

Internal Displacement

INTEGRATING IDPS INTO THE HOST COMMUNITY

High-quality Research Support programme (HQRS)

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1. Introduction

The humanitarian estimates for the number of Somalia's displaced persons is more than 1 million persons and most of them have fled internally. Many questions arise about their situation of life, including: are those people able to get access to normal life such as shelter, water, food and education without any discrimination. And do they have the opportunity to resettle into the communities where they settled, or achieve local integration.

The maximum number of those people that have fled into major cities like Bosaso are estimated to be more than 100,000 people. There needs to be a situation or environment in which they can access all human requirements without conflicting with internationally accepted standards and a legal basis for undertaking interventions that support IDPs. This study provides a tool for assisting humanitarian actors in assessing and promoting options for resettlement as one of three durable solutions.

1.1. Problem Statement

Displaced persons have now become a global issue. Those that have fled from the Middle East have become a problem for those in Europe and the whole of the world, and no one can stop someone who is looking for a better life. If you go to every country where there is a refugee camp or camp for internally displaced persons you will find those in the camps have below the standard of living of the host community. And this becomes a global issue: how can they be resettled, or even, how can they be integrated into the host community in order that they can access essential things like, shelter, food, and education?

This study contributes to efforts to address this global issue. It will examine those IDPs in Bosaso camps especially in **Boqol ka Buush**¹. The study will address the following questions:

1. How can we integrate Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) into the host community?
2. What are the barriers for integrating IDPs into the host community?
3. Who is responsible for creating smooth integration between IDPs and host communities?

1.2. OVERALL AIM AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The long-term goal of the research is to develop some contribution to humanitarian efforts to resettle IDPs that allow them to integrate into the host community. The objective of the current study is to provide a comprehensive review of literatures and outline a conceptual framework for integration. Particularly, the study has the following sub-objectives:

1. Provide an overview and background to internal displacement and durable solutions.

¹ An IDP camp located in Somalia, Bari Somalia is populated by more than 10,000 people.

2. Provide support for decision makers in Somalia, especially those in Bosaso city, to evaluate barriers and constraints stopping integration into host community as well as benefits.
3. Define a set of minimum standards for local integration to be possible

The results of this study will be valuable for humanitarian actors and social activity and this report will bring about better understanding among both IDPs and host communities.

1.3. RESEARCH METHODS

The primary research method for this study is a literature review and the development of conceptual understanding. This is followed by four Focus Group Discussions, divided into two drawn from IDPs and another two drawn from the host community. The FGD will focus on sectors of society including women, youth, elders as well as men. There will also be Key Informant Interview (KII). The KII will focus on camp leaders, elders and those from local government as well as those are experts or who worked with international NGOs or as UN workers.

Finally when data gathering has been undertaken and transcription completed the data will be analysed in order to find useful information. This study will be conducted between June 2016 and August 2016

1.4. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Carrying out the study involves having access to human secrets and how they perceive their environment. The study will respect participants' confidentiality and ensure anonymity. Participants will be informed of the benefits and even risks that can result from this study as well as being given the opportunity to ask questions back. Some of them have allowed me to use their names as well as work related information, such as their experience and titles.

The purpose of carrying out this study is to reduce risk and increase benefits and if it seems that it will create adverse outcomes it will be automatically stopped. The study will encourage equal opportunity for the participants who will be informed and given adequate explanation of the reasons behind this study in order to avoid consent problems. I will not be using incentives in order to increase participants.

1.5. LIMITATIONS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

As a human doing work there must be some bottom line, and when it comes to research in the field the constraints will more than for normal life work. The limitations that are expected in relation to this study are lack of adequate resources, proper previous guidelines that can be depended upon, as well as time limitations. This topic is something related to humanity and

when the work you do is concerned for human beings you must be careful in order not to maximize error and mistakes.

In future I strongly believe this study will be baseline for future researchers. I am leaving behind more questions that need further research.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. BACKGROUND AND DEFINITIONS

2.2. WHO ARE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS?

According to the Guiding Principles on internal displacement, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are: “Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their households or places of usual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, circumstances of widespread violence, destruction of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border²

2.3. WHAT IS A ‘DURABLE SOLUTIONS’?

A ‘Durable Solution’ for IDPs is the achievement of a combination of conditions that ensure IDPs no longer have needs specifically related to their displacement and enjoy living in comparable conditions to nearby communities. There are three typical durable solutions for IDPs: 1) return to their place of origin, 2) local integration into the communities where they settled, and 3) resettlement to a third location. This document refers specifically to resettlement (Zimbabwe, 2011)

2.4. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN SOMALIA

Somalia has become, after more than two decades of instability, the seventh largest country of internally displaced population in the world (Drumtra, 2014). Somalia has been in a state of complex humanitarian crisis, with socio-economic, political and ecological factors leading to extensive conflict, drought, more recently flooding, and many other repeated human and natural disasters. The situation has been made worse lately by increased insecurity and unstable population travels experienced since March 2014.

All these problems have caused suffering to a great proportion of the population as well as most of the nation’s families. It has become very difficult to sort it out because of a lack of functioning central government. Also those who provide humanitarian aid have found it difficult to get access to Somalia in order to provide support to those that really need it. Characteristics of the international humanitarian response in Somalia – extremely dangerous conditions, purposeful targeting of aid workers, radical threats, protracted population displacement mixed with new rounds of people confusion, destruction of government authority, failed or problematic peacekeeping operations, remote programming – have inappropriately become more common in humanitarian operations around the world by 2014 (Drumtra, 2014)

² UN Guiding Principles on internal displacement, p. 4

Since its establishment in August 2012, the new National Federal Government of Somalia has sought to promote peace, good governance and recover relations with parts of the country which have been seeking degrees of autonomy. However, the federal institutions remains weak and potential for further instability remains. The Islamic militia, despite being ousted from some areas it controlled for years, remains a major threat to peace and security.

IDPs continue to face dangers to their lives, safety, security and dignity. They are disproportionately at risk of gross abuses of human rights, especially women and lone children. Sexual and gender-based violence is widespread, even in areas of Somalia that are relatively safe. Many IDPs from minority clans suffer pervasive discrimination since they often lack vital clan protection and connections (IDMC, 2013).

Those who have fled internally are estimated by the IDMC to be 1.1 million in Somalia in 2013. Around 893,000 were living in south Somalia, including an estimated 369,000 resettled in and around Mogadishu; 129,000 in Puntland; and 84,000 in Somaliland, including those displaced in the Sool and Sanaag regions. More than 80,000 persons were described to be newly displaced, many of them a number of times (IDMC, Somalia: Internal displacement in brief, 2016). Also DRC have carried statistics about the real figure of IDPs in Puntland in each camp as showing the below chart: **Incomplete**

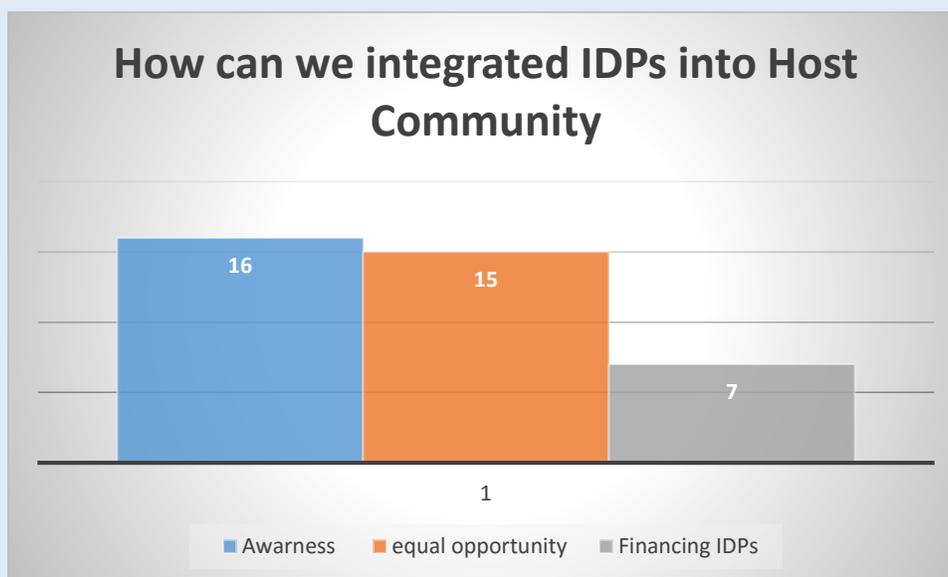
All of these people deserve a better life in accordance with the acceptable guidelines or rules that have been agreed by countries across the world under UN conventions

3. FINDINGS

This study was carried out to examine the creation of integration between IDPs and their host community. In order to achieve this we have collected data from targeted population by setting up two Focus Group Discussions (FGD). One was comprised of people from **Boqolka Buush** camp and the second targeted parties from the host community. There were three Key Informant Interview (KII): one was a **Boqol ka Buush** camp leader, the second from local government - one of the members of Bosaso Council - and last was a UNCHR worker who has more than 10 years of experience that related to this field. They were asked different question in order to get answers to the research questions.

The people questioned during the research have answered our questions as follows:

We asked 17 people a question that relates to the overall purpose of carrying out this study: “How can we integrate IDPs into the host community?”. They have given different answers but 15 of them have said awareness and equal opportunity. 7 also answered financing IDPs so they can build house, and generate some money to send their child to a qualified schools as the host community do.



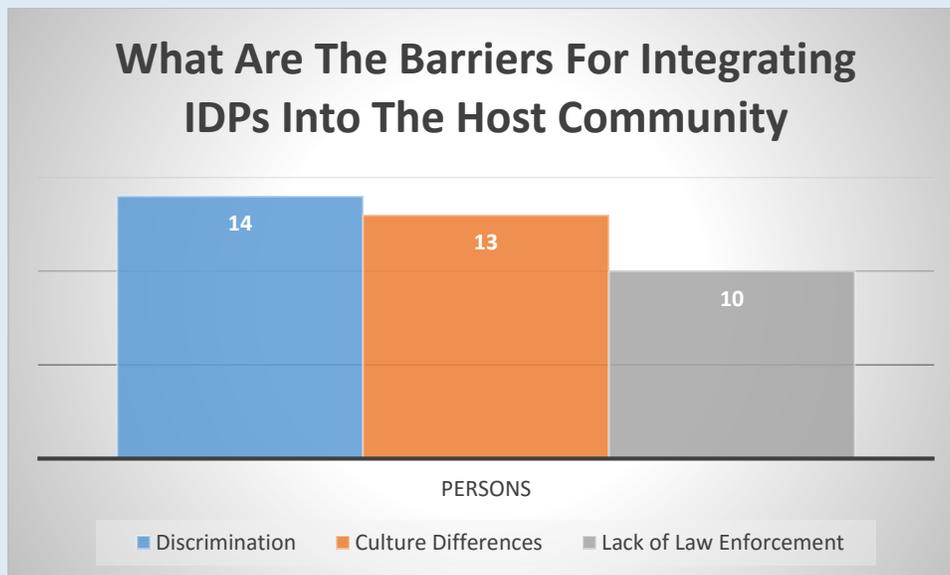
One of the respondents said: “people may not see the integration as same and their thought are different some may look at positive side while others are the opposite of that and they only thing can lower for difference as well as can simplify for integration is to develop awareness mechanisms”

One of the respondents noted that there are so many educated and professional people in the camps that do not have a chance to work in their field of study because there is no fair and equal distribution of opportunities, and if they are not allowed to work side by side with those from the host community in the working environment how can they be integrated?

All of this has answered the research question and suggests that any integration will start from awareness and equal distribution of resources. After that there will be entry through the first gate of integration when those in the camps know the importance of transforming the displaced into host community, and their advantages. Then the host community will be valuing humanity and accepting

those in camps are his/her brother, sister or just like family in the household, and that they deserve a better life, education and health than is available in the camps. Ismail³ argues “The integration will start from willing of it in the camps but if they believe life in more comfortable than those in host community we cannot reach or talk about integrations”

In order to examine and understand better integration between IDPs and host communities we must study the barriers or obstacles that stop those in IDPs merging into host communities. We have developed this question: “what are the barriers for integrating IDPs into the Host Community”



Most of the 17 participants gave similar answers.

Fatima⁴ argues: “Those in IPDs they cannot send their child into normal schools because of the other peer child in the school calls them Bantu or other Discrimination words and any parents would not accept to see their child have humiliated or as treated as inferior”. When we conducted this study we noticed and realized how discrimination has a widespread effect among society. Also, Fatima believes the IDP community has a fear of expression because the government has not enforced laws that limit discrimination. When asked if this discriminations is based on religion or tribe all the respondent loudly spoke, saying: “religion will not encourage or support any thing that will damage humanity and harmonization between the communities, and the only reason we come here and we fled from our homes was because of tribes”.

In order to be achieved the integration we are talking about first we have understanding who is responsible for integration, as well as solving all the above issues. We developed this question: “Who is responsible for creating smooth integration between the host community and IDPs?” and all the participants have agreed 100%, Government.

³ UNCHR worker with more than 10 years of experience in this field

⁴ Fatima is a Camp leader in Boqol ka Boosh

If the government will not enforce the law how can different people and cultures peacefully live together as well as create fair and equal opportunities among society. One of the respondent argues: “The integration wants a clear plan and this plan must come from the government”

Mohamed⁵ argues: “Government have put every effort it can but the problem is people from IDPS, because of most them there were here in more than 10 years and they need psychological treatment and most of the camps already become villages part of the cities”

⁵ Mohamed is member of Bosaso Council

3.1. CONCLUSION

In order to achieve integration among IDPs and the host community the following things must be obtained:

1. Awareness that teaches the society cultural differences, and also encourages accepting difference as well as exploring advantages of humanity and integration.
2. Equal access to resources such as education, employment, legal aspects and health centers.
- 1.1. The Government must develop a clear strategy towards integration, also endorsing law that limits the period a person can be in the camps.

3.2. FURTHER RESEARCH AREAS:

1. Why do people stay in camps so long?
2. How can discriminations be reduced within society?
3. How can culture clashes between the societies be reduced?

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