



Fast Facts

Country: Somalia

Duration: November 2007 to December 2010

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP; UNHCR; UN-HABITAT; UNICEF; FAO; OCHA

Other Implementing Partners: Local authorities; Local NGOs

Budget: \$4,150,752.39

Key Words: IDPs; access to basic services; reintegration; resettlement; livelihoods;

BACKGROUND

With the collapse of the Siyad Barre regime in 1991, Somalia fell into a state of extreme fragility. As significant areas of the country came under the control of warlords and clan leaders, the past 20 years have been characterized by armed conflict, violence and lawlessness, resulting in large-scale internal displacement and a dramatic decline in the human security of millions of Somalis. According to the United Nations, by the late 2000s, there were an

estimated 400,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Somalia. Of these, nearly 22,000 lived in the northern coastal town of Bossaso, the capital of the autonomous state of Puntland. Living in extremely adverse conditions, IDPs residing in Bossaso lacked access to basic essential services, faced physical violence, and suffered from insecure land tenure and limited income generation opportunities.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the project was to improve the human security of IDPs residing in Bossaso by providing durable solutions for their protection, reintegration and resettlement. Specifically, the project sought to: (i)

reduce incidences of physical and gender-based violence; (ii) expand access to basic services; and (iii) improve opportunities for economic activity and recovery.

BENEFICIARIES

The project improved the human security of over 11,000 IDPs, secured land for the permanent

resettlement of 900 IDP families, and assisted IDPs as well as host communities in their economic recovery.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

(i) The project strengthened the knowledge and the capacities of local law enforcement, the judiciary, and Government officials in the legal rights and the protection of IDPs. This, in combination with training provided to IDPs on their rights, as well as the rights of women and children against domestic and gender-based violence, resulted in significant improvements in the protection, security and safety of those living in

IDP settlements. At the same, the engagement of both the IDPs and the host communities in the implementation of the project gave rise to greater collaboration between the IDPs and the host communities. As a result, tensions among these groups declined resulting in greater partnerships and social cohesion.



(ii) The project also helped improve the overall human security of those living in IDP settlements. This was achieved by upgrading existing and temporary shelters; providing access to clean drinking water; and improving hygiene and sanitation through the installment of latrine facilities, the provision of soap for hand washing, as well as training on methods to reduce incidences of acute diarrhea. In addition, the project developed a systematic fire response mechanism in each settlement by raising awareness, establishing fire response committees, and developing contingency plans that allow the IDPs to more

effectively respond to fire outbreaks – a recurring event in the settlements.

(iii) Lastly, the project successfully provided durable solutions for the resettlement and reintegration of IDPs. In addition to securing sufficient land for the permanent resettlement of 900 IDP families, the project also provided vocational training based on the needs identified by the target beneficiaries. As a result, 260 people were trained and empowered to start their own businesses, providing them with a sustainable source of income and creating avenues for further integration into the local communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

By capitalizing on the expertise and the knowledge of local, national and UN counterparts, the project encouraged synergies among humanitarian, development and human rights actors. This resulted in the development of solutions that gave rise to more immediate and tangible improvements in the daily lives of the IDPs. Meanwhile, by engaging local and national authorities in the development and implementation of the project, durable and sustainable solutions to the specific needs of the IDPs were

identified. Among these, the acquisition of permanent settlements for displaced populations was an important achievement. Lastly, through the establishment of participatory processes among the IDPs and the host communities, the project was able to reduce conflicts and tensions between the IDPs and the host communities. The combined impact of these interventions led to significant improvements in the protection, resettlement and reintegration of IDPs in Bossaso.