

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.

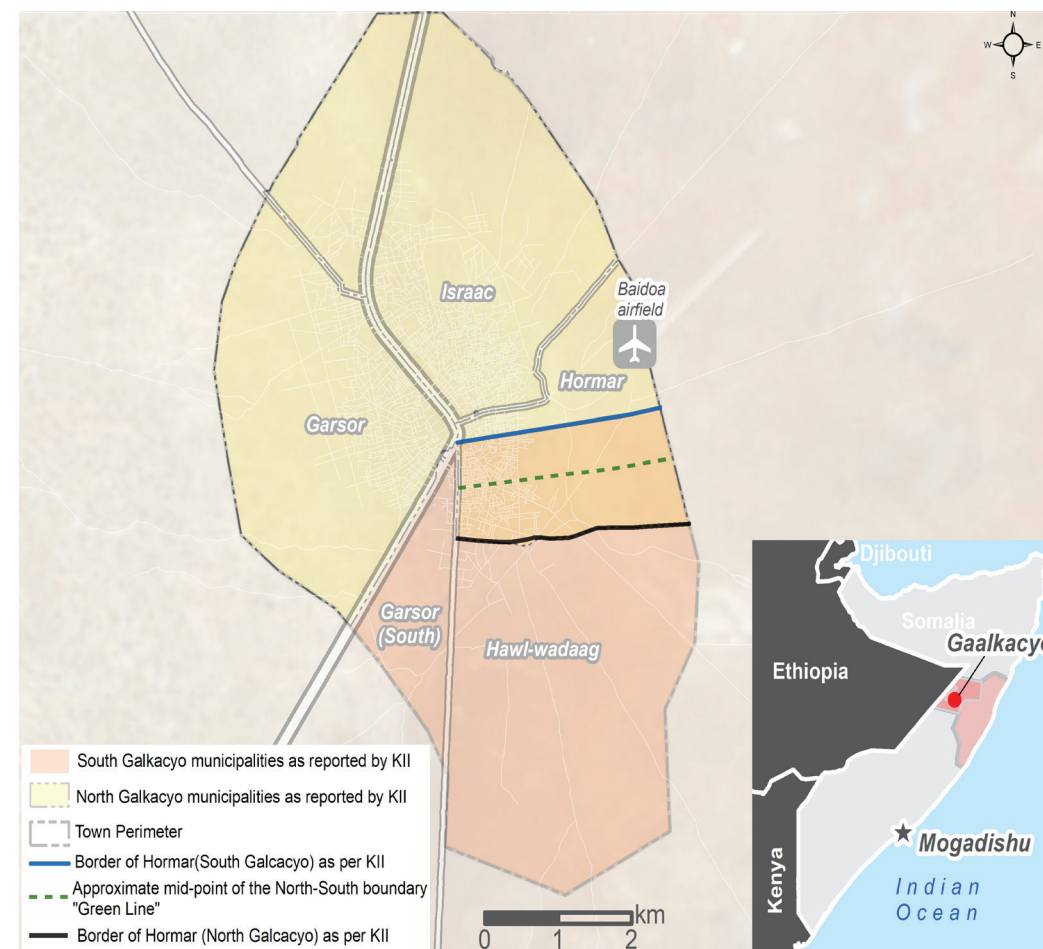
This fluid displacement context has put increasing strain on resources, particularly water and food, but also other basic services such as education and healthcare. In some locations this has led to marginalisation, discrimination, and lack of trust between IDPs and host communities, which has led to 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 North are presented here.

Key Findings

- Self-reporting on community relations was generally positive, with 59% of host community households and 47% of IDP households reporting good relationships with households of the other community, albeit at a lower rate than was reported in Galkacyo South. They reported that the high level of social cohesion was a result of mutual exchange of services and longer term trends, such as inter-clan marriages between host and IDP households.
- Many households, especially from the IDP community, reported services not existing in their area. For IDPs, this may be related to their isolation from other communities, in which 82% of IDP households live together in a specific area, rather than alongside host community households. This isolation may further contribute to the quarter (26%) of IDP households reporting generally bad relationships with host community households.

Figure 1: Map of Galkacyo North and South



- IDP households reported less access to primary schools than host community households (41% vs 77%).
- Seventy per cent of IDP households and 77% of host community households indicated crossing the *green line* (dispute boundary) between Galkacyo North and Galkacyo South to access services. This is mostly undertaken to access markets.

Community relations

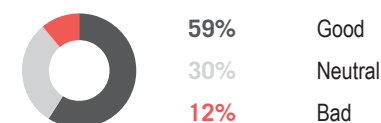
Approximately half of respondents from both communities reported their relationship with the other community to be good (59% of host community and 47% of IDP households). However, IDPs households were more likely to describe their relationship with host community households as bad (26%) than vice versa (12%), potentially suggesting that IDPs experience more hostility from host community households than the other way around. In FGDs, most respondents from both IDP and host communities in Galkacyo North reported that relations between the communities are cordial.

The vast majority of all survey respondents (82%) stated that IDP households live together in a specific area, rather than alongside host community households. This was a higher proportion than in Galkacyo South, where 52% of households reported IDPs living in segregated areas. However, these findings conflict with those of the FGDs, in which many respondents reported that host community households, IDPs and other displaced groups live alongside each other in the same neighborhood. KI respondents were similarly mixed in their descriptions of neighbourhood composition. If the IDP community is actually this isolated, it may contribute to incohesion with the host community, because opportunities for interaction are limited.

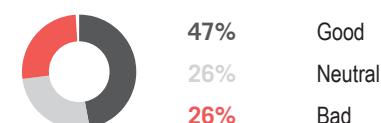
Instances of cross-community tension were described by both communities in relation to competition over scarce resources. Strained relationships were most frequently ascribed to use of water points (primary source of strain for 32% of IDP and 28% of host community households). Discussions in FGDs indicated that **most of the reported instances of community tension took place during humanitarian assistance programming**, such as food distributions and registrations. The suggestion that aid distributions can be sites of violence or insecurity also emerged in a separate REACH assessment conducted in April 2018 on protection concerns in

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



IDP sites, in which 15% of assessed households reported that insecurity had taken place in the community during a distribution.³

Reported eruptions of tensions were nearly nonexistent, with only 4% of IDP households and 1% of host community households reporting an incident of violence in the six months prior to the assessment. In FGDs, **conflict was generally referred to as being between clans, rather than displaced and non-displaced groups**. Women FGD participants from the host community reported that their community had experienced targeted violence by other clans against youth.

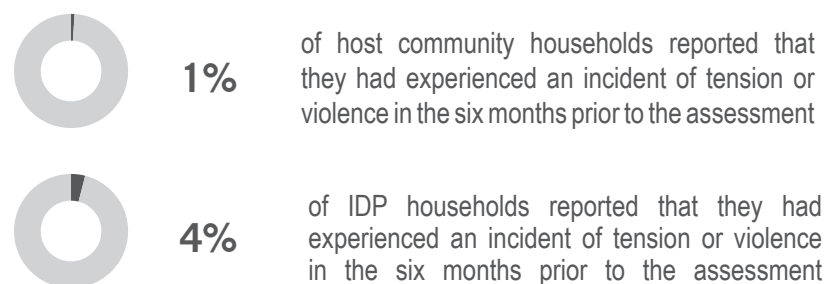
Methodology

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 North, data comes from 990 household surveys (571 displaced, 409 host community and 10 refugees households) conducted between 25 March - 2 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 (32 assessed households) have been considered as IDPs, as per the local definition. Due to the number of Yemeni refugees being too small (10 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 9 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 structured KI interviews with a network of 60 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



Adolescent FGD participants from both IDP and host communities further reported that these conflicts deeply affect their lives, and indicated that it is usually the elders of the neighborhood, especially the *mullahs* (community religious leaders), that intervene to settle disputes.

In FGDs with IDPs, it was repeatedly reported that **IDPs are perceived to be disproportionately targeted for crimes and to receive unequal police follow-up**. Female IDPs indicated in FGDs that incidents of sexual and gender based violence, theft and organized crime take place in the community, reportedly arising from drug use in the area. Incidents of sexual violence and inter-clan violence taking place were also mentioned by male IDP adults in FGDs; they also indicated that when crime does occur within IDP communities, the response from local authorities is perceived to be limited. Host community respondents did not report similar experiences in FGDs, though they did indicate a general lack of state protection services.

In FGDs, it was noted by most adult IDP respondents that IDP and returnee **children interact with each other and are friends**. Adolescents from host and IDP communities also mentioned that it was easy to meet and interact with their friends in different neighborhoods.

In terms of improving community relations, very few households (3%) indicated the presence of initiatives performing such activities in their communities, though many were interested in it. Half of these initiatives (52%) are implemented by community leaders in the area, which was repeatedly stated as a critical factor to successful peacebuilding and social integration.

When asked about activities that support community interaction and integration, adolescents stated that sports are a good step towards peaceful co-existence. **Adults and adolescents alike reported that public awareness and youth participation is extremely important in all social cohesion programmes or initiatives**, in order to encourage inclusivity between the host and IDP community and reduce violence.

In multiple FGDs, marriages between IDPs and host community members were mentioned as supportive of relations between the communities. Community centres were also cited as important places to meet, discuss and resolve issues together.

Access to services

Host community households reported that the primary positive aspects of the arrival of IDPs in their community were **increased access to services**; these include having more schools (reported by 46% of host community households), more healthcare services (30%) and more jobs (22%). In FGDs, both IDP and host community participants agreed that the arrival of IDPs brought an increasing number of businesses and greater provision of humanitarian assistance into the area. Host community respondents articulated in FGDs that having an increasing number of consumers from IDP households was positive for their business.

Disparities in access

Households are not able to access all available assessed services equally, with host community households generally reporting higher access than IDP households. As demonstrated in Figure 4, the difference in access was most stark in regards to primary education, with 77% of host community households reporting access compared with only 41% of IDP households.

A significant proportion of IDP households (16%) reported no access to any services at all, compared to 4% of host community households.

Many FGD participants, from both host and IDP communities, also repeatedly mentioned that

Figure 4: Proportion of households reporting access to key services

Services	IDP	Host community
Primary school	41%	77%
Secondary school	2%	9%
Healthcare centre	17%	20%
Nutrition centre	2%	4%
Food market	5%	7%
NFI market	2%	1%
Livestock market	1%	1%
Communal latrine	18%	1%
Cash distribution	2%	0%
Don't know ⁴	26%	15%
None ⁵	16%	4%

elderly and displaced people are unable to access markets and health services due to immobility, illness and physical distance to services.

Barriers to access

The top reported barrier for both host and IDP households for accessing services was that **services do not exist in the area** (reported by 27% of host community households and 46% of IDP households). In sites where services are available, **affordability was reported as a primary barrier by IDP households**, likely reflecting their lower socioeconomic status. This became especially apparent regarding access to schools. Children from IDP households are reportedly less able to access education due to a reduced ability to afford school fees. Additionally, some FGD respondents indicated that IDP households were even unable to afford access to private water sources. The same was reported regarding access to markets, where lower purchasing power restricts their access.

Despite the disparities in access described above, services appears to be limited for both communities. **Nearly all households reported no access to secondary schools, nutrition centres, food markets, NFI markets, livestock markets and cash distributions.** The overall lack of services was more pronounced in Galkacyo North than in Galkacyo South; in particular, respondents in Galkacyo North reported lower access to healthcare centres and nutrition centres.

Maternity and child health centers, playgrounds and vocational training centres were recommended repeatedly by both IDP and host community adults and adolescents in FGDs as services that were lacking and need to be provided. FGD respondents from Warshad IDP site also expressed the need for hospitals and markets. Adults also reported that there is an absence of security in the area. Reducing competition for these resources may improve social cohesion.

Access to public spaces

Adults from both communities reported concern in having a lack of accessible public space. **A significant number of host community households reported no access to any public social**

space at all (20%) while few IDP households stated such (6%), as indicated in Figure 5.

When it comes to the public spaces that communities are accessing, fairly equal access was reported for both IDP and host communities, with 28% of IDP households and 2% of host community households accessing tea shops, and 11% of IDP households and 9% of host community households accessing cyber cafes. The one exception was that **IDPs households were less likely to report access to mosques** (34% of households) than host community households (51% of households).

When asked about access to social spaces, in FGDs, **most male adolescents reported meeting friends in the mosque, in teashops or frequently in the playgrounds for football games.** There was reportedly limited access to some places but only those that were too expensive or too far as reported by the IDP community, for example visiting hotels and cafes.

In FGDs, **female adolescents from both host and IDP community reported much greater restrictions on accessing public spaces** such as tea shops and playgrounds, with some reporting that it was unsafe for them to visit their friends.

A community centre-type space was requested by both host community and IDP adults in FGDs. They explained it would be a shared common space to come together and resolves issues.

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 recent years.

Data from this assessment suggests that **the two sides of the city are actually linked by strong economic and social ties.** Approximately 70% of IDP and 77% of host community households

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

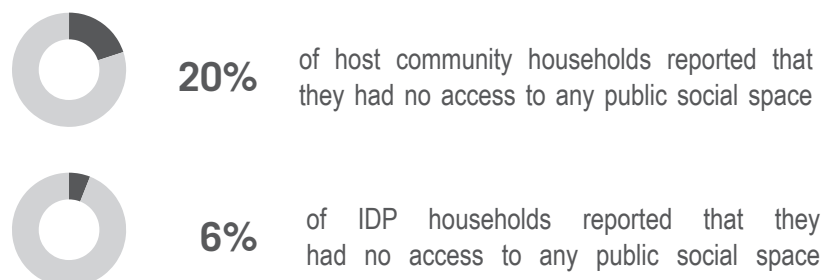


Figure 6: Proportion of households reporting crossing the green line to access

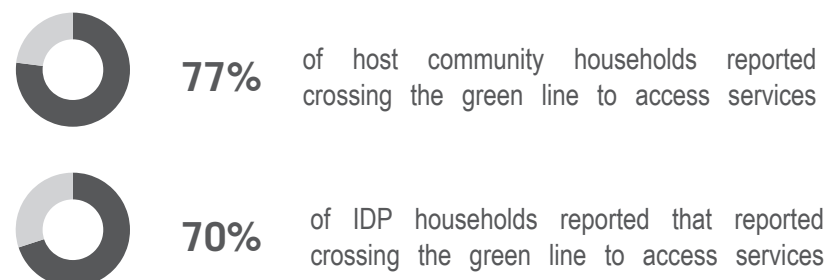
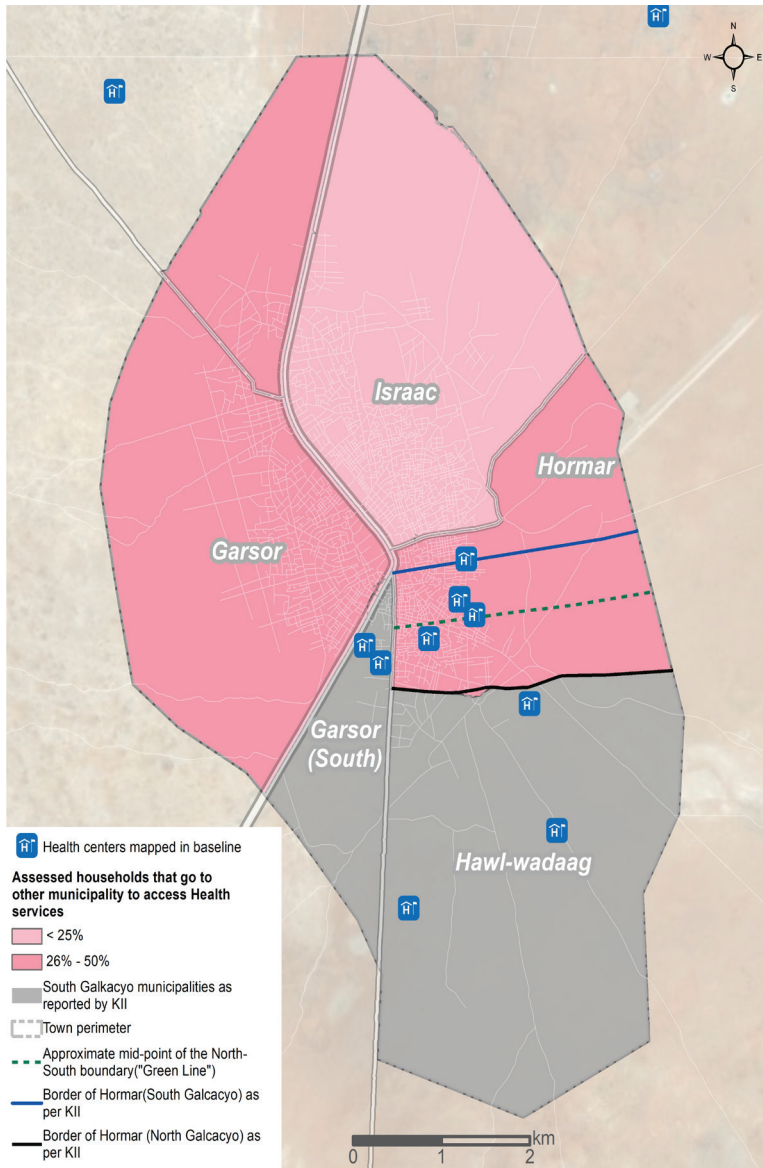


Figure 7: Map of health centres and movement in Galkacyo North



in Galkacyo North reported crossing the green line to access services. This was slightly lower for IDP and host community households in Galkacyo South, where 65% and 60% reported crossing, respectively.

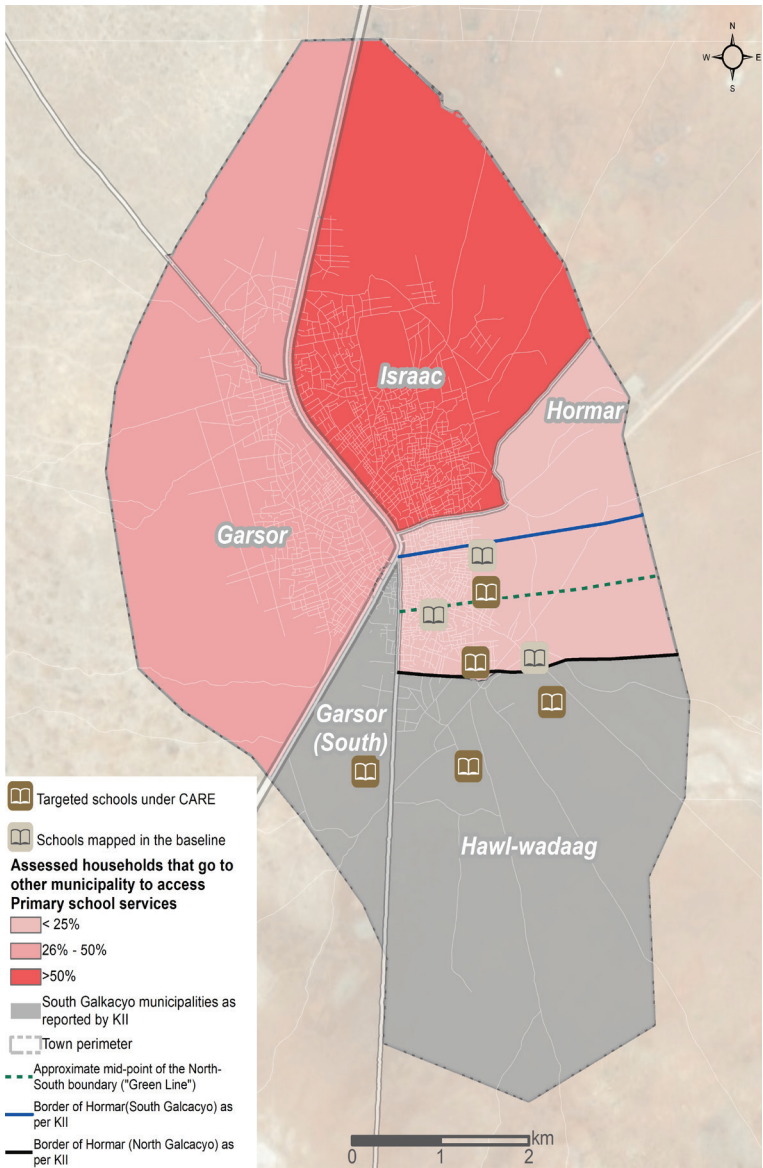
Most people crossing the zone reported doing so to access services that they find absent in their area, particularly markets. Others reported crossing in order to access free schools and medicines, or to access employment opportunities. Both host community and IDP households reported that accessing a cheaper market is an important motivation for them to cross the green line. In FGDs respondents rarely reported any issues preventing them from crossing.

Of the smaller proportion that reported not crossing the green line, the primary reason was that they did not have a reason to cross (68%) rather than because they considered it dangerous (20%). This was shared evenly between both IDP and host communities.

In Galkacyo North, respondents did not bring up any gender disparities in peoples' ability to cross the green line. This is in contrast with respondents from Galkacyo South, who stated that it was easier for women to cross, because men were more likely to be suspected of involvement in clan politics, potentially putting them at risk.

It is not uncommon to travel outside of one's own municipality in Galkacyo North for critical services. As Figures 7 and 8 illustrate, over a quarter of assessed households from Garsor reported leaving their municipality in order to access primary schools and health services. In Hormar over a quarter reported leaving for health services as well. In Israac, over half of assessed households reported leaving in order to access

Figure 8: Map of schools and movement in Galkacyo North



primary schools. In total 56% of respondents who are able to access primary schools have to travel outside of their municipality, and 44% who are able to access health services have to travel outside of their municipality.

Employment opportunities

Lack of income generating activities was a cause of concern amongst all respondents. Both IDP and host communities reported casual day labour to be their primary income source (56% of host community households and 55% of IDP households), followed by business (19% of host community households and 10% of IDP households).

A variety of different industries constitute the casual labour being performed. Host community households were more likely to be involved in petty trade (24%) than IDP households (10%), and IDP households were more likely to be involved in construction (20% of households) than host community households (10%). Pastoralism and tailoring were reported as income sources very infrequently (0% and 5%, respectively for both communities combined), which contrasts with Galkacyo South, where they were more common (16% and 11%, respectively for both communities combined).

Employment opportunities appear to be very unreliable, as most households reported losing access to a source of income in the last year prior to data collection. This affects IDP households more, with 71% reporting so, compared to 62% of host community households.

Households reported limited access to vocational training. Only 3% of host community households and 14% of IDP households reported being involved in this kind of programming. 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

Whilst data from this assessment indicates a generally positive situation in Galkacyo North, issues with social cohesion and integration between displaced and non-displaced communities do emerge. Though IDP and host communities reported very few experiences of tension or violence in the last six months, nearly one-third of IDP households reported a perception of bad relationships with host community households. IDP households also reported lower access to services, especially primary schools. Findings from this assessment also suggest that a key source of tension between IDP and host communities relates to competition for resources, such as water points and income generating activities.

However, the difference in issues between IDP and host communities are small in comparison to the issues they face together. Both communities have severe limitations in access to services and public spaces, and many reported a need for local peace initiatives and community centres in order to increase social cohesion. Respondents also reported a need for greater investment in business opportunities, both in order to increase income generation within their community and to

encourage cohesion between communities.

In order for DSIRS consortium partners and government stakeholders to address social cohesion in Galkacyo North, 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 North are:

- Increase access to primary schools for IDPs;
- Increase access to public spaces for women, particularly female adolescents. As an example of success in Galkacyo South, maternal and child health centres were reported as an especially common meeting place;
- Increase access to public spaces for adolescents;
- Increase access to protection services and legal recourses for IDPs;
- Increase access to vocational training and other livelihood opportunities for all;
- Increase access to community centres for all;

Further research is necessary to better understand the dynamics of neighbourhood composition and community isolation in Galkacyo North. Currently the data is somewhat conflicting, with most households reporting that IDP households live together in a specific area, while FGD participants reported that most households live in mixed areas. This could contribute to the poor access to services and the sense of bad relationship IDPs have with the host community.

Endnotes

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

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

3 [REACH. Drought and protection concerns in IDP sites in Somalia. April 2018.](#)

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

5 Indicates having access to none of the above services