

Durable Solutions Readiness Assessment (DSRA)

April 2025 | Afmadow, Somalia.

KEY MESSAGES

- In Afmadow, households living in IDP sites identified **safety (67%), availability of accommodation (53%), and climate conditions (52%) as the main factors shaping their choice of settlement.** This highlights the interplay between protection needs, shelter availability, and environmental conditions in influencing displacement patterns and settlement decisions.
- In Afmadow district, food insecurity remains a critical concern. **A large proportion of households living in IDP sites (81%) and half of households in host communities (50%) rely primarily on market purchases to meet their food needs.** This reliance leaves both groups highly vulnerable to rising prices¹, economic shocks, and disruptions in supply chains.
- In Afmadow district, access to drinking water remains a key challenge. **More than a third of households in both IDP sites (36%) and host communities (38%) reported experiencing personal incidents when trying to access water.** The main obstacles included personal safety risks, tensions with authorities, and cases of gender-based violence, underscoring the protection concerns linked to water access.
- In Afmadow, access to documentation remains very limited among households living in IDP sites. **While 27% reported having humanitarian service cards, only 2% had birth certificates, and none reported possessing national ID cards,** highlighting a critical gap in legal documents that enable access to services and participation in governance.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

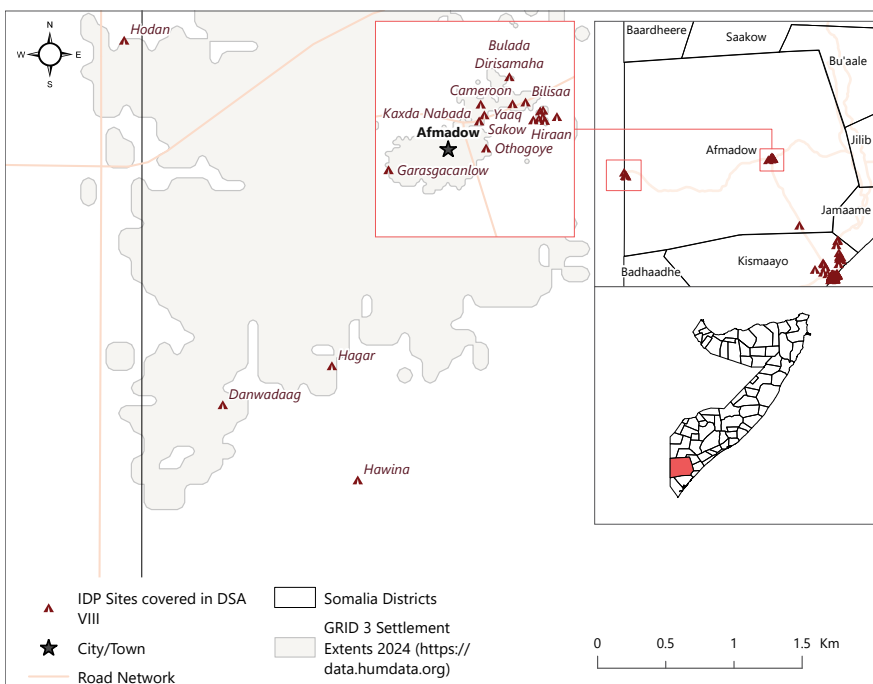
Climate shocks and insecurity continue to affect Somali populations, frequently resulting in their displacement. Consequently, an estimated 3.9 million people were displaced in Somalia as of December 2025.²

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.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The DSRA was initiated in partnership with the [IOM-led Danwadaag consortium](#) to identify and assess sites appropriate for durable solutions and development-oriented interventions, serving as a tool to initiate service referrals along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN). Using data from the [Detailed Site Assessment \(DSA\) VIII](#), the DSRA identifies IDP sites where progress towards durable solutions has been captured through the DSA VII, and sites' corresponding scores on the Durable Solutions Scoring Index (DSSI). Developed by REACH and IOM, the DSRA complements the Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) survey by guiding strategic operational decision-making for IDPs and host communities, while also measuring progress toward durable solutions. The assessment collected data that is representative of IDPs and host community households at the district level, with stratification by population group and location type (IDP sites and adjacent urban areas), achieving a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. Each Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) site and its nearest city were analyzed as a single area, reflecting neighborhood and catchment clusters under the [Derisnimo framework](#).

AFMADOW DISTRICT COVERAGE MAP



METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

Sites were selected for this assessment based on several central criteria. First, sites needed to fall within the strategic priority locations highlighted by the principal project partner, the Danwadaag Consortium. Second, to allow for the monitoring of progress of sites assessed through the previous round of the DSRA, any sites from DSRA I³, that were also sampled/assessed through the DSA VIII, were selected to be assessed through the DSRA II. Finally, the sites for the assessment, including those in Afmadow (2 sites) were selected through use of the Durable Solutions Scoring Index (DSSI) – the primary method of site selection used during the previous round of the DSRA. This index serves as a tool to identify which IDP sites assessed through the DSA demonstrate potential progress toward achieving durable solutions in alignment with the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions. In total 2 sites were targeted in Afmadow under the DSRA II.

The Durable Solutions Readiness Assessment (DSRA) employed a quantitative method using **structured household surveys** informed by the IOM DTM Local (Re)Integration Assessment tool. Household was the unit of measurement, defined as individuals living together under one roof. **A stratified random sampling approach ensured representation at district level for six districts (Afmadow, Baidoa, Galkacyo, Kismayo, Daynile, and Kaxda) as well as per population group (IDP households in sites and host community households in adjacent urban centres).** To ensure the sample reflected the actual population distribution, the number of interviews in each site was proportionally allocated based on population estimates. Sampling units were drawn randomly within each stratum to achieve a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error.

A total of 9,637 households were surveyed across six districts, including 9,213 IDP households and 424 host community households. **In Afmadow district, 188 households were surveyed, comprising 120 IDP households and 68 host community households.** Data were collected from 6 to 30 April 2025 via face-to-face interviews using GPS-referenced sampling points. Processing followed REACH Standard Operating Procedures SoPs, including anonymisation, cleaning and data validation. Analysis, conducted in R, produced district-representative results disaggregated by population group. For more methodological details, please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#).

Analysis on Solutions Readiness

The analysis reveals a **notable disparity between the internally displaced population (IDPs) and the non-displaced population** in Baidoa, **particularly in employment and livelihood stability.** While over 60% of IDPs have employment (compared to 80%+ of the non-displaced), the nature of their employment remains predominantly temporary. In contrast, non-displaced individuals tend to perceive small businesses as permanent employment, indicating a stronger foundation for economic stability. The reliance on small businesses as the primary source of income for both groups underscores the potential for sustainability-focused solutions programming. However, the temporary nature of IDPs' economic activities signifies their ongoing vulnerability and a lack of durable income sources. This gap highlights the need for targeted solutions programming to help IDPs shift from temporary to permanent employment. Strengthening IDP-owned small businesses through financial services, training, and capacity-building, along with promoting access to formal jobs, can boost self-reliance and bring IDPs closer to the economic resilience of host communities, fostering long-term integration and stability.

DSRA and DSP Relationship and Complementarity

The DSRA serves as a critical tool to enable service referrals along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) by creating an evidence base to identify service gaps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). By assessing a shelter and housing, focusing on security of tenure and adequacy of living conditions; livelihoods and employment, assessing access to income-generating opportunities; protection, with emphasis on safety, security, and access to justice; access to basic services such as health, education, water, and sanitation; social cohesion and participation, examining community engagement and decision-making; and food security and nutrition, the [DSRA data](#) provides actionable insights into where gaps exist, enabling the government and other actors to accurately target areas for intervention. This evidence-based approach supports the practical implementation of services to address needs, fostering collaboration across sectors and ensuring that interventions are tailored to promote sustainable solutions.

The comparative analysis of indicators highlights critical differences in access to services, livelihood opportunities and other factors that contribute towards durable solutions. For instance, while both groups face significant barriers to accessing essential services, **IDPs report higher levels of vulnerability in areas such as economic self-reliance and integration.** These disparities underline the need for targeted interventions that address specific gaps for each group, such as improving access to sustainable livelihoods for IDPs and strengthening community infrastructure for hosts. By addressing these challenges, the DSRA findings provide a roadmap for advancing durable solutions, emphasizing equitable progress and fostering resilience across communities.

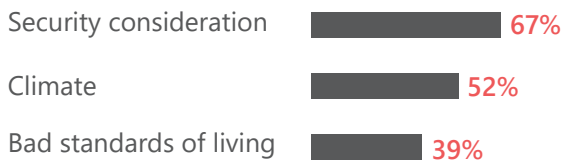
The DSRA questionnaire was developed using the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions to properly encapsulate the unique barriers and experiences faced by IDPs. In addition, all elements of the assessment were closely aligned with the key strategic objectives of [National Solutions Pathways Action Plan 2024-2029](#), developed by the [National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions \(NCRDS\)](#). By doing so, the DSRA seeks to inform government led solutions and initiatives aimed at reducing and mitigating the adverse impacts of displacement, and supporting IDPs to achieve Durable Solutions. The DSRA complements the Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) survey by utilizing a harmonized methodology, questionnaire, and data, and advancing the process through the identification of entry points for durable solutions. While the DSP focuses on progress monitoring, the DSRA builds upon this foundation to enable practical service referrals by identifying specific needs and gaps within both IDP and host communities. Additionally, DSRA data contributes to the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development (MoPIED) dashboard, offering a centralized resource for strategic decision-making and ensuring co-ownership of data by MoPIED and REACH, thereby enhancing accountability and alignment with national priorities.

➔ DISPLACEMENT CHARACTERISTICS AND MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

In Afmadow district, all households living in IDP sites (100%) reported that they are still displaced. **The main reasons for displacement were overlapping pressures, particularly insecurity (67%) and climate-related shocks (52%), which compelled many families to leave their places of origin.** These same challenges continue to shape where displaced households settle, as safety, adequate shelter, and environmental conditions are key considerations in their decision to remain in their current locations. This illustrates the close link between the initial drivers of displacement and the factors that sustain households in new settlements, influencing both their movement and their decision to stay.

To achieve durable solutions, it is essential to address both the root causes of displacement, such as insecurity and climate shocks and the persistent barriers that prevent return or local integration. This requires coordinated efforts to improve security, strengthen resilience to climate risks, and expand access to sustainable livelihoods, housing, and basic services, enabling displaced households to rebuild their lives with dignity and stability.

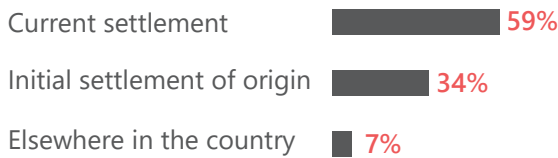
Three most reported reasons why IDP households left their settlement of origin, by % of IDP households:*



Three most reported reasons why IDP households chose to come to the current settlement:



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



Reported levels of integration among IDPs and host community households in their current place of residence, by % of assessed households:

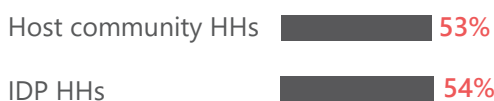
	Host community households	IDP households
Very integrated	10%	0%
Integrated	66%	37%
Neutral (neither integrated nor not integrated)	16%	31%
Not integrated	7%	12%
Not integrated at all	0%	21%

✂ ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS AND SERVICES

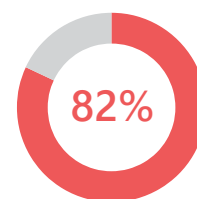
In Afmadow district, access to essential services and basic needs remains a major challenge. **More than half of households in IDP sites (54%) and in host communities (53%) reported being unable to meet their basic needs independently in the three months preceding data collection.** Despite these hardships, the vast majority of IDP households (82%) indicated that they did not experience discrimination when accessing essential services.

To move towards durable solutions, efforts should focus on strengthening access to livelihoods and social safety nets, while expanding the availability and quality of essential services. Addressing these gaps will be key to reducing vulnerability and fostering greater self-reliance among both displaced and host community households.

% of households that reported having no access to basic needs on their own in the last 3 months prior to data collection:



% of households living in IDP sites reporting to have not been discriminated against when trying to access basic services:*

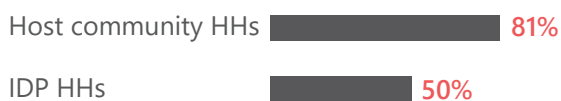


* Responses could be more than 100% as it was a select multiple question.

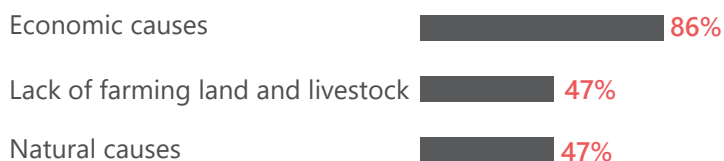
FOOD SECURITY

In Afmadow district, food insecurity remains a critical concern. A large proportion of households living in IDP sites (81%) and half of households in host communities (50%) rely primarily on market purchases to meet their food needs. This dependence exposes both groups to heightened vulnerability from price fluctuations, economic shocks, and supply chain disruptions. The finding is consistent with the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, which estimates that nearly 4.6 million people in Somalia are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)⁴. Among IDP households, the main barriers to food access include financial hardship (86%), limited access to land or livestock for food production (47%), and environmental challenges such as drought and flooding (47%). Economic constraints, in particular, severely restrict families' ability to secure adequate food. These findings highlight the urgent need for durable solutions that go beyond immediate food assistance. Priorities include scaling up livelihood opportunities, supporting climate-resilient agriculture, and improving security to strengthen food access and reduce long-term dependence on humanitarian aid in Afmadow.

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



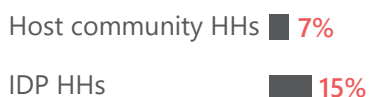
Most reported barriers to food access, by % of IDP households*:



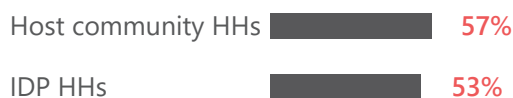
ACCESS TO WATER AND HEALTHCARE

In Afmadow district, access to drinking water remains a key challenge. More than a third of households in both IDP sites (36%) and host communities (38%) reported experiencing personal incidents when trying to access water. The main obstacles included personal safety risks, tensions with authorities, and cases of gender-based violence, underscoring the protection concerns linked to water access. **By contrast, access to healthcare services appeared relatively more stable. In the three months preceding data collection, only 15% of IDP households and 7% of host community households reported being unable to access healthcare services.** This contrast highlights the overlapping vulnerabilities faced by households, where essential needs such as safe water remain significantly more constrained than health services. This finding highlights the urgent need to improve safe and equitable access to drinking water, strengthen protection mechanisms, and ensure that both IDP and host community households can meet their basic needs without exposure to harm or discrimination.

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



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



EDUCATION

In Afmadow district, education was generally accessible, with 74% of IDP households and 93% of host community households reporting the availability of education facilities in their settlements. Access to education is a cornerstone of durable solutions, as it supports long-term development and stability for both displaced and host populations. Strengthening and expanding inclusive, quality education services, particularly for IDP households and closing the gap between displaced and non-displaced communities will be critical to advancing sustainable reintegration and enhancing community resilience.

% of households that reportedly had an education facility available in their current settlement.

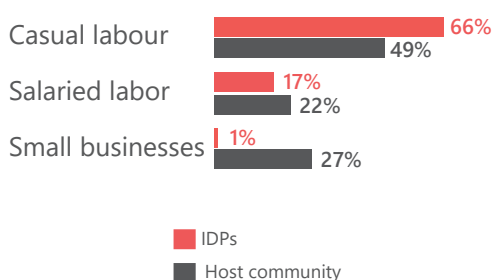


* Responses could be more than 100% as it was a select multiple question.

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT, LIVELIHOODS AND MARKETS

In Afmadow district, casual labor was the most frequently reported source of income, relied upon by 66% of households living in IDP sites and 49% of households living in host community, followed by salaried work and small-scale businesses. This heavy dependence on informal labor underscores the limited access to secure, formal employment and the restricted opportunities for livelihood diversification, particularly among displaced families. Contributing factors include inadequate capital, limited mobility, and weak connections to stable job markets, leaving many households highly vulnerable to income instability. **Livelihood challenges were further compounded by poor market accessibility, with only 15% of IDP households and 4% of host community households able to reach markets within 15 minutes using their usual mode of transport.** These findings highlight the urgent need to expand livelihood opportunities, strengthen access to markets, and promote inclusive economic development to reduce vulnerability and build resilience among both displaced and host communities.

Top three most reported sources of income, by % of households:



Reported time taken by the households (host and IDPs) using their usual means of transport to get to the nearest market, by % of IDP household:

	Host community households	IDP households
Less than 15 minutes	15%	4%
Between 15 minutes and 30 minutes	43%	21%
Between 31 minutes and 1 hour	35%	36%
More than 1 hour	7%	39%

ACCESS TO HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

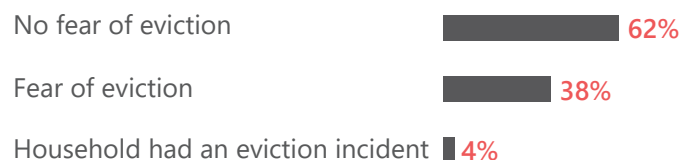
In Afmadow district, access to housing, land, and property (HLP) is uneven. **Strikingly, a higher proportion of households living in IDP sites reported having written land tenure agreements compared to host community households, an uncharacteristic trend in such contexts.** While the majority of households living in IDP sites (70%) indicated having written agreements, only 22% of households living in host community reported the same. Instead, most households living in host community (60%) relied on informal oral agreements, compared to just 18% of IDP households, leaving them more exposed to the risk of eviction.

Eviction-related concerns further reflect the vulnerabilities faced by displaced families. Although 62% of IDP households reported no fear of eviction, a considerable proportion (38%) expressed concerns about being evicted, and 4% had already experienced eviction in the six months preceding data collection. This finding highlights the need to strengthen land tenure security, promote fair and transparent HLP agreements, and ensure stronger protection against forced evictions for both displaced and host community households.

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

	Host community households	IDP households
Written	22%	70%
Oral	60%	18%
None	18%	12%

Fear of being evicted from current shelter in the 6 months following data collection, by % of IDP households:



ACCESS TO DOCUMENTATION

In Afmadow, access to documentation remains very limited among households living in IDP sites. While 27% reported having humanitarian service cards, only 2% had birth certificates, and none reported possessing national ID cards, highlighting a critical gap in legal documents that enable access to services and participation in governance. **The majority of IDP households (68%) reported having no documentation at all, compared to 44% of households in host communities who reported the same.** This finding highlights the urgent need to strengthen civil registration and documentation systems, particularly for displaced households. Expanding access to legal identity documents is essential not only for improving service delivery but also for enhancing protection, supporting inclusion, and enabling meaningful participation in governance and community life.

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

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

	Host community households	IDP households
Humanitarian card	29%	27%
ID cards	25%	0%
Birth certificate	21%	2%
None	44%	68%

DECISION-MAKING, SAFETY AND SECURITY

In Afmadow district, participation in social and political life remained limited, particularly among IDP populations. **A large majority of households living in IDP sites (86%) reported no active engagement in community activities, compared to 60% of households living in host community.** Despite this low participation, social cohesion appeared relatively strong across both groups. Shared cultural identity was reported by (95% of IDP households and 94% of host community households), while a common language was noted by (76% and 77%, respectively). Trust, solidarity, and unity were also reported by (45% of IDPs and 53% of host households), reinforcing communal bonds.

Community representation showed potential for inclusion, with 86% of households living in IDP reporting the presence of a representative advocating on their behalf, compared to 91% among host households. This suggests opportunities to enhance inclusive governance and strengthen local decision-making structures. Perceptions of safety and freedom of movement were generally positive, with 91% of IDPs and 100% of host households reporting they could move freely without fear. **However, protection concerns persisted with 59% of IDPs and 80% of host households reported cases of unaccompanied or separated children in the past three months. Gender-based violence was also identified by 41% of IDPs and 80% of host households, while abductions affected 39% of IDP households but were not reported among host communities.** This finding highlights the need to strengthen inclusive governance mechanisms, promote community participation, and address persistent protection risks. Efforts to enhance safety, reduce violence, and ensure equitable representation will be essential for building trust, fostering resilience, and advancing durable solutions for both displaced and host communities in Afmadow.

% of households that reported not actively participating in the social and political life of the community:*



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



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

	Host community households	IDP households
Sharing the same cultural identity	94%	95%
sharing a similar language	76%	77%
A sense of trust/solidarity/unity	53%	45%

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

	Host community households	IDP households
Cases of unaccompanied and separated children	80%	59%
Gender Based Violence	80%	41%
Abductions	0%	39%

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

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 Baidoa. 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.

ABOUT THE DANWADAAG CONSORTIUM

Established in 2018, Danwadaag (meaning ‘common purpose’) is a durable solutions consortium led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with local and international NGOs. The consortium integrates the expertise of humanitarian and development partners and facilitates knowledge sharing for a multi-sectoral response across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus (HDPN). Core consortium members include Concern Worldwide, Norwegian Refugee Council, and Gargaar Relief Development Organization, and strong partnerships with other local NGOs, research, learning and programmatic partners in the durable solutions community. The consortium’s overall objective is to reduce vulnerabilities among displacement-affected communities (DACs) and, in the long run, decrease the humanitarian caseload of displaced people in Somalia. The consortium’s second phase of activities began in 2022, supported by multiple funding streams across the HDPN, including the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the European Union, the World Bank through the Government of Somalia and IOM Development Fund. Activities target various groups of DACs including internally displaced people, returnees and host communities, and support local authorities in line with the Somali National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS). Guided by evidence-based programming, key activities focus on strengthening government capacity, delivering integrated sustainable basic services, ensuring land tenure security, providing housing, land, and property support, strengthening the social protection system and implementing targeted livelihood programs for the most vulnerable.

ENDNOTES

- 1: [WFP Somalia- Food prices](#)
- 2: [Estimated IDP populations Somalia](#)
- 3: [DSRA I](#)
- 4: [SOHA: Somalia faces worsening food insecurity](#)
- 5: REACH - Somalia Durable Solutions Readiness Assessment (DSRA) [Terms of Reference](#) April 2025

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).

DONORS AND PARTNERS



Durable Solutions Readiness Matrix

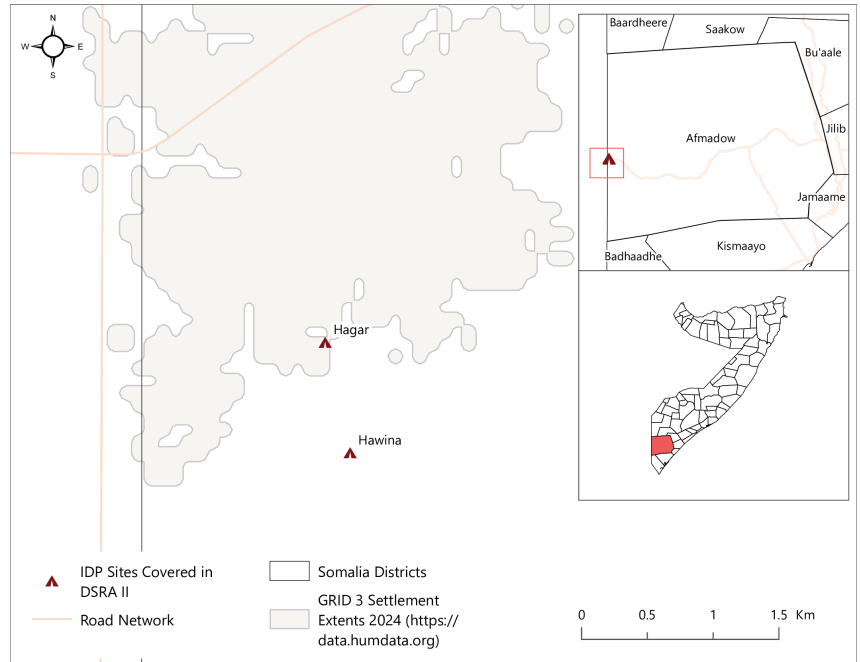
IDP Site	Freedom of Movement	Food Security	Access to Water	Access to Healthcare Service	Education	Employment	HLP Access	Access to documentation	Security	Access to Market	Social Cohesion	Totals
Hagar	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	4-3-4
Hawina	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	3-4-4

Legend

- Green > Strong progress (>70%)
- Yellow > Partial progress (40%-70%)
- Red > Weaker levels of progress (<40%)












The Durable Solutions Readiness Matrix for IDP sites in Baidoa district highlights significant disparities in readiness across locations. Structured based on the IASC guidelines, this matrix displays the scores received by individual sites within Baidoa across a variety of indicators from the DSRA. Within the matrix, “green” squares indicate the strong progress of a site toward durable solutions within a certain area, with “yellow” represents partial progress, and “red” weaker levels of progress. While some sites demonstrate progress in areas such as access to freedom of movement, and access to water, others face critical and persistent challenges in documentation, security, healthcare and food security. These findings underscore the need for a tailored, multi-sectoral approach that addresses the most vulnerable sites’ urgent needs, while strengthening progress in more advanced locations to ensure equitable and durable solutions.

Map: IDP Sites: Afmadow



*For a further scoring breakdown, please see the scoring table on page 9.

Scoring Table: Durable Solutions Readiness Matrix

Category	Indicators/Question	Answer options
 Freedom of Movement	Can you/your household freely move around/ go wherever you want in your neighbourhood?	- % answering "yes"
 Food Security	Which of the following problem/barriers is most relevant to your household regarding access to food?	- % answering "no barriers to obtaining access to food"
 Access to Water	What safety issues does your household face accessing drinking water (on their way to or at water source)?	- % answering "no issues for drinking water"
 Access to Healthcare Services	Did all members of your hh have access to healthcare services every time they wanted it in the last 3 months?	- % answering "yes"
 Education	Where is the education facility located?	- % answering "within the current settlement"
 Employment	Which of these descriptions best describes the employment situation of the main income earner in the last 3 months?	- % reporting some form of employment, including "official", "seasonal", and "informal"
 Housing, Land and Property	Does your hh fear that it could be evicted from your current accommodation/ shelter in the next 6 months, or did you suffer an eviction incident in the past 6 months?	- % answering "no fear of eviction"
 Access to Documentation	Which of the following types of legal identity documentation does your household possess?	- % possessing any form of legal documentation (e.g. ID card, birth certificate etc.)
 Security	Does your household currently feel safe enough to pursue all of the social, economic and educational opportunities you want?	- % answering "Feel safe enough to pursue all opportunities"
 Access to Market	On average, how long does it take you or member of your household, with your usual means of transport, to get to the nearest market?	- % answering "less than 15 minutes" or "15-30 minutes"
 Social Cohesion	How would you and the members of your household describe the relationship between the displaced and the non-displaced community in this location in the last 3 months?	- % answering "very good" or "relatively good"