

Durable Solutions Readiness Assessment (DSRA)

July, 2024 | Hargeisa, Somaliland.

KEY MESSAGES

- The assessment in Hargeisa highlighted its potential as a promising ground for durable solutions, supported by a high sense of security and stability. An overwhelming majority—98% of IDP households and 97% of host community households—reported being able to move freely without fear. Additionally, 92% of IDP households intended to remain in their current settlement in the 12 months following data collection. This creates a favorable environment for integration and long-term resilience.
- Despite this stability, the assessment revealed significant disparities in living conditions, with IDPs facing more challenging circumstances compared to host households. For instance, 74% of IDP households reported being unable to meet their basic needs independently—more than double the proportion of host households (31%). Similarly, food access barriers were more pronounced among IDPs (55%) than hosts (25%), and only 23% of IDP households had access to healthcare services, indicating considerable gaps in service delivery.
- Housing insecurity persisted, with 41% of IDP households relying on oral land tenure agreements, increasing vulnerability to disputes and evictions. Comprehensive approaches, including formalizing land agreements and enhancing shelter conditions, are necessary to ensure security and stability for both IDPs and host communities.

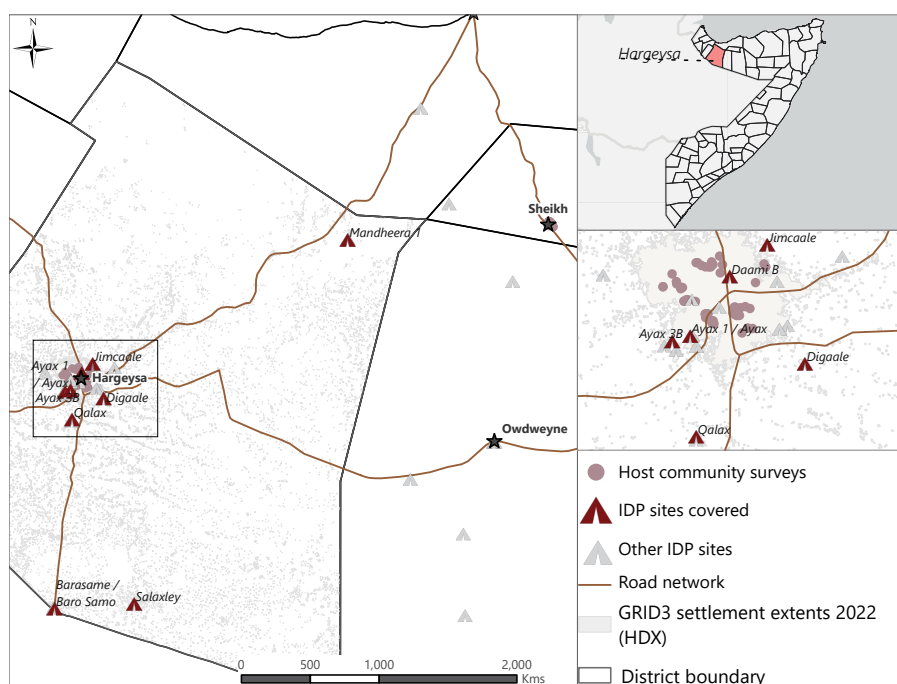
CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Climate shocks and insecurity continue to affect Somali populations, frequently resulting in their displacement. Consequently, an estimated 2.9 million people were displaced in Somalia as of December 2023.¹

Protracted displacement has created a need for development-focused, durable solutions alongside emergency support. To better assess IDP sites' conditions and identify those suitable for long-term solutions, the Detailed Site Assessment (DSA), led by REACH and the CCCM cluster, provides critical data on sites' locations, capacities, and humanitarian needs. Building on this, the Durable Solutions Readiness Assessment (DSRA) will examine IDP sites to support development-focused interventions in collaboration with partners, including International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Danwadaag Consortium. Additionally, as a pilot country for the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, Somalia will develop solution pathways to address vulnerabilities and promote social cohesion among IDPs and host communities, facilitating a shift from emergency to durable solutions.

In light of this, a Durable Solutions Readiness Assessment (DSRA), supported by IOM was conducted by REACH between February and March 2024.

HARGEISA DISTRICT COVERAGE MAP



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The DSRA was initiated in partnership with the IOM-led Danwadaag consortium to identify and assess sites that could be considered appropriate for durable solutions and development-oriented interventions.

The Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) VII data has been used to identify the sites that showed enabling factors for durable solutions for programming. REACH and IOM, based on the DSA data and the Somali context, developed the DSRA in order to inform strategic operational decision-making of durable solutions actors for IDPs and identify progress towards durable solutions.²

The data collected is representative of the population type and location (site + nearest city) with a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. Each Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) site and the closest city in the area were clustered separately as a single area, location or neighbourhood. DSRA data was collected from 26 February 2024 - 01 April 2024.

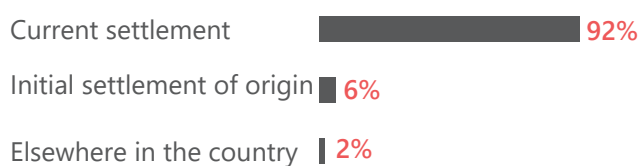
➔ DISPLACEMENT STATUS AND MOVEMENT

The findings from Hargeisa district indicated potential toward durable solutions, with 98% of IDP households and 97% of host community households reporting they could move freely without fear, reflecting a sense of security and stability. Additionally, 92% of IDP households intended to remain in their current settlement over the next 12 months following data collection, signaling potential for long-term integration.

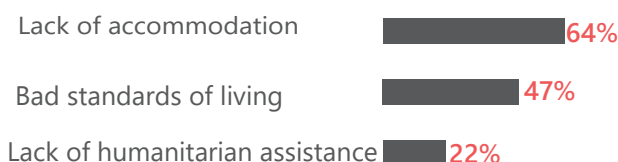
% of hosts and IDP household members reporting free movement without fear in their community:



Top three most commonly reported movement intentions for the 12 months following data collection by % of IDP households:



Three most commonly reported reasons why host and IDP households left their settlement of origin:#



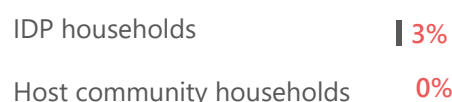
✂ ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS AND SERVICES

Access to basic needs and services remained a challenge, particularly for IDP households in Hargeisa district. The data showed that 74% of IDP households reported being unable to meet their basic needs independently in the three months preceding the data collection, in contrast to 31% of host community households facing similar challenges. Additionally, facing discrimination while accessing essential services such as education, healthcare, and administrative support was notably low, with only 3% of IDP households and none of the host community households reporting such experiences.

% of the assessed households that reportedly did not have access to basic needs on their own in the last 3 months prior to data collection:



% of host community and IDP households reporting to have been discriminated against when trying to access basic services (education, healthcare, administrative services), by type of assessed households:#



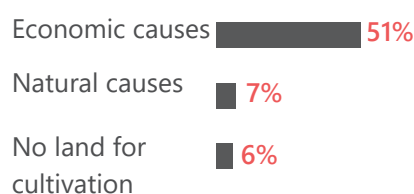
🍷 FOOD SECURITY

In Hargeisa district, most households relied heavily on market purchases for food, with 87% of IDP households and 97% of host households depending on markets as their primary source. This aligns with the findings from a [Detailed Site Assessment \(DSA VII\)](#) conducted in March 2024, where KIs in most assessed sites in Somalia reported that households relied primarily on market purchases for food.³ Key barriers to food access among IDPs included economic challenges (51%), natural causes (7%), and security issues (2%). This heavy dependence on markets, coupled with economic constraints, highlighted the need for durable solutions to improve food security. To address these challenges, priority should be given to investing in climate-resilient agriculture, strengthening early warning systems, and expanding social protection programs. These measures, alongside targeted humanitarian assistance for vulnerable households, will help build resilience and reduce reliance on market purchases, advancing progress toward sustainable food security in Hargeisa.

% of households that reportedly depended on market purchases as their main source of food:



Most commonly reported barriers to food access, by type of assessed IDP households:#



Responses could be more than 100% as it was a select multiple question.

ACCESS TO WATER AND HEALTHCARE

In Hargeisa district, access to drinking water was largely reliable, with 96% of IDP households and 99% of host households reporting no issues. However, healthcare access remained a significant challenge, particularly for IDPs, with 77% of IDP households and 51% of host households lacking access to healthcare services in the three months prior to data collection. The main barriers to healthcare include the high cost of medicines and services (IDPs 65%, hosts 36%), lack of qualified health staff (IDPs 13%, hosts 7%), and discrimination based on clan identity (IDPs 18%, hosts 17%). Addressing these challenges through affordable healthcare initiatives, recruitment of skilled medical personnel, and equitable service provision is essential for advancing durable solutions and ensuring inclusive access to essential services.

Three main obstacles reported in accessing healthcare services, by % of assessed households.†

	Host community households	IDP households
High cost of services/medicine	36%	65%
No qualified health staff	7%	13%
Unable to access medical services based on clan identity	17%	18%

% of assessed households that did not have access to healthcare services 3 months prior to the assessment:

IDP households  **77%**

Host community households  **51%**

% of assessed households that reported no issues when accessing drinking water (on their way to or at the water sources):

IDP households  **96%**

Host community households  **99%**

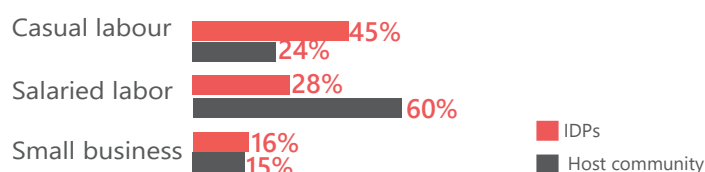
ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS AND MARKETS

In Hargeisa, casual labor (IDPs 45%, hosts 24%), salaried labor (IDPs 28%, hosts 60%), and small businesses (IDPs 16%, hosts 15%) were the most common income sources, indicating some diversification but also disparities between IDPs and host communities. Temporary employment was reported by 32% of IDP households and 15% of host households in the three months prior to data collection, highlighting the prevalence of unstable livelihoods among IDPs.

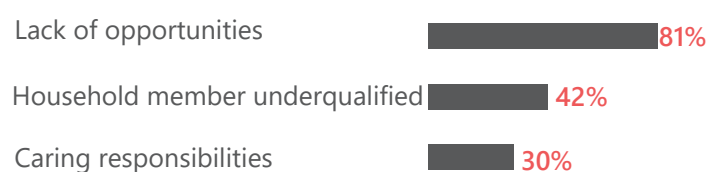
Key barriers to employment for IDPs included a lack of opportunities (81%), underqualification (42%), and caregiving responsibilities (30%). These challenges underscore the need for targeted interventions, such as skills training and job placement services, to enhance economic self-reliance and foster durable solutions.

Market access also varied, with 21% of IDP households reporting travel times of more than one hour compared to none of the host households. Most IDPs (32%) reported travel times between 31 minutes and one hour, indicating challenges in accessing essential goods. Improving local infrastructure and creating employment opportunities closer to settlements will be critical for reducing barriers to economic stability and supporting durable solutions for displaced communities in Hargeisa.

Top three most commonly reported sources of income, by % of assessed households.†



Three main reasons why IDP household members were unemployed, by % of assessed households with unemployed members.†



% of households that reported temporary jobs as their employment conditions for the main income earner in the last 3 months prior to data collection:

IDP households  **32%**

Host community households  **15%**

Reported time taken by the assessed households using their usual means of transport to get to the nearest market, by % of assessed household:

	Host community households	IDP households
Less than 15 minutes	21%	20%
Between 15 minutes and 30 minutes	60%	26%
Between 31 minutes and 1 hour	19%	32%
More than 1 hour	0%	21%

† Responses could be more than 100% as it was a select multiple question.

EDUCATION

In Hargeisa district, access to education was relatively high, with 84% of IDP households and 89% of host households reporting the availability of education facilities in their settlements. This reflects a positive step toward durable solutions, as education is crucial for fostering long-term stability and development. However, disparities remained, particularly for IDPs, who often face challenges related to affordability and quality. The [Education Cluster](#) in Somaliland, supported by partners

like UNICEF and [Education Cannot Wait \(ECW\)](#),⁴ emphasized the need for inclusive and equitable education to address these gaps. Efforts were focused on improving access to quality, child-friendly, and gender-sensitive education for crisis-affected children, helping bridge the divide and laying a strong foundation for sustainable development.

% of the assessed households that reportedly had an education facility located in their current settlement.



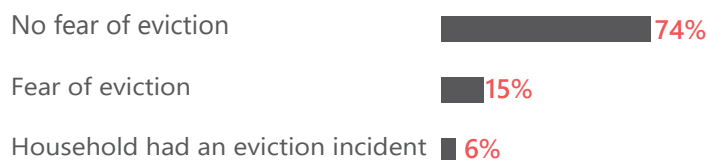
ACCESS TO HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

In Hargeisa, access to [housing, land, and property \(HLP\)](#) remained a critical issue, especially for displaced households. While 58% of IDP households and 61% of host households reported having written land tenure agreements, a significant proportion still relied on oral agreements (IDPs 41%, hosts 37%), which heightens vulnerability to disputes and eviction risks. The reliance on [informal arrangements](#) underscores the need for stronger land governance and formalization efforts to enhance tenure security and stability. Housing conditions reflected ongoing challenges, with 50% of IDPs and 39% of host households living in moderately damaged shelters, and 19% of IDPs in severely damaged housing compared to 9% of host households. These inadequate living conditions, coupled with eviction fears reported by 15% of IDPs and incidents affecting 6% in the past six months prior to data collection, emphasized the urgent need for improved shelter support and legal protections. Addressing these issues will require comprehensive approaches, including scaling up access to formal documentation, strengthening HLP rights, and ensuring [inclusive policies](#) that mitigate forced evictions. These measures are essential for fostering durable solutions and improving living conditions for both IDPs and host communities in Hargeisa.

Most commonly reported types of land tenure arrangement, by % of assessed households:

	Host community households	IDP households
Written	61%	58%
Oral	37%	41%

Fear of being evicted from current shelter in the six months following data collection or occurrence of eviction incidents in the 6 months prior to data collection, by % of assessed IDP households:



Top three most commonly reported current states of shelter/housing, by % of assessed households:

	Host community households	IDP households
Moderately damaged	39%	50%
Not damaged	51%	28%
Severely damaged	9%	19%
Completely destroyed	1%	4%

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTATION

In Hargeisa, access to legal identification was notably higher among both host and IDP households compared to other regions. ID cards were the most commonly held document, with 89% of host households and 82% of IDP households possessing one. Voter registration cards were also prevalent (hosts 79%, IDPs 56%), followed by birth certificates (hosts 4%, IDPs 7%). However, despite this relatively strong access, gaps remained, especially for IDPs lacking comprehensive documentation, which are crucial for accessing public services and social protection.

According to the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\)](#) guidelines, access to legal documentation is a key enabler for achieving durable solutions, as it enhances the ability of displaced populations to claim rights, secure livelihoods, and integrate fully into host communities. Strengthening the issuance and accessibility of these documents is essential to reducing vulnerability, fostering self-reliance, and ensuring equal participation in socio-economic life. Addressing these gaps will promote sustainable integration and support pathways toward durable solutions for IDPs in Hargeisa.

Top three commonly reported types of legal identification documentation that the assessed households possessed, by % of assessed households:*

	Host community households	IDP households
ID Card	89%	82%
Birth certificate	4%	7%
Voter registration	79%	56%

* Responses could be more than 100% as it was a select multiple question.

GOVERNANCE AND SAFETY

In Hargeisa, local governance and security measures contributed to a stable environment, fostering progress toward durable solutions despite disparities between IDPs and host communities. While 76% of IDP households and 63% of host households reported not actively participating in social or political life, a significant proportion of IDPs (80%) and hosts (56%) had representatives advocating on their behalf, signaling potential for inclusive community engagement.

Key factors driving social cohesion included a sense of trust, solidarity, and unity (IDPs 60%, hosts 40%), shared cultural identity (IDPs 29%, hosts 48%), and common language (IDPs 36%, hosts 35%). These elements, particularly the higher levels of trust among IDPs, indicated strong prospects for local integration and community harmony.

Security challenges were minimal, with only 1% of host households and 0.25% of IDP households reporting protection incidents. Among these rare occurrences, all were attributed to armed violence. Addressing even isolated threats remains essential for ensuring safety and fostering durable solutions that support peaceful coexistence and socio-economic integration.

% of households that reportedly did not participate actively in the social and political life of the community:*

IDP households  76%

Host community households  63%

Top three most commonly reported positive factors reported by the households that influence social cohesion in the settlements:*

	Host community households	IDP households
A sense of trust/solidarity/unity	40%	60%
Sharing same cultural identity	48%	29%
Sharing a similar language	35%	36%

% of households that reported to have a representative that can speak on behalf of the population:

IDP households  80%

Host community households  56%

Three main safety and security incidents reported by the households in the last 3 months prior to data collection:*

Host community households | 1%

IDP households 0%

* Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) is any sort of military ammunition or explosive ordnance which has failed to function as intended"

Responses could be more than 100% as it was a select multiple question.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The DSRA used the quantitative method to conduct this assessment. Household-level, face-to-face interviews were conducted in the host settlements (16 nearest cities) and IDP sites (161). REACH used structured household surveys, referencing the existing global standards on durable solutions (DSs) like Joint IDP profiling service (JIPS) indicator library and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, to understand the demographic characteristics of the households in sites showing DSs enabling factors. The population per site and city was randomly selected using a stratified random sampling technique. The data is representative of the population type and location (site + nearest city) with a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. As such, each IDP site and the closest city in the area were clustered separately as a single location. The DSA VII has been used to identify the sites showing enabling factors of durable solutions and hence a positive score for the durable solutions index. 164 sites out of 2,043 assessed sites scored 25 out of 39 for Durable Solutions Scoring Index (DSSI). The assessment has mapped out the categorization of different conditions and readiness of sites showing durable solutions enabling factors and serves to support both those IDP sites on track for more development-oriented activities, as well as maintaining prioritization for urgent crisis interventions (through the site prioritization matrix). You can find more information about the methodology and assessment in the terms of reference [here](#) ⁵

The data collection took place between the 26th of February 2024 and continued until the 1st of April 2024. 641 household surveys were collected in Hargeisa district. All findings presented in this factsheet relate to the proportion of assessed households with a given response as reported by household members from hosts and IDPs, and should be considered representative of the humanitarian situation in assessed sites.

LIMITATIONS

The type of potential bias related to the choice of quantitative method used in the analysis of data and presentation of results must be acknowledged. Assessing the nearest host community households for all IDP sites was difficult since there was no clear demarcation or boundary that separated the hosts from the IDPs. In this assessment, “progress toward durable solutions” refers to indicators of stability, self-reliance, and integration among IDPs in Hargeisa. This includes households’ willingness to remain in their current settlements, access to essential services like water and education, economic self-reliance through stable income sources, and social cohesion with host communities. However, this progress reflects current conditions and does not account for long-term trends or comprehensive time series data. The findings should be viewed as a baseline to inform future interventions and ongoing monitoring efforts.

Endnotes

- 1 CCCM [Cluster Somalia-Estimated IDP populations in Somalia](#),
- 2 REACH - [Somalia Detailed Site Assessment \(DSA\) VII data](#) Somalia Factsheet March 2024
- 3 Education cluster - Education cannot wait
- 4 REACH - [Somalia Detailed Site Assessment \(DSA\) VII data](#) Somalia Factsheet March 2024
- IPC. Somalia: [Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis](#), January - June 2024. 15 Feb. 2024.
- Education cluster 2024 [response snapshot](#), September 2024
- 5 REACH - Somalia Durable Solutions Readiness Assessment (DSRA) [Terms of Reference](#) January 2024

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).