

Introduction

Years of drought and protracted insecurity contributed to a rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia throughout 2017 and into 2018. These have exacerbated displacement trends across the country, with an estimated 2.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of April 2018.¹ Protracted insecurity has limited humanitarian access, further entrenching household vulnerability across much of the country.

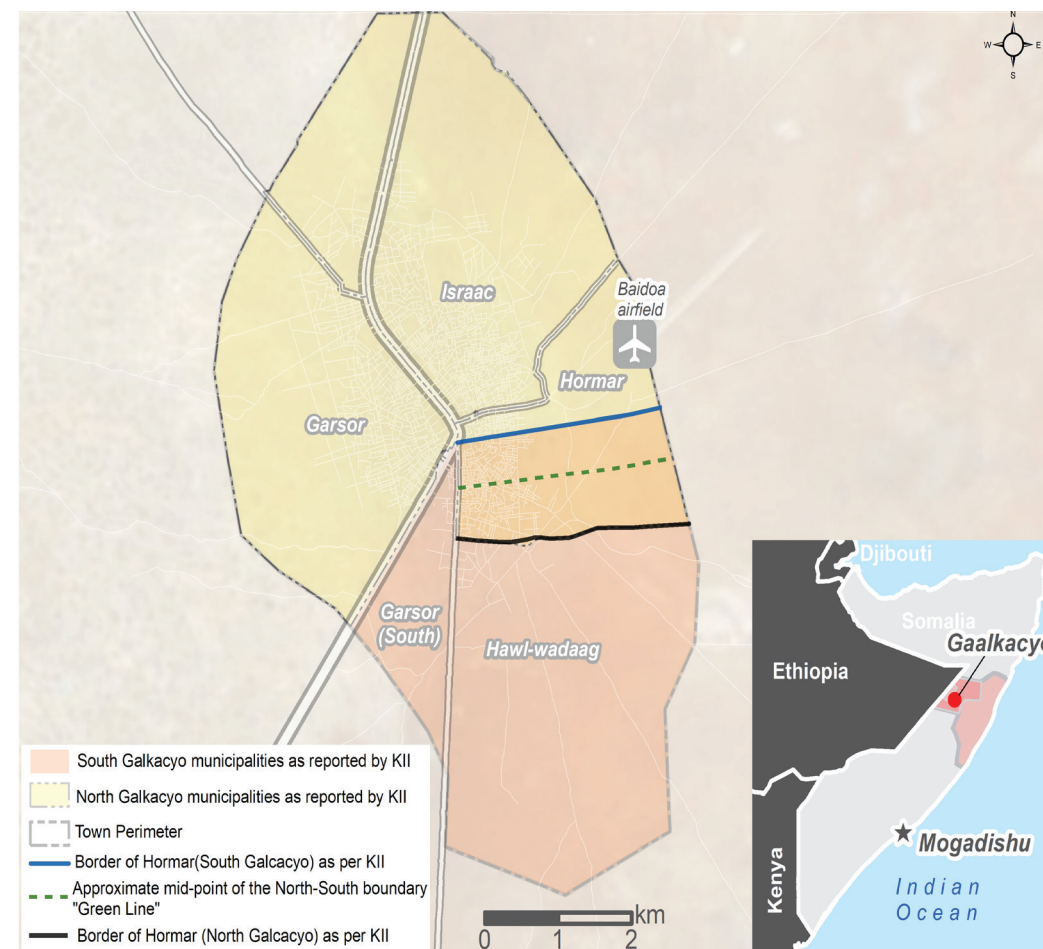
This fluid displacement context has put increasing strain on resources, particularly water and food, but also other basic services such as education and healthcare. In some locations this has led to marginalisation, discrimination, and lack of trust between IDPs and host communities, which has led to further displacements, feelings of resentment and exclusion.² This is a particular issue in urban areas, which are receiving the majority of newly displaced people.

To better understand the factors which both challenge and enable community cohesion in urban mixed migration settings, IMPACT, through the Durable Solutions for IDPs and Returnees (DSIRS) consortium, conducted an assessment in North and South Galkacyo from March - April 2018, targeting both IDP and non-displaced households with a household survey, key informant (KI) interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). This assessment captured trends in access and barriers to services, use of public space and available employment opportunities for displaced and non-displaced groups. It was intended that this information would be used both to determine key social cohesion issues between displacement groups in Galkacyo North and South, including barriers to accessing services and public spaces, sources of tension and the potential impact this may have on livelihood and employment opportunities for different social groups, and to identify possible entry points for DSIRS consortium partners and government stakeholders for addressing social cohesion in Galkacyo North and South. Findings for Galkacyo South are presented here.

Key Findings

- Self-reporting on community relations was generally positive, with 66% of host community households and 56% of IDP households reporting good relationships with households of the other community, which was at a higher rate than in Galkacyo North. They reported a high level of social cohesion which was a result of a relationship of mutual exchange of services and longer term trends, such as inter-clan marriages between host and IDP households.
- Most households, especially from the IDP community, reported in FGDs that they cannot afford to be in spaces such as markets and restaurants. Access to public places like mosques and playgrounds was higher, potentially indicating that economic factors are more significant barriers than social factors in restricting access to social spaces.
- IDP households reported less access to primary schools, secondary schools, nutrition

Figure 1: Map of Galkacyo North and South



centres and food markets than host community households, due more to a lack of affordability (39%) or a lack of functionality (39%) than because the services do not serve them (17%).

- Sixty-five per cent of IDP households and 60% of host community households indicated crossing the green line between Galkacyo North and Galkacyo South to access services. This is mostly undertaken for employment activities by host community households and to access cheaper services by IDP households.

Community relations

There are identifiable tensions in Galkacyo South, with 21% of IDP households and 32% of host community households reportedly experienced an incident of violence in the six months prior to the assessment. However, **it does not appear that this can be explained as an antagonism primarily between IDP and host communities**, because a majority from both communities (66% of host community and 56% of IDPs) reported their relationship with the other community to be good, and nearly the entire remainder reported it to be neutral (43% of host community and 32% of IDPs), rather than bad (1% for both communities).

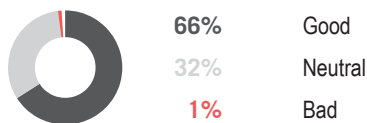
While relations between communities are good or neutral, **there were some reports of resource limitations which have strained the relationship between communities**. These included conflicts over land, use of markets, and use of water points. However, in FGDs, people from both communities reported that incidents of conflict are generally resolved. Occasional disputes and thefts were reported in FGDs as well, but it was not suggested that these are any more prevalent between communities than within the communities themselves.

Half of households (52%) stated that **IDP households live together in a specific area, rather than alongside host community households**. This is likely a barrier to interaction, and may contribute to strain between communities. However, this proportion was not as high as in Galkacyo North, where 82% of households reported IDPs living in isolation from the host community.

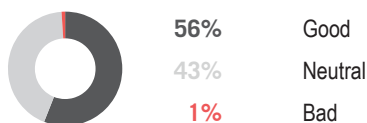
Respondents frequently reported positive aspects to their relationships with members of the other community. Host community households reported having new friends (58%), more jobs (50%) and more roads in the area (39%) since the arrival of IDPs. Meanwhile, in FGDs IDPs

Figure 2: Proportion of host community and IDP households reporting good, neutral or bad relationship with households from the other community

Host community HH's reported relationship with IDP HHs



IDP HH's reported relationship with host community HHs



reported being treated with respect and kindness by the host community.

In FGDs, it was reported that **children and adolescents from both the IDP and host communities interact and socialize with each other**. Educational access and playgrounds for children and youth were all mentioned in FGDs by IDPs and host community members as ways of increasing social interaction and cohesion between communities. When asked about ways that social cohesion could be improved, FGD participants stressed the importance of having a community centre to hold

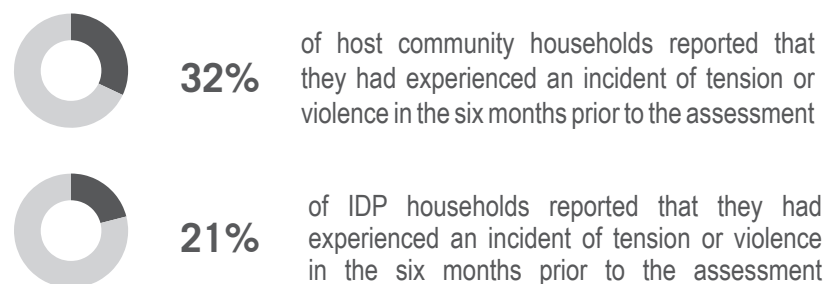
Methodology

This study employed a mixed methods methodology, gathering both qualitative and quantitative data in order to triangulate findings. The quantitative component consisted of a household survey to capture broad trends in access and barriers to services, use of public space and available employment opportunities for displaced and non-displaced groups. In Galkacyo South, data comes from 802 household surveys (407 displaced, 391 host community and 4 refugees households) conducted between 9 - 19 April 2018. The sample was based on a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error, making findings generalisable at the city level. For the analysis, the refugees from Ethiopia (15 assessed households) have been considered as IDPs, as per the local definition. Due to the number of Yemeni refugees being too small (4 assessed households) to be represented separately, they have been taken into account in amalgamated findings but not in disaggregated findings.

Quantitative data were supplemented with 12 FGDs aimed at exploring some of the key issues around social cohesion in Galkacyo. These were conducted with groups of gender- and age-segregated IDPs, host community, and mixed IDPs and host community. FGDs provided a deeper and richer understanding of the challenges and relationships between different social groups in Galkacyo, especially given the sensitive nature of the subject matter.

This was supplemented by targeted KI interviews with a network of 33 various community, civil service and local government partners. KIs were selected based on their knowledge of the community and further verified the findings from the household survey.

Figure 3: Proportion of households experiencing tension or violence



meetings to increase awareness and interaction between communities..

Few households (3%) indicated the presence of initiatives specifically intended to improve relations in their communities. Despite that, **there are some activities that are helping to bring the communities together**. Cultural exchanges, such as drum beating sessions, were reported in FGDs to bring the entire community together to create music. Inter-tribal marriages were cited by both IDP and host communities as an activity which has and will continue to increase social cohesion; this was reported by both female and male FGD respondents. Disarmament was also mentioned as a good step towards peace in the area by host community adolescents in FGDs.

Access to services

In FGDs, **IDP and host community households reported increases in access to services due to the arrival of IDPs in their community**. And when surveyed about the other community, IDPs and host community households alike responded that their ability to share services was the most common positive aspect of their relationship (reported by 50% of both IDP and host community households). Host community members reported that IDPs have established small businesses and provide casual labour, which has enhanced the provision of goods and services in the area. They also reported that the arrival of IDPs has led to a perceived improvement in security, because more people are watching for problems.

Disparities in access

Households are not able to access available services equally, with host community households reporting higher access than IDP households, as seen in Figure 4. This was seen most clearly with primary schools (81% of host community households reported access vs. 42% of IDP households), nutrition centres (42% vs. 23%) and secondary schools (23% vs. 2%). This contrasts with findings from Galkacyo North, where primary schools were the only service with a major disparity in access.

Barriers to access

Though there are issues with inequitable access to services between IDP and host communities, it was also reported that **there are underlying limitations to service access for both communities**. Nearly all households from both communities reported no access to NFI markets, livestock markets, communal latrines and cash distributions. In FGDs, respondents from both communities also reported that there are not enough health centres, vocational training centres, mosques, playgrounds and markets. There were also reports of non-functional services which were previously accessible; this included lack of infrastructure and teaching staff in schools. The overall lack of services was more pronounced in Galkacyo North than in Galkacyo South; in particular, respondents in Galkacyo South reported greater access to healthcare centres and nutrition centres, which may be because they are in closer proximity.

The top reported barrier for host and IDP households for accessing services was their inability to afford services (reported by 52% of host community households and 39% of IDP households), followed by reports that services are not functional (30% of host community households and 39% of IDP households). In addition, 9% of host community households and 17% of IDP households reported that services do exist but that the businesses cannot or will not serve them. Other barriers to services mentioned in FGDs include insecurity, which limits host community adolescents from attending school. It was also reported by many FGD participants that old and disabled people were

Figure 4: Proportion of households reporting access to services

Services	IDP	Host community
Primary school	42%	81%
Secondary school	2%	23%
Healthcare centre	41%	48%
Nutrition centre	23%	42%
Food market	1%	15%
NFI market	0%	1%
Livestock market	0%	9%
Communal latrine	2%	5%
Cash distribution	1%	4%
Don't know ³	5%	5%
None ⁴	11%	6%

being excluded and not able to access the market.

Female respondents reported that they are unable to access proper hygiene and sanitation facilities, as no toilets are available for them. This was linked with perceived insecurity in the area, as women noted that the lack of toilets makes it difficult for them to travel in the night. They specifically reported feeling insecure about wild animals, which forces them to travel together in groups.

Only 3% of households indicated the presence of initiatives aimed at improving community relations, and during FGDs no respondent knew of the presence of any. Two-thirds of these initiatives (64%) were implemented by community leaders in the area.

Access to public spaces

Overall access to public space is low for both communities, with fewer than 50% of respondents from either community reporting access to any single type of social space, and a substantial number reporting no access to any public social space at all (15% of IDP households and 26% of host community households). In FGDs, adults from both communities described a general lack of meeting places, making social interaction difficult.

There are disparities in access to public spaces. IDPs households were less likely to report access to mosques (34% of IDP households reported access vs. 44% of host community households), restaurants (26% vs 32%) and community centres (14% vs. 25%), but more likely to report access to tea shops (32% vs 24%) and cyber cafes (18% vs 10%).

In addition to displacement status being a divider, **gender was frequently reported as a barrier in accessibility**. Women reported in FGDs that they are not accessing social spaces such as tea shops due to local cultural barriers. They further reported how the absence of public meeting spaces restricts their social interaction with the rest of the community.

High cost was the most commonly reported barrier to access, particularly for IDP households

(89%) over host community households (69%). It was reported in FGDs that this especially impacts access to markets and hotels. Physical distance was the second most commonly reported barrier for both IDP households (10%) and host community households (31%).

In FGDs, some female IDP adolescents reported meeting their friends only at mosques due to the limited number of public spaces they can meet in, while others also reported access to playgrounds and coffee shops. They reported that their access is limited by fear of insecurity, particularly from armed actors based nearby. Host community female adolescents reported in FGDs meeting frequently in markets and maternal and child health centres, but noted that some other areas were inaccessible because of gender or clan affiliation. They clearly reported that no public space were dedicated specifically for them. Most male adolescents reported in FGDs meeting their friends in mosques and tea shops.

It was reported in FGDs that **men and boy's access to public spaces was also determined by clan affiliation**. It was reported that they are limited in their access to public spaces because of the dominance of one clan, which makes those from minority groups feel insecure in public settings, especially cafes.

Movement across the city

Galkacyo South and North city is divided by a "green line" which separates Puntland state in the north and Galmudug state in the south. While it is a demarcated political boundary, there is no actual physical barrier dividing the area and the actual border between Puntland and Galmudug remains contested (see Figure 1). The permeable nature of the boundary between the two sides of the city means it is possible to cross from one side to the other, although historical clan tensions have prevented this until quite recently.

Data from this assessment suggests that **the two sides of the city are actually linked by strong economic and social ties**. Approximately 65% of IDP and 60% of host community households in Galkacyo South reported crossing to access services. This was even higher for the IDP and host

Figure 5: Proportion of households reporting no access to social space

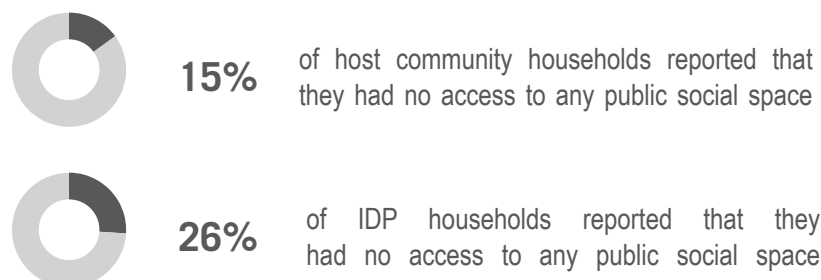


Figure 6: Proportion of households reporting crossing the green line to access

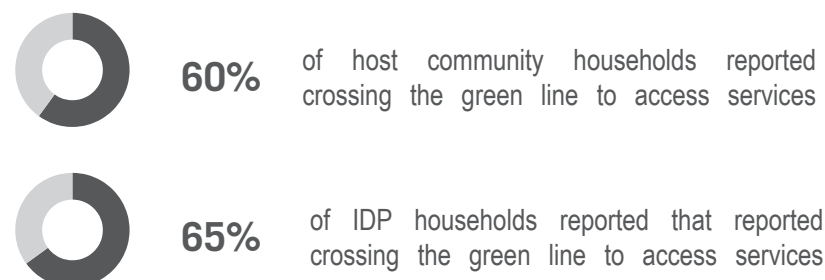
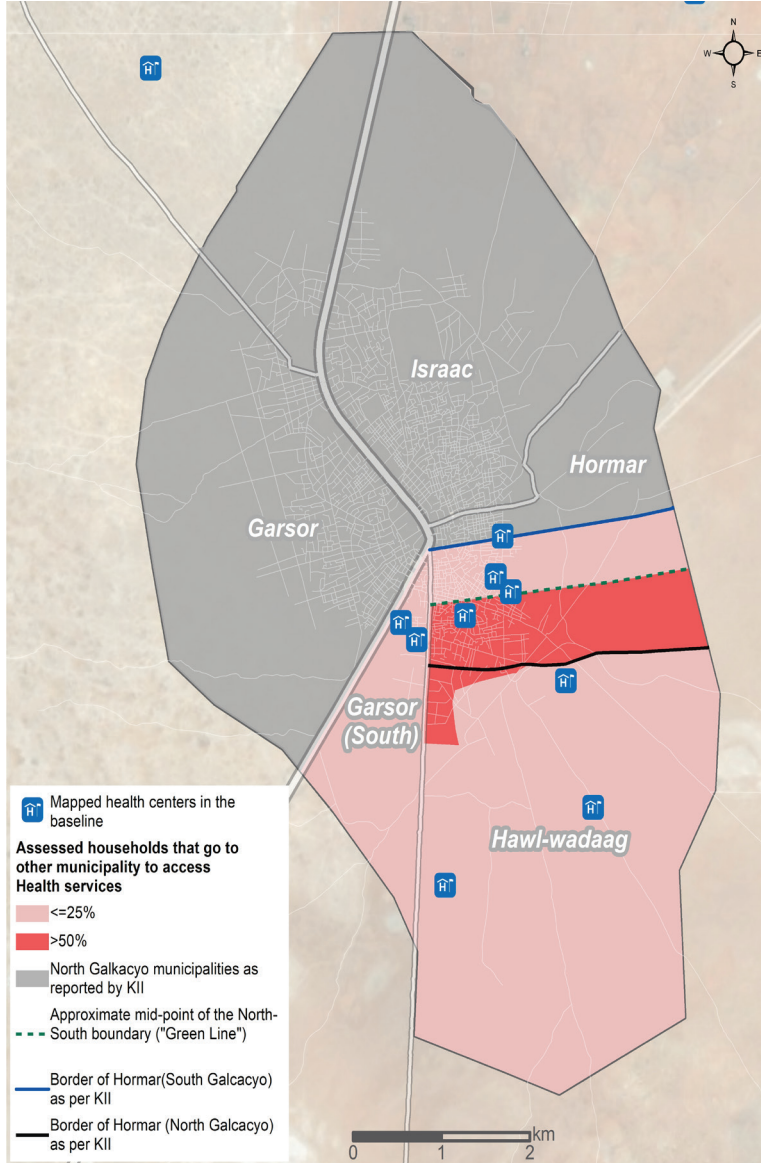


Figure 7: Map of health centres and movement in Galkaco South



community households in Galkacyo North, where 70% and 77% reported crossing, respectively.

FGD participants from both communities reported frequent cross-border movement, especially for employment and accessing health services. Crossing for health services may be due to a lack of affordability, because there are health centres located in Galkacyo South.

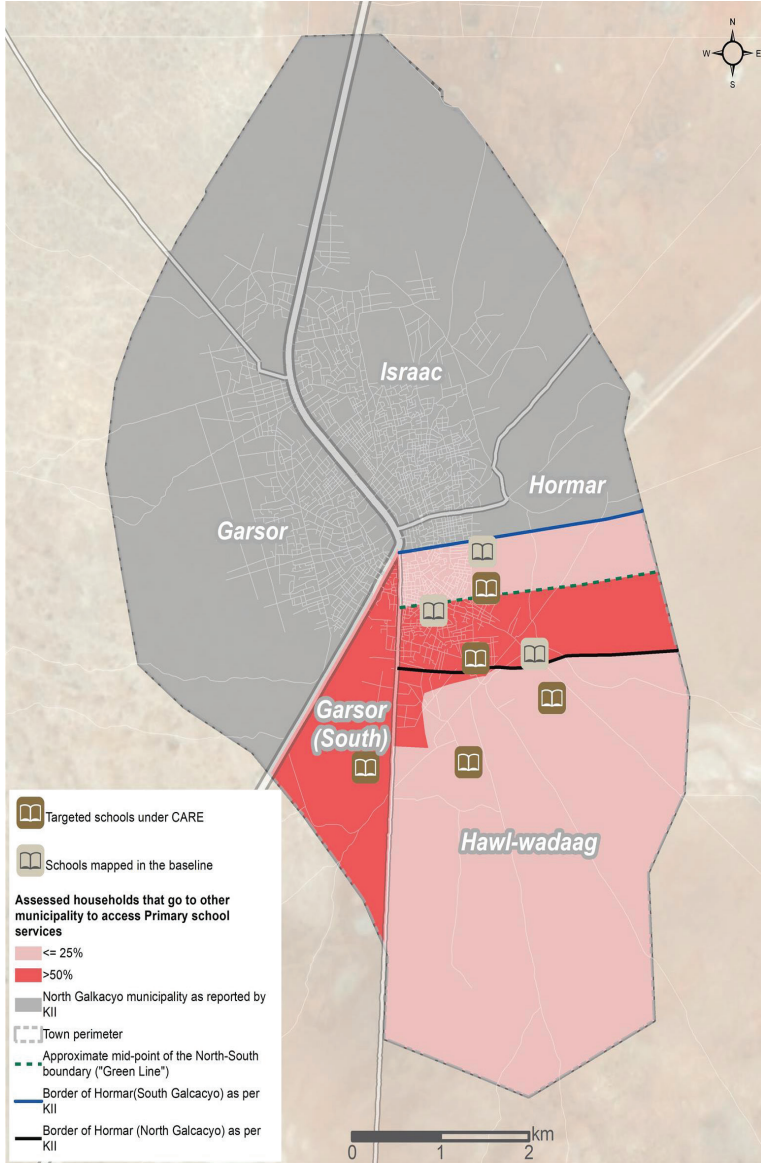
From the FDGs, it also emerged that there is a gendered element to this mobility. **Host community women shared how it was easier for women to cross the green line** regularly for business and trade. Due to clan politics, this reportedly was easier for them than for their male household members to cross. Female host community FGD participants also reported the presence of federal government police, which has led to more peaceful relations between the host communities of Galkacyo South and North, allowing for an easier crossing of the green line for services.

However, **male adults did still report crossing the green line**. Male IDP respondents in FDGs especially reported crossing the green line consistently, either to look for work, pray in the mosque or visit relatives. In FDGs, male adolescents also mentioned how they cross the green line to get access to services such as health centres, and to get access to cheaper produce.

Both host and IDP community adolescents reported having friends on the other side, whom they frequently meet. In FDGs, they described the task of meeting them to be easy.

Of the small proportion of households that reported not crossing the green line, the primary reason was that they did not have a reason to cross (59%) rather than because they considered it dangerous

Figure 8: Map of schools and movement in Galkaco South



(15%). Of these, IDP households were slightly more likely to report thinking it dangerous to cross (20%) than host community households (11%).

It is not uncommon to travel outside of one's own neighbourhood in Galkacyo South for critical services. In the neighbourhood in the southern end of the contested green line zone,⁵ over half of respondents reported leaving the municipality in order to access primary schools and health services. Over half of respondents from Garsor (South) also reported leaving their municipality in order to access primary schools, and over a quarter to access health services. In total, 73% of assessed households who are able to access primary schools have to travel outside of their municipality for it, and 38% who are able to access health services have to do so. These findings may indicate that affordability is the more significant barrier to access, because KIs reported that these municipalities have a number of schools and health centres located in them. This finding on traveling for access to primary schools is significantly higher than in Galkacyo North, where 56% leave their municipality.

Employment opportunities

Lack of income generating activities was a major cause of concern amongst all respondents. Both communities reported casual day labour to be their primary income source (60% of host community households and 48% of IDP households), followed by contracted jobs (13% of host community household and 18% of IDP households). Casual labour was in a variety of industries, but predominately in construction (22% of host community households and 28% of IDP households). Host community households were more likely to be involved in pastoralism (30%) than IDP households (7%), while IDP households were more likely to be involved in tailoring (14%) than host community households (7%).

Employment opportunities for IDPs appear to be very unreliable. Over half of IDP households reported losing access to a source of income in the last year (57%), while only a quarter of host community households reported so (27%). However, this instability does not appear to be as prevalent as it is in Galkacyo North, where approximately two-thirds of households from both communities reported losing a source of income.

There appears to be an absence of vocational training. Only 2% of IDP households and 10% of host community households reported being involved in a vocational training programme. Though training centres were sometimes reported as existing, they were described as being expensive and far away. As access to resources is reported to be a source of tension, this low rate of involvement in vocational training may impact social cohesion.

Conclusion

There are some issues affecting social cohesion in Galkacyo South, though there appears to be little direct tension between IDP and host communities. Households from both communities have experienced incidents violence in the last six months, IDPs reported less access to services, and

there is a variance in communities' ability to move through and utilize public spaces, indicating that they do not use public space in the same ways. The reported strains in relations were primarily due to resource limitations, particularly use of markets and water points.

However, the difference in these issues between IDP and host communities are small in comparison to the issues they face together. Affordability and the availability of livelihood opportunities are points of concern by IDP and host community alike, and seem to pose a greater challenge than any source of tension between these two communities.

FGD participants from both communities reported a need for vocational training programmes, education centres and other opportunities to increase jobs and businesses in the area; it was frequently mentioned that economic development would both increase social interaction and cohesion.

In order for DSIRS consortium partners and government stakeholders to address social cohesion in Galkacyo South, it is first necessary to not heighten any existing divides, as this could exacerbate the currently low levels of tension between the communities. As much as possible, assistance and programming should be given in ways that support both communities alike.

Based on this assessment, possible entry points for DSIRS consortium partners and government stakeholders for addressing social cohesion in Galkacyo South are:

- Increase access to primary and secondary education for IDPs
- Increase access to public spaces for women
- Increase access to public spaces for adolescents
- Support safe movement across the green line for men
- Increase access to vocational training and other livelihood opportunities for all
- Increase access to community centres for all

Further research may be necessary to understand what respondents mean when they reported that services exist but will not serve them.

Endnotes

1 [UNHCR. Somalia Factsheet. 30 June 2018.](#)

2 [Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview. 2018.](#)

3 Indicates not knowing of access to any of the above services

4 Indicates having access to none of the above services

5 Because there is no single defined green line, the jurisdiction of this neighbourhood is disputed. KIs in Galkacyo South claimed it to be part of Hawl-Wadaag, while KIs in Galkacyo North claimed it to be part of Hormar.