation of resources and services, undermining the social contract between communities and local authorities. This mutually reinforcing dynamic must be inverted, so that the prospect of greater domestic revenue mobilisation (DRM) can be realised by protecting more inclusive markets. In most of Somalia, beyond a small number of cities,

cultivating and protecting inclusive markets is synonymous with enhancing natural resource management (NRM): livestock and agriculture are the cornerstones of the Somali economy, and both rely on access to natural resources, primarily water and land. Land (and by extension the water on or below it) is almost always claimed by some person or group, illustrating the importance of engagement with HLP issues to resolve underlying tensions of individual and collective tenure security. Triangulating between these interconnected challenges reveals a promising avenue for enhancing the effectiveness and accountability of local governance. Inclusive incentives can be introduced to shift DRM away from easy rents to leverage land and water management into a more sustainable, equitable, and productive revenue stream. By foregrounding natural resource management, local governments can simultaneously cultivate inclusive markets and indirectly address the vexing issue of land disputes. By integrating these interventions, Somali stakeholders create a self-sustaining system where advancements in one area strengthen and accelerate progress across others, resulting in resilient and sustainable governance.

Figure 6.10 Somalia: Integrated Foundational Governance Package



By prioritising local ownership, trust-building, and sustainable economic development, IOM seeks to establish a self-reinforcing, self-regulating governance model that bridges the gap between short-term stabilisation and long-term resilience. Key to overcoming the local governance credibility gap and catalysing a virtuous cycle of accountability, which can sustain itself into the future, bolstering public financial management systems at the local level is essential. IOM leverages the core features of its Co-Funding System (CFS) to build a platform for district-level Public Financial Management (PFM). The CF2PFM model strengthens critical country systems to enable on-budget, on-treasury inter-governmental fiscal transfers from the federal government. Advancing Durable Solutions Through Integrated Urban Planning, Development and Inclusive Governance in Somalia.

Since 2016, IOM has focused on finding solutions to displacement in urban areas, addressing large scale caseloads of protracted displacement, and complementing the response to new displacement with early solutions. This work hinges on the leadership of the government. Durable solutions have gained substantial political traction in Somalia. However, many of the systems needed to enable this transition to a fully government implemented response remain weak due to decades of conflict and weak governance. Government-led and community driven area-based development require territorial and spatial planning frameworks. Municipal governments, while central to delivering solutions, often lack the authority, financing, or technical capacity to lead. Humanitarian programming continues to carry the burden of displacement response, but is not designed to tackle the long-term governance, land, and institutional challenges that underpin protracted displacement.

The following sections detail how durable solutions approaches are bridging the gap between a humanitarian response and government-led durable solutions implementation. This hinges on strengthening governance at multiple levels, improving land and service delivery systems, and equipping cities and rural areas alike to respond to the demographic and mobility patterns shaping Somalia's future. Two key platforms—Danwadaag and Saameynta—have emerged as critical vehicles for translating national frameworks into locally grounded practice.¹³⁷ Danwadaag brings together UN and NGO actors to support displacement affected communities (DACs) through spatial planning, local governance support, and data-driven monitoring. Saameynta complements this by advancing coherence across the humanitarian, development, and peace sectors under government leadership.

¹³⁷ The Danwadaag consortium was formed in 2018 and integrates the expertise humanitarian and development partners and facilitates knowledge sharing for a multi-sectoral response across the humanitarian, development, and peace (HDP) nexus. IOM as a consortium partner implements durable solutions initiatives through a community-based planning approach and further support the Government of Somalia's leadership through institutional support and formulation of policies. IOM closely collaborates with research, learning and programmatic partners in the durable solutions community, including the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) consortium, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), UN HABITAT, and IMPACT.

Saameynta is a UN joint programme funded by the Somalia Joint Fund implemented by UN-Habitat, UNDP, and IOM (lead agency), under the oversight of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. It functions as an enabling programme by supporting government-endorsed laws, policies, and socio-economic infrastructure to build local capacity for inclusive governance. Land governance is central to the programme, with spatial planning led by UN-Habitat guiding IOM's service delivery and UNDP's investment targeting. This integrated, participatory approach improves infrastructure, enhances land tenure security, and strengthens public services and economic opportunities.

LACK OF TERRITORIAL PLANNING: A ROOT CAUSE OF UNSUSTAINABLE URBAN GROWTH

Territorial strategies are becoming an essential tool for addressing the root causes of displacement in Somalia. By tackling the underlying drivers — including climate shocks, conflict, weak governance, and economic fragility — these strategies aim to guide investments to manage displacement while strengthening urban resilience.

With mobility patterns shifting rapidly, Danwadaag collaborated with UN-Habitat to develop a Territorial Strategy for South-West State to outline how investments in housing, livelihoods, basic services, and infrastructure can be spatially optimised—supporting access to services close to areas of displacement origin, local integration and regional mobility. Ultimately, the aim is to move from fragmented, reactive responses to territorially coherent solutions planning that aligns with national priorities and reflects the complex geography of displacement in Somalia. Investments in Tertiary Towns for Sustainable Urban Resilience such as Berdaale, Bardheere, and Xudur—while often overlooked—are absorbing significant displacement flows. These towns offer opportunities for local integration, service delivery, and livelihoods, yet remain under-capacitated. Building on the South-West State territorial strategy, IOM and UN-Habitat supported municipalities in Xudur, Berdaale, and Bardheere in developing displacement-sensitive urban plans to strengthen their shock-absorber capacity to reduce pressure on major cities and promote more balanced, inclusive development across the country. These plans also integrate displacement growth predictions recognising that displacement in Somalia is often predictable, and supporting municipal absorption capacity in a climate resilient way that is critical to maintaining urban resilience. Unclear municipal administrative boundaries are also bottlenecks for local integration.



Displaced woman selling groceries in Ladan Women's Market, Dolow, Somalia. Built by IOM, the marketplace provides opportunities for 60 women business owners.

© IOM 2024/Raber Aziz



Durable solutions begin with knowing where to act, yet after three decades of conflict and weak governance, Somalia continues to lack clear and reliable municipal administrative boundaries, especially in urban settings. As highlighted by the World Bank, the absence of clear boundaries makes it difficult to determine where to intervene, who to engage, and how to reach the most vulnerable, thereby posing challenges to urban development.¹³⁸ Without a shared spatial framework, efforts risk becoming fragmented or duplicative.

Derisnimo refers to the process of neighbourhood boundary mapping—a locally driven planning exercise supported by Danwadaag to enhance community-level governance and inclusion. This mapping promotes bottom-up urban planning, ensures displacement-affected communities are formally recognised within municipal frameworks, and helps establish clearer channels for representation in ward-level decision-making. HLP rights is a blind spot in urban governance. Unmanaged urbanisation poses a threat to inclusion and sustainable urban development, as people on the move often settle on private land in IDP camps and face a high risk of eviction when unable to afford rent. Through the Saameynta Joint Programme, IOM partners with UN-Habitat Somalia and targeted municipalities to develop City Extension Plans through participatory processes to provide a regulatory framework that guides infrastructure upgrades and steer long-term urban growth. In addition, Danwadaag has implemented inclusive urban development models such as Barwaaqo and Hodale—planned city extensions that provide secure tenure, basic services, and infrastructure for formerly displaced populations. These sites are the result of close coordination between local authorities, displacement-affected communities, and international partners, and are integrated into official city planning frameworks. Urban and area-based planning is complemented by land use planning and advancements in land administration, including urban land management laws at the Federal Member State (FMS) level and municipal by-laws on land management and property valuation. The long-term goal is to design fit-for-purpose mechanisms and land policies that provide legal certainty over HLP rights, reduce disputes, and protect against evictions.

138 World Bank. *Somalia Urbanization Review: Fostering Cities as Anchors of Development*. 2021. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35059>

Furthermore, Saameynta is piloting the Social Tenure Domain Model for the first time in Somalia—a participatory tool that documents IDPs' informal land rights, such as verbal agreements or customary claims, and provides an evidence base for advocacy in a context where formal land tenure systems remain under development. However, replicating these models depends on political will, available land, and urban planning capacity.

Absorption capacity by district authorities in urban areas is a key ingredient for successful reintegration processes, in a country with one of the highest rural-to urban migration trends in Africa. Planning infrastructure for basic services like solid waste and water management is key to ensure a peaceful coexistence of communities affected by displacement and build the resilience of urban vulnerable populations. Danwadaag has supported the creation of a water masterplan and solid waste management plans for the city of Baidoa based on projected rural to urban migration. These public goods enable authorities and partners to plan infrastructure investments and form a basis for partnership engagement with various stakeholders including UN agencies, NGOs and private sector. Addressing the roots of exclusion is essential. While not universally the case, political underrepresentation of internally displaced populations is another common and deeply rooted challenge towards achieving urban solutions. Wellbeing and safe spaces are at the heart of building trust between IDPs and the host community, and between DACs and institutions. Recognising this, Saameynta has supported the Ministry of Interior in Puntland State and South-West State to promote a Social Cohesion Strategy identifying the root causes of conflict and exclusion as well as solutions and strategic priorities to reach a more inclusive society. Furthermore, IOM partnered with Concern Worldwide to pilot the integration of well-being sessions into social cohesion activities for internally displaced women. Preliminary results suggest that helping individuals manage daily stressors and rebuild social ties can meaningfully strengthen community resilience and urban recovery. As displacement becomes increasingly urban and protracted, the approach underscores the importance of integrating basic psychosocial support into social cohesion programming as a core component of urban recovery and resilience.

Tackling Economic Exclusion: Laying the Foundation for Inclusive Urban Integration

Displacement is often triggered by the collapse of viable livelihood strategies and the loss or sale of essential assets in areas of origin. Providing livelihoods support thus remains crucial to help restore these assets and reduce reliance on harmful coping mechanisms. Through resilience and climate

adaptation grants, hundreds of small businesses led by IDP women have received catalytic grants, mentorship, and market linkage support. Additionally, through Danwadaag and Saameynta partners, thousands have benefitted from self-help group formation and savings support, livelihood grants, green graduation programming, and farmer training. IOM's Enterprise Development Fund provides complementary private sector development grants in urban areas intended to create jobs for rural-to-urban migrants by identifying high growth firms and opportunities, addressing issues of land fragmentation and job creation in the rural non-farm economy that benefits displaced jobseekers informed by local value chain assessments, ensuring interventions are demand-driven and linked to real market opportunities.

Lastly, recognising that combining livelihoods support with tenure security may offer a stronger pathway to local integration, Danwadaag and the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) are scaling up an initiative known as the Integrated Rental Subsidy Pilot (IRS). The pilot helps displaced families in informal settlements to voluntarily relocate to safe, dignified private rental housing, supported by rental subsidies and consumption support. It includes a livelihoods component, offering three tiers of interventions aligned with each household's skills, needs, and preferences—whether through skills training and wage employment, starting a new business, or expanding an existing one. IRS fills a critical gap by enabling durable solutions in areas where city extensions are not feasible, helping displaced communities integrate into existing urban neighbourhoods. At the same time, it opens a pathway for regulating informal housing markets and contributes to longer-term urban stability and inclusion.

Future-Focused: Mobility, Social Protection, and Climate Resilience

Looking ahead, further investment in data-driven, durable solutions programming that recognises mobility as a core resilience strategy will be essential. Similarly, integrating climate risk, displacement prevention, and social protection into urban planning and national data systems will be critical to sustaining durable solutions across Somalia. More generally, the approach to promote mobility as a solution, in and of itself, could open opportunities to reshape the work on durable solutions as a catalyst for a transition from displacement to free movement. Promoting mobility as a solution also includes facilitating safe, regular, and orderly cross-border migration. Remittances from migrant workers can reduce poverty, strengthen informal safety nets, and local financial resilience. Complementing adaptive measures at home.



This chapter has been validated by:



Top image:

Aerial view of informal settlements housing IDPs in Mogadishu

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Bottom image:

Aerial view of host-community houses in Garasbaley district, where IDP families have rented the homes to integrate into the community under the IRS project.

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ENHANCING SOLUTIONS THROUGH STATISTICS *(contribution by UNDP)*

In line with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and as part of the [Internal Displacement Solutions Fund](#) joint programme 'Asaaka Fikir', UNDP—working through JIPS and in close partnership with IOM, UNHCR, UN-Habitat and the Resident Coordinator's Office—has catalysed a nationally led, whole-of-government system to monitor progress toward durable solutions in Somalia. The deliberate focus has been on enabling national and local authorities to steward and utilise data for decision-making and wider development and sectorial planning.

Building on a decade of engagement, UNDP has helped institutionalise displacement statistics within the 2024 National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (IDP Statistics Sector Plan) and secure inclusion of an IDP module in the 2025–2026 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in line with EGRIS International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS). Alongside this, UNDP and JIPS have been co-developing with the government a national Durable Solutions Data Toolkit — a coherent set of outcome indicators aligned with Somalia's Solutions Pathways Action Plan and Durable Solutions Strategy—and an accompanying capacity-building roadmap led by the National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (NCRDS) and informed by Federal Member States and municipalities. Building on the two organisations' key contributions to data for solutions, the [UNDP-JIPS Development Solutions Monitoring Framework](#) (2024) proposes sets of indicators and methodological considerations to comprehensively measure progress towards solutions to internal displacement, encompassing humanitarian and development approaches, as well as essential peacebuilding considerations and governance elements.

This aims to ensure evidence directly informs policy formulation, prioritisation and resource allocation under the Solutions Pathways Action Plan. These frameworks complement the newly established Management Information System (MIS), which enables the NCRDS to track solutions programmes across the country.

Key milestones included JIPS' Collaborative Leadership Programme (mid-2024), a multi-stakeholder technical mission to Mogadishu (October 2024), iterative alignment with IRIS and the Durable Solutions Indicator Library, Data for Solutions Working Group validation (May 2025), and circulation of the final draft toolkit (June 2025).

Looking ahead, UNDP's continued accompaniment will prioritise endorsement and publication of the toolkit, followed by its operationalisation through targeted training in 2026—including a study tour with Statistics Norway—strengthening data governance and routine statistics production. The focus is to ensure that national and sub-national authorities have the tools and capacity to translate evidence into planning, budgeting and sustainable solutions pathways for displacement-affected communities.



A farmer in Qofey, Hirshabelle state applying the knowledge from a resilience training delivered by IOM Somalia's Environmental Peacebuilding programme.

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07

INSIGHTS FROM KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS





One of the women who benefited from IOM's life-saving package in Mogadishu.

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INSIGHTS FROM KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

To complement the findings from the PROGRESS25 quantitative data analysis and insights from focus group discussions with affected communities featured in PROGRESS24 and PROGRESS23, this year's qualitative component focuses on perspectives from practitioners and policy makers working on displacement solutions at the regional (Nairobi) and country levels (Burundi, Somalia and South Sudan). These key stakeholders were asked for their feedback on the state of durable solutions, lessons learned and good practices in the EHSA region.

The data collection coincided with the third-year mark of the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the establishment of the Global Solutions Hub. In addition, ongoing discussions around UN80 and the humanitarian reset¹³⁹ present an opportunity for advocacy to prioritise and scale up catalytic actions that advance solutions to internal displacement.

Findings in this chapter are based on conversations with 21 key informants (KIs)—4 female and 17 male. The majority (16) represented state institutions at various levels (national/federal and local/provincial/devolved government) and the UN system, while the remaining KIs (5) were affiliated with NGOs or worked within NGO networks or structures. A total of 19 interviews were conducted, including one group interview with three key informants holding different roles within their organisation. In terms of geographical coverage, informants were from South Sudan (3), Somalia (8), Burundi (8) and two shared a regional perspective.¹⁴⁰

The findings below summarise perceptions of KIs regarding the status of durable solutions, regional displacement trends, and observed short- and long-term responses to displacement. They highlight factors associated with durable solutions and reflect on the agency that IDPs need to have in the design and implementation of activities that support displacement solutions. Additionally, KIs identified numerous challenges for interventions perceived to positively impact durable solutions and provided recommendations for actions to strengthen durable solutions at regional and national levels. It is important to note that the findings presented below should be interpreted with caution as the KI sample is small and it reflects the subjective perceptions of KIs.

139 IASC and OCHA Humanitarian Reset, November 2025. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/humanitarian-reset>

140 See annex for more information on the key informant interviews.

1. Structure service delivery to benefit all groups in displacement-affected communities

Across countries, stakeholders emphasised that services in displacement-affected areas are predominantly delivered by non-state actors, particularly humanitarian actors. As demonstrated in previous editions of PROGRESS, the availability of services in different locations is one of the key factors influencing durable solution intentions. During this year's consultations, key informants noted that, in some contexts, services tend to be better in urban than rural areas. This highlights the need to understand how service availability influences rural-to-urban mobility and, subsequently, the potential pressure that newly arriving populations in urban areas may place on service quality.

KIs suggested that humanitarian assistance can inadvertently influence mobility patterns, as IDPs may move toward areas where services - such as schools and health facilities - are perceived to be available. Drawing on their experience, KIs proposed the following measures to help mitigate unintended consequences of humanitarian assistance. Firstly, they called for the expansion of service delivery into rural areas and for inclusive urban planning efforts to account for additional population pressure. Secondly, they emphasised the importance of coordination with national authorities to ensure local ownership and sustainability of investments. Thirdly, KIs emphasised that, particularly in areas with protracted displacement, service provision should be complemented by the expansion of economic opportunities, especially for youth. Lastly, they recommended that host households be included in assistance programmes, as this had a positive impact on community social cohesion in the past.

KIs also mentioned the added value of area-based programming that accounts for regional differences and enhances coordination with local authorities and affected communities. While funding challenges for such interventions persist, interlocutors highlighted how diverse actors can support local economies, by engagement with diaspora, private sector, and development banks. For example: in some states of South Sudan, area-based programmes are inclusive of all those affected by displacement (IDPs, IDP returnees and host communities), providing similar assistance based on comparable needs. These programmes are co-funded from multiple sources, based on action plans developed by the government and local partnerships.

Similarly in Burundi, stakeholders noted that although separate government entities oversee IDPs and returnees from abroad, both groups still receive assistance, ensuring that coordination enhances support. Furthermore, according to KIs effective interventions must address root causes and consider the specific experiences of displacement. For instance, IDPs displaced by intracommunal violence may have distinct needs compared to other IDPs. Tailored assistance enhances humanitarian impact and supports pathways to integration or return. Another KI emphasised that peace-building and the inclusion of host communities are critical for successful local integration.

2. Ensure durable solutions are considered in the earliest phase of the humanitarian response

Humanitarian approaches are the dominant response to displacement in the region, even as progress is being made towards more sustainable, long-term programmes that prioritise IDPs' empowerment. However, at the country level, there remains a lack of clarity on how to transition from emergency humanitarian response to the start of the durable solutions phase.¹⁴¹

KIs highlighted limited financial resources—primarily from humanitarian funding—as a major and persistent obstacle to transitioning from emergency response to integrated humanitarian-development-peace programmes aligned with national priorities. In addition, key informants called for greater flexibility in adapting humanitarian funding to increase its potential to enable conditions conducive to durable solutions. Similarly, KIs called for increased flexibility within development projects to address underlying displacement-related vulnerabilities.¹⁴² Long-term development projects would enable partnerships between authorities and international actors—a priority emphasised by government KIs.

¹⁴¹ In early 2025, the heads of UN agencies agreed on a transition plan from humanitarian response towards solutions as proposed in the UN system-wide approach to internal displacement. This approach includes modalities designed to facilitate the transition at the country level, pending implementation. https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/ceb_2024_6_add.1-system-wide-approach-to-internal-displacement-jan-2025_advance-unedited.pdf.

¹⁴² In November 2024, the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement released a proposal to create a financial incentive mechanism to channel international financial institution resources for IDPs and host communities. See: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/osa_idp-concession-finance-concept.pdf

3. Eliminate Housing, Land and Property (HLP) as a barrier to durable solutions

KIs emphasised that access to land for cultivation and housing remains limited due to systemic issues in EHSA countries, which undermines durable solutions and recovery efforts.

Practitioners noted that various measures have been adopted in some contexts to address these challenges, including legislative reforms, development of national policies, local peace agreements, and documentation of land tenure. Examples to strengthen IDPs' rights include the ratification or intent to ratify the Kampala Convention by countries in the region, as well as the allocation of public land for housing described as a practice that enhances the sustainability of displacement responses. However, KIs stressed that progress remains insufficient. Persistent issues¹⁴³—such as forced evictions, short tenure agreements, customary land systems, lack of documentation, gender-based legal barriers, and weak restitution mechanisms—continue to deter IDPs from returning to their areas of origin, particularly where legal protection mechanisms are unclear.

4. Develop mitigation strategies for climate-related displacement

Stakeholders emphasised the interconnected nature of displacement drivers—for instance, climate pressures that can lead to competition for land for agriculture and habitation, which may then escalate into inter-communal violence and displacement. This complex interplay underscores the need for stronger preventive measures and risk mitigation strategies to reduce the negative impacts of displacement.

KIs identified a knowledge gap among practitioners and potentially affected populations regarding adequate response strategies and mitigation measures for climate-related impacts. Knowledge about prevention measures is limited due to insufficient investment in practical local adaptation interventions, such as crop diversification, construction of more resilient shelters, and leveraging informal networks and channels for knowledge sharing. Another finding indicates that, with few exceptions, early warning systems are non-functional. This is in part due to gaps in the exchange of information, which undermine efforts to break the cycle of climate-related displacement.

Given the region's high vulnerability to climate risks, stakeholders noted considerable variation across countries in the ways climate risks and environmental sustainability are integrated into interventions that support durable solutions for IDPs. For example, in some areas of South Sudan, climate-related risks are actively considered when planning solutions for IDPs, whereas Burundi's preparedness and response capacity to natural hazards is less developed (e.g. some KIs acknowledged the absence of a functional de facto early warning system), resulting in limited integration of climate considerations into displacement responses. Additionally, there is a pressing need to incorporate human mobility (including displacement) issues into climate change policies and frameworks.

Cross-cutting priorities

Participation of and accountability to affected communities. KIs emphasised that accountability to affected populations (AAP) and community participation are essential to strengthening durable solution interventions. Participants noted that despite some progress—such as the establishment of context-specific feedback mechanisms and the reduction of participation barriers—the systematic and consistent rollout of AAP mechanisms, as well as the integration of feedback into programme implementation, remain limited. Furthermore, durable solutions programming should be aligned with IDPs' intentions and incorporate the feedback provided.

Persistent evidence gaps undermine durable solutions

Key informants suggested the need for more data to compare the profiles, needs, and experiences of IDPs, IDP returnees, and host communities. There are few studies on return and reintegration outcomes, particularly when disaggregated by displacement drivers (e.g., inter-communal violence vs. climate-induced factors). As a result, interventions can be limited due to insufficient context-specific considerations. Stakeholders suggested that longitudinal and hypothesis-driven research is needed to assess the effectiveness of assistance and IDPs' decision-making and progress towards durable solutions.

¹⁴³ See for example UN Habitat (2024), Durable housing, land and property solutions for customary displacement contexts https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2025/01/durable_hlp_solutions_for_customary_displacement_contexts_report.pdf



RELOCATION AS A SOLUTIONS PATHWAY

The quantitative analysis indicates that IDPs prefer local integration and return as their most preferred solutions to displacement. However, KIs suggested that relocation, if planned, may be a more feasible pathway, particularly to address challenges related to land access. Government informants noted that planned relocations can serve as catalysts for local development. In countries like Burundi and Somalia, more IDPs intend to settle in third locations—neither their place of origin nor initial displacement location—facilitated by government initiatives or social networks. This usually occurs when return is unsafe and integration at the first displacement site proves difficult. Ensuring meaningful engagement of IDPs in planning and implementation is critical to achieving sustainable outcomes.

In November 2016, rains failed for the third year in a row, forcing Somalia into a devastating drought. From then until March 2017, over 600,000 people have been displaced within the country.

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08

OVERARCHING FINDINGS AND PROGRAMME IMPLICATIONS





Zainab and her baby Saeed, fetch water at the bore hole in front of the health center supported by IOM where Zainab takes her baby for nutrition treatment.

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OVERARCHING FINDINGS AND PROGRAMME IMPLICATIONS

1. INTENTIONS VARY BETWEEN AND WITHIN COUNTRIES

While regional evidence shows that the intention to remain in the current displacement location is high in EHSA countries like Burundi and Somalia, there are important exceptions such as a high preference for return in South Sudan and uncertainty about intentions that surpassed preferences for traditional solutions pathways in Mozambique. These intentions are shaped by a number of factors.

Type of displacement

In Burundi, where displacement is primarily driven by disasters, more than half of IDP households prefer to stay in their current location, followed by return. In Mozambique, where displacement varies geographically because of the different triggers of displacement in each region, solution intentions follow the same pattern. In the south and central provinces, where households are primarily displaced by disasters, staying is the preferred solutions pathway followed by uncertainty. Whereas in the north, where displacement is linked to conflict, uncertainty was the most reported answer regarding solutions intentions followed by a preference to stay in the current location. Uncertainty about intentions is evident in both the Mozambique and Burundi case studies, with a notable difference between the two (56.1 vs. 11.4%, respectively). In both countries, however, uncertainty is more prevalent among conflict-displaced households.

Similar to Mozambique, displacement in South Sudan is shaped by both conflict and disasters, with some states affected by both. More than half of IDP households prefer return, followed by staying in their current location. When considering the effect of disaster or conflict displacement on solutions, there is little variation except for a small, yet statistically significant increase in the preference to stay among disaster displaced households. IDPs in South Sudan also report higher intentions of relocation compared to their counterparts in Burundi and Mozambique.

In Somalia, where displacement has tripled since 2017 due to compounded conflict and disaster crises, two-thirds of IDP households reported a preference to stay and locally integrate, followed by return.

Duration of displacement

In the multi-country analysis, the intention to remain rises from 49.6 per cent for those displaced for up to one year to 56.1 per cent for those displaced for 5 or more years for all assessed households. The intention to return drops with longer duration of displacement, but the intention to relocate increases from 3.8 per cent to 6.4 per cent. Uncertainty about future plans peaks for households displaced between 2 and 4 years (32%).

In the individual country case studies, Burundi follows this same pattern of increased intention to stay the longer households have been displaced. The Somalia case study findings highlight an important factor related to the difference between intentions to integrate versus feelings of integration. Data from the DSP survey in Somalia showed that there was no observed association between the duration of displacement and feelings of integration, with small differences observed between IDPs who have been in the current location for 1-3 years, 3-5 years, and more than 5 years in most, although not all, assessed states. The distinction between the preference to integrate and feeling integrated into a community is key as staying in a place may increase the desire to remain there but does not equate becoming integrated, as local integration requires the right conditions for overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities.

Further investigation is needed along this dimension, not all countries had duration of displacement data available for analysis against durable solution intentions. But the research suggests that it is an important factor to consider.

High and low presence of IDPs

In Burundi, IDPs in provinces where they represent a smaller share of the population are more likely to prefer to stay or relocate than those in provinces with a disproportionately larger IDP populations (62.6 vs. 51.2% for staying, and 15.4 vs. 9.2% for relocation). Conversely, the proportion of households that prefer to return is two times greater for those living in provinces with larger IDP populations compared to households in provinces with smaller IDP populations (26.5 vs. 12.5%).

In South Sudan, the analysis considered both the type of displacement and the state groups based on the displacement caseload size. While return remains the most prevalent durable solution intention among both conflict- and disaster-displaced households, differences emerge depending on whether IDP households are in states with large or small IDP populations. Among conflict-displaced households, the preference for return is slightly higher in larger IDP states (58.6 vs. 52.4%). The differences in intentions are more pronounced among disaster-displaced households, where 58.2 per cent prefer return in larger IDP states compared to 45.6 per cent in smaller IDP states. This decline in the preference to return in smaller IDP states corresponds with an increase in the preference to stay—from 24.9 per cent in large IDP states to 34.3 per cent in smaller ones.

Both cases reveal a relationship between the size of displacement in an area and IDP intentions. The trends show that IDPs in areas with smaller IDP populations are more likely to prefer staying in their current community, while those in areas with larger IDP populations show a stronger preference for return. In South Sudan, this relationship also intersects with the cause of displacement. Although these findings do not imply causality, they point to significant differences in intentions based on the size of existing IDP populations. These differences are critical for addressing gaps in service provision and the absorption capacity of host communities, key finding 2 discusses how the distribution of IDPs impacts access to services in greater detail.

Relevance

These findings hold important implications for stakeholders seeking to deliver durable solutions programming for IDPs in the EHSA region. Just as displacement varies between and within countries, solutions responses must reflect these differences. While traditional durable solutions pathways provide offer useful frameworks, their implementation may, and arguably should, not look the same across or within countries. Effective programming requires a nuanced understanding of the displacement context, including displacement histories, IDP household intentions, and the size of the displacement caseload in target areas relative to both the corresponding sub-national population and the national displacement caseload.

Programme Implications

- 1. Prioritise tailored durable solutions approaches.** One-size-fits-all strategies are not effective for durable solutions, as intentions vary between countries and across sub-national areas within countries.
- 2. Strengthen disaggregated data collection.** Continue investing in detailed data on IDPs, including displacement histories and durable solution intentions, to deepen understanding of how displacement drivers influence solutions outcomes.
- 3. Integrate granular sub-national needs assessments in data collection priorities** to enable periodic measurement and analysis of progress towards solutions at sub-national administrative levels.

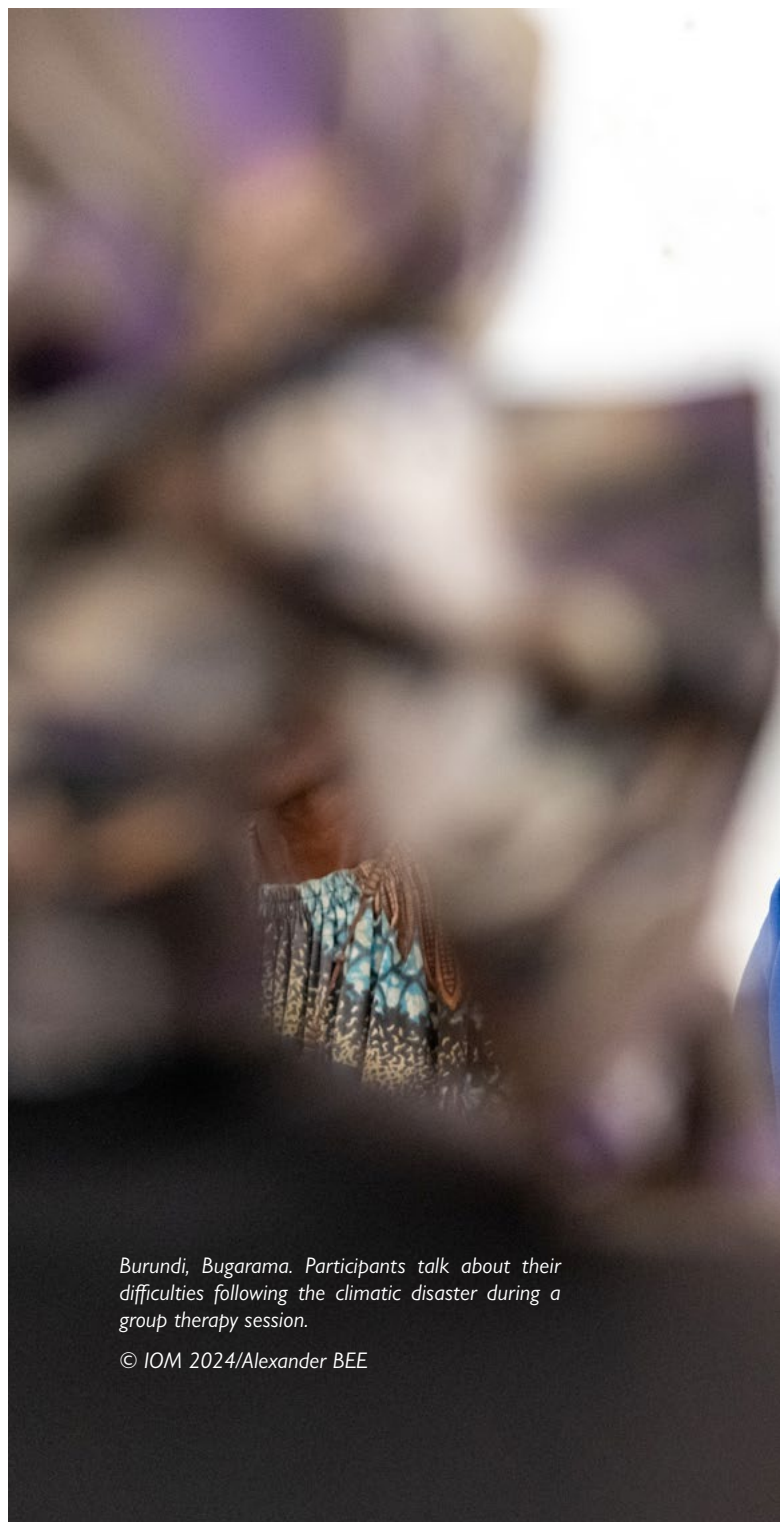
2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE DISPLACEMENT CASELOAD AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL IMPACTS PROGRESS TOWARDS OVERCOMING DISPLACEMENT-RELATED VULNERABILITIES

As displacement causes and caseload vary greatly within countries, the case study analysis considered the proportion of displaced persons that make up the population of sub-national areas at administrative level 1 for each of the countries studied. Classifying states or provinces into areas with larger and smaller IDP populations facilitated an analysis of whether displacement caseload size is associated with access to services, livelihoods, and the quality of community relationships. Assessing IDPs' progress across these criteria provides critical insight into the extent of displacement-related vulnerabilities.

Housing and shelter

In Mozambique, IDPs in Cabo Delgado face greater difficulties in securing stable shelter solutions. Compared to IDPs in other provinces with smaller displacement caseloads, IDPs in Cabo Delgado are less likely to own their shelter (42.8 vs. 64.4%) and more likely to be hosted for free (41.8 vs. 18.1%). Squatting is also highest in Cabo Delgado (13.6%), while renting remains low (1.8%). These shelter conditions heighten risks of eviction and re-displacement.

Similar to Mozambique, in South Sudan, shelter and land ownership is generally higher in areas with smaller IDP populations. Twice as many IDP households rely on land provided by external actors in larger IDP states than in lower IDP states (56.5 vs. 23.9%). Renting is more common among IDP households in smaller IDP states (6.5 vs. 2.3%), likely reflecting greater housing availability and affordability in areas less strained by high population numbers. Being hosted at no cost is more prevalent in states with smaller IDP populations, where on average one in five IDP households (21.3%) rely on free shelter.



Burundi, Bugarama. Participants talk about their difficulties following the climatic disaster during a group therapy session.

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While IDPs in larger IDP areas in both Mozambique and South Sudan report greater housing challenges, Burundi shows the opposite trend: provinces with larger IDP populations report higher rates of suitable shelter (62.8% vs. 51.9%). This may reflect differences in national displacement caseloads and assistance allocation, which can influence shelter outcomes. Further research is warranted to understand these dynamics and inform targeted interventions.

Health needs

In Burundi, fewer households in provinces with larger IDP populations report being able to consistently afford health care compared to those in smaller IDP provinces (8.6 vs. 11.4%). Additionally, 21.1 per cent of households in provinces with larger IDP populations indicate they cannot afford health care, compared to 17 per cent in areas with smaller populations. While health care affordability remains a challenge in all areas, IDPs in areas with higher displacement caseloads face increased affordability barriers.

In Mozambique, more than half of all households across all provinces and population groups report that their health needs are being met. When comparing provinces, IDP and IDP returnee households in Cabo Delgado are more likely to have their health needs met and less likely to report unmet needs than similar households in other provinces.

South Sudanese IDP household heads in larger IDP states report having higher access to healthcare than those in states with smaller IDP populations (71.4 vs. 61.2%). However, regarding healthcare affordability, fewer IDP households in larger IDP states report being able to afford healthcare compared to those in smaller IDP states (25.7 vs. 33.5%). These findings suggest that health services are under strain in highly populated areas.



Education

In Burundi, nearly half (46.2%) of IDP households report that all school-eligible children attend school, with no significant difference between larger and smaller IDP provinces. In provinces with larger IDP populations, 37.2 per cent report that none of their children attend school, compared to 31.7 per cent in smaller IDP provinces. Overall, 34.5 per cent of IDP households report that none of their school-eligible children attend school.

In Mozambique, approximately two-thirds of IDP households report that all eligible children attended school in 2024. In Cabo Delgado, rates of households with some or no children in school are nearly equal (17.2 vs. 17.1%), similar to patterns in other provinces where roughly one-third of households report partial or no attendance. With nearly a third of households lacking full access to education, improving educational services and access remains a critical priority.

In South Sudan, IDP households report similar access to education in both smaller and larger IDP states (58.7% and 61.7%). However, notable differences exist between population groups, as detailed in Key Finding 3.

Employment and livelihoods

In Burundi, more households in provinces with larger IDP populations report agriculture as their main source of livelihood than households in provinces with smaller IDP populations (66.2 vs. 58.6%), while the reverse is true for those reporting non-agricultural sources of livelihood (29.8% in larger IDP provinces vs. 37.7% in smaller IDP provinces). The heavy reliance on agricultural activities in areas that are vulnerable to climatic shocks places households at risk of multiple displacements and economic insecurity.

In Cabo Delgado, salaried work and income from businesses and trade are the main livelihood sources for Mozambican IDPs. However, one in ten households report having no income (11.8%) compared to 4.4 per cent in other provinces. Reliance on humanitarian assistance is lowest outside Cabo Delgado, where households report higher rates of salaried work and business income. This suggests better economic self-reliance in areas outside Cabo Delgado, though further analysis is needed to understand and address gaps in humanitarian support.

In South Sudan, while IDP households vary in their reliance on agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods, a key difference dependence on precarious activities. Households in states with larger IDP populations are more likely to rely on precarious activities than those in smaller IDP states (11.6 vs. 3.2%).

Community relationships

In Burundi, most households (90.4%) report having good relations with the host community, with slightly higher rates in provinces with smaller IDP populations (93.7 vs. 87.5%). In larger IDP provinces, twice as many households report average relationships with the host community (9.6 vs. 4.7%).

In Mozambique, IDP households in the large IDP province of Cabo Delgado are less likely to report good community relationships. Social cohesion is linked to access to basic services, reflecting similar patterns in Burundi where high displacement areas show lower levels of positive community relationships despite overall good community ties.

In South Sudan, at least 80 per cent of IDP households feel very and moderately accepted in their communities, but those in states with smaller IDP populations report feeling more welcome (38.9 vs. 35.1%).

In Somalia, neighbourhood level data shows marked differences in feelings of integration between cities within the state of Jubaland, from 81 per cent in Kismaayo to 39 per cent in Baardhere. These perceptions align with findings that overall progress towards durable solutions is lower in Baardhere, highlighting the link between feelings of welcome and community integration with solutions pathways.

Relevance

The relationship IDPs have with the host community and other groups is closely linked to their solutions pathways, intentions and access to services. Understanding these dynamics is essential for designing effective solutions programming, including assessing service access levels and identifying differences between groups. Key finding 3 explores the differences between population groups and how programming can be shaped based on contextual realities and the diverse population groups within target communities.

Programme Implications

- 1. Take into account the distribution of IDPs at sub-national level for programme development.** Design interventions that account for the distribution of IDPs at the sub-national level. Areas with larger IDP populations often face greater strain on housing, health and livelihoods, requiring tailored support to reduce vulnerabilities.
- 2. Prioritise shelter assistance in high-case-load areas** and explore scalable housing solutions and land tenure security to reduce risks of housing insecurity and re-displacement, which remain significant barriers to achieving durable solutions.
- 3. Improved health infrastructure and affordable healthcare** options are needed to prevent service strain in high-density displacement areas.
- 4. Government investment in livelihoods, financial inclusion, and market-based opportunities** that benefit both IDPs and host communities as important catalysts.
- 5. Support job creation and private sector engagement** that includes partnerships that drive investment, value chains, and skills development.
- 6. Continue investing in disaggregated and sub-national data collection** to monitor progress toward durable solutions and identify localised vulnerabilities.
- 7. Include periodic assessments** at lower administrative levels to capture variations between areas that may appear similar but differ in outcomes.

3. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POPULATION GROUPS AND THE NEED FOR AREA-BASED APPROACHES

With the launch of the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the international community has intensified efforts to better understand displacement-related vulnerabilities, in line with the IASC criteria and the additional methodological recommendations outlined in the IRIS and DSID frameworks. Both frameworks emphasize the importance of comparative analysis of needs between IDPs on various solution pathways (return, relocation, and local integration) and the national average, or at least in comparison with the vulnerabilities of communities hosting IDPs.

Since the inaugural report, PROGRESS has adopted this approach and continued to advocate for the systematic collection of data on host communities as part of its operational data collection efforts, which previously focused predominantly on IDPs. PROGRESS23 found that, across various IASC criteria, IDPs are consistently more vulnerable than host communities. However, the specific vulnerabilities of host communities remain under-analysed. This year's sub-national comparative analysis of IDPs, IDP returnees, and host communities in Mozambique, South Sudan and Somalia, provides valuable insights into the living conditions of these groups. Furthermore, such comparative analysis is essential for measuring the progress displaced communities made towards durable solutions and for identifying areas where IDPs are lagging behind, enabling programs to target interventions to improve overall progress outcomes.

Housing and shelter security

In Mozambique, data reveal that IDP households are significantly less likely to own their shelter than host and returnee households. In Cabo Delgado – the province with the highest number of displaced persons – only 42.8 per cent of IDP households own their shelter, compared to 86.5 per cent of host and 81 per cent of returnee households. Shelter insecurity is further highlighted by the fact that 41.8 per cent of IDPs in Cabo Delgado are hosted for free, compared to just 18.1 per cent in other provinces. In South Sudan, on average over a three-year period (2022–2024), IDP households (33.2%) are less likely to have secure types of shelter than host communities (62%) and IDP returnees (61.9%). Additionally, the third most common type of shelter cited by IDPs are improvised shelters (12.4%).

Regarding ownership, IDP households – especially those headed by women – are the least likely to own a house or plot (26%) and are most likely to have land provided to them (48.1% female headed IDP households, versus just 4.8% among male-headed host community households).

Affordability of health services

Access to health services also varies. In Cabo Delgado, a statistically significant difference exists between IDP and host community households reporting that all health needs were met (79.6 vs. 73.0%). Notably, a lower percentage of IDP households report that none of their health needs were met compared to host households (10.6 vs. 15.8%). When host communities report higher unmet needs, it is critical to investigate barriers to service access for non-displaced populations. In South Sudan, a slightly higher percentage of IDPs (both male- and female-headed households) reported access to healthcare than host communities. However, while more than 60 per cent of the households reported having access to healthcare, less than half of those with access – across all three population groups – report being able to afford healthcare. IDPs – especially female-headed households – were least likely to afford healthcare (25.1% of female-headed IDP households, compared to 38.5% of host community and 28.5% of returnee female-headed households).

Education

School attendance data in Mozambique shows that in provinces with fewer IDPs, host communities are more likely than IDP households to report that none of their eligible children attend school (19.8% in Cabo Delgado, 19% in other provinces). Returnees in these provinces have the highest share of households with no children in school (28.7%), highlighting education as a persistent barrier for IDP returnees. Access to nearby education facilities remains limited across all groups in South Sudan, with only about 60 per cent of households reporting access, and the highest rate among male-headed IDP returnee households (66.5%).

Economic self-reliance

Livelihoods data indicate that, across Mozambique, salaried work and business income are the main sources for all groups, but with notable differences. In Cabo Delgado, IDP returnees (45.2%) report higher rates of salaried employment than IDPs (35.2%) or host communities (33.1%). In other provinces, business income is most common among returnees (63.1%) and host communities (51.3% compared to 41.6% among IDPs). Host communities in Cabo Delgado also show a slightly higher proportion with no income compared to IDPs, indicating pockets of vulnerability. In South Sudan, IDPs and returnees rely more on non-agricultural income, while host communities depend on agriculture. Female-headed IDP households are most likely to rely on precarious activities (9.8% compared to 1.9% for male-headed returnee households). These findings underscore that, while displacement brings distinct challenges, host communities in certain areas also face significant economic hardship, warranting targeted support and further analysis.

The 2024 Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) survey in Somalia found that IDPs are, on average, 35 per cent worse off than host communities, particularly in livelihoods, economic stability, and secure housing due to higher eviction risks. Sub-national data collection enables targeted, area-based approaches, allowing humanitarian and development actors to identify vulnerable groups, their locations, and specific vulnerabilities to inform effective interventions.

Relevance

In cases when IDPs struggle more, targeted interventions are most fitting to help them reach parity with the host community. There are, however, instances in which all population groups experience the same vulnerabilities, requiring development-oriented approaches that consider both the displaced and the non-displaced. Government leadership is essential for the sustainability of such approaches and to unlock the potential of development investments that will reduce poverty, improve economic self-reliance, build resilience and strengthen local governance.

Programme Implications

1. **Recognize displacement as a long-term development challenge** from the outset.
2. **Encourage inclusive, community driven area-based programs**
3. **Invest in livelihoods, financial inclusion, and market-based opportunities** that benefit both IDPs and host communities.
4. **Engage multi-lateral development banks and development financial institutions** in supporting the shift from addressing displacement mainly as a humanitarian concern to also a development issue.
5. **Promote government leadership and establish a strong coordination** mechanism to support development programming.

4. GENDER CONSIDERATIONS IN PROGRAMMING ARE ESSENTIAL, ESPECIALLY IN SOME COUNTRIES

Gender remains a critical dimension shaping the experiences and outcomes of IDPs in the EHSA region. Key findings from the analysis highlight that female-headed households face greater challenges across several indicators. In South Sudan, they are more likely to rely on precarious livelihood sources (9.8%) compared to male-headed households (5.9%). With more limited income, fewer female-headed IDP households reported being able to afford healthcare. They are also the most likely to report feeling a little or not at all welcome in the community (18.9%). While land access also proves challenging, nearly half of female-headed IDP households in South Sudan have had land allocated to them, compared to just over one-third of male-headed households, suggesting targeted efforts to address land access for women who may traditionally have difficulties to own or inherit land in their own right.

In Somalia, gender is a significant factor in advancing toward solutions among IDPs. Across the country, only 38 per cent of female-headed IDP households had overcome most of their displacement-related vulnerabilities, compared with 45 per cent of male-headed households. Additionally, female-headed households were less likely to have access to education than male-headed households. With respect to livelihoods, fewer female- than male-headed households reported agricultural pursuits, but more female heads reported livelihoods related to precarious activities. And among IDP, host, and returnee households, more male than female household heads reported feeling welcomed and accepted in their current residence.

Additional findings from this year's and previous reports, highlight the importance of addressing intersectoral risks faced by women and girls in displacement. For example, the government-led durable solutions survey in Somalia found that female households face greater barriers in accessing education and are more exposed to protection risks. The report also notes that targeted interventions – such as land allocation for female-headed households in South Sudan and integrated livelihoods and social cohesion programmes in Somalia – can help mitigate these disparities. However, the persistence of gender-based gaps in access to services, livelihoods, and community acceptance indicates that further efforts are needed to ensure that durable solutions are truly inclusive and equitable.

Relevance

Design of approaches guided by the knowledge of local communities that address the specific needs of people of different ages, genders, abilities, and diversities is one of the guiding considerations of the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. Understanding the gender component of displacement experiences is the key to promoting gender equality in durable solutions, but also a critical driver towards sustainable development goals and poverty reduction. Closing gender gap is therefore fundamental to breaking cycles of poverty, accelerating recovery, and achieving progress toward displacement solutions.

Programme Implications

- 1. Strengthen gender-disaggregated data on displacement vulnerabilities and socio-economic profile of affected population.** To ensure that policies and programmes are truly responsive to the needs of all displaced populations, governments and partners should invest in the systematic collection, analysis, and use of gender-disaggregated data. Enhanced data systems will enable more precise targeting of assistance, better monitoring of progress towards gender equality, and the identification of emerging gaps or risks, such as those related to education, livelihoods, and protection.
- 2. Mainstream gender in government-led durable solutions strategies and action plans.** Governments should also review and, where necessary, reform legal and administrative frameworks to remove barriers to women's participation and ownership.
- 3. Expand gender-responsive livelihoods programmes.** This should include targeted business grants, access to microfinance, vocational and skills training tailored to local market needs. By investing in women's economic empowerment, these initiatives can help reduce reliance on precarious or informal work, build household resilience, and contribute to broader community recovery and social cohesion.

ANNEX

The analysis presented in this report is based on quantitative methods, including statistical significance testing, applied to household survey data. Specifically, the PROGRESS 2025 quantitative analysis draws on selected data from 2022-2024 progress towards durable solutions survey, intention survey, and multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) household level data collected by IOM. In addition, the report also

describes results from semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders to assess factors related to IDP households' durable solution intentions and local integration. It is important to note that the samples of some of the datasets used in the analysis are country-wide (MSNAs), while others are regional (durable solutions progress and intention surveys). The complete list of datasets with metadata is available [here](#).

Multi-country analysis (Chapter 4)

Five types of IOM household level surveys are used:

- **Progress Towards Durable Solutions:** The data contain IASC/IRIS durable solutions indicators to measure the progress of IDPs towards a durable solution. The population categories include non-displaced households, a key population group to which IDPs, returned IDPs or relocated IDPs are compared to understand the progress they have made toward overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities and achieving a durable solution. The data are usually collected for selected regions to enable more granular analysis at administrative levels 2 or 3, depending on operational needs and access.
- **Intention Surveys:** These survey data focus on IDPs and their preferred durable solutions, as well as barriers and support required by those on a solutions pathway to overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities.
- **Demographic and Displacement Calculator:** This data source derives from a representative sample of IDP and IDP returnee households. It provides information on demographics, household size, displacement history (including reason for displacement and duration of displacement), and households' durable solution intentions.
- **Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs):** MSNAs provide an overview of the demographics, multi-sectoral humanitarian needs and displacement dynamics of affected populations including IDPs, IDP returnees and host community in areas hosting IDPs. These data are used by humanitarian partners for decision-making on resource allocation, service provision and evaluating access—particularly in the development of annual Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans.
- **Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) Survey:** Supported by the government of Somalia, the DSP was developed in line with the NDSS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as well as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, and the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS). The survey supports government ministries as well as UN agencies and NGOs to implement durable solutions in line with the NDSS.

Country specific case studies (Chapter 5)

The three country case studies on Burundi, Mozambique, and South Sudan are based on IOM 2024 MSNA data. The South Sudan analysis also includes some additional three-year analysis using 2022–2024 data. A short description of each MSNA sample is provided in chapter 5. Note that while MSNAs collect information on several population groups such as IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community households, not all countries included in chapter 5 contain information on all groups. Therefore, the scope of the analysis and basis for comparison vary by national context. These case studies also examine the share of displaced persons within sub-national areas (admin level 1) by classifying each area as having a low or high IDP population, defined as whether the combined caseload of IDPs and IDP returnees, relative to the total population, fell above or below the national average. In the case of Mozambique, where over 70 per cent of IDPs reside in a single province, the classification was instead based on IDPs in Cabo Delgado versus all other provinces. These categorisations help assess whether and how higher or lower concentrations of displaced persons are associated with household needs and intentions.

Somalia in-depth review (Chapter 6)

The Somalia case study relies on household survey data collected on the IASC/IRIS durable solutions criteria, specifically: safety and security; adequate standard of living; access to livelihoods; restoration of housing, land and property (HLP); access to documentation, family reunification; participation in public affairs; and access to effective remedies and justice. The survey, carried out between April and June 2024, covered 60 per cent of the country's IDP caseload at the time. The sample consists of randomly selected households in eight cities across 3 states (Banadir, Jubaland, and South West state) in the country. The sample of IDPs is representative at the neighbourhood level (90% confidence level, 10% margin of error) while that of the Host Community households is representative at the city level (95% confidence level, 5% margin of error). The survey data is collected through the Durable Solutions Progress survey. More information about the survey, can be accessed in the interactive dashboard with results and narrative reports.

Terminology for local integration

Due to variations in terminology used to describe local integration intentions across different countries, the term stay was used throughout this analysis to indicate the potential for local integration in IDPs' current locations of displacement. While this is consistent with language used in previous editions of the PROGRESS report, it is important to note that within the DTM durable solutions methodology, the terms are often used interchangeably. However, the intention to stay refers to local integration. For example, stay was the term used in the study of Iraqi IDPs and their intentions. Most which were displaced by the 2014-2017 crisis, indicating long-term intentions to locally integrate.

Key informant interviews (Chapter 7)

The study's quantitative data analysis and literature review were supplemented by qualitative data collected from key informants in the Eastern, Horn and Southern Africa (EHSA) region. The objective was to gather detailed information about topics underexplored in large-scale, quantitative displacement surveys, including the complexity in IDPs' decision-making, perceptions of prevention and response capacity related to (multiple) disaster displacements, and interventions considered to have a positive effect in promoting durable solutions. In addition, key informant interviews provide important information to assist in contextualising the quantitative analysis findings.

Twenty-one key informants from three countries were interviewed over the course of one month. The interviews reflect a convenience sample of stakeholders accessible through IOM and other UN country offices. Nineteen interviews with informed consent were conducted, including one with three key informants who played different roles within their organisations. Four key informants were female, and the rest were male. In terms of geographical coverage, three key informants were from South Sudan, eight from Somalia, eight from Burundi and two covered the region. Five key informants worked or were affiliated with NGOs and their networks. The remaining were evenly split between government institutions at various levels, e.g. national/federal and local/provincial, and the UN system.

The interview guide was designed with open-ended questions that covered topics such as the status of durable solutions, related strategies and operational plans; displacement trends; prevention and response to disasters and climate change; factors influencing IDPs' decisions; relationships between IDPs and host communities; and recommendations for enhancing durable solutions. The questions in the interview guide were adapted to the country context, and to the key informant's focus and role. Several versions of the interview guide were used, to reflect the context of the three different countries and whether the key informant is working for a state institution.

Almost all interviews were conducted via digital communication platforms, lasting 30 to 60 minutes, and included automatic transcription based on informed consent. When digital platforms could not be used because of internet connectivity issues or the key informant's mode of work, phone interviews were conducted and recorded. The automatic transcription was checked, and the themes as well as sub-themes were manually extracted, the content analysed and coded.

Personal data was stored and used in accordance with IOM's data protection principles, and ethical standards were upheld throughout the research process—from introduction to interview completion.

It is important to note the limitations associated with key informant interviews. While the interviewed key informants are experts in various displacement contexts, disciplines and general trends across the EHSA region, their perspectives are inherently limited in capturing the lived experiences and intentions of displaced persons. In previous editions of PROGRESS, focus group discussions with IDPs, IDP returnees and host community members were conducted to address this gap. However, for this regional edition of PROGRESS, key informant interviews were particularly valuable in providing insights into overarching trends, initiatives on prevention and response capacity, and the facilitation of durable solutions. These interviews also helped highlight specific contextual differences and responses to displacement at both national and regional levels.

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Original illustration of the building blocks for achieving durable solutions, based on the IASC criteria

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