



FINAL REPORT

FOR

MIDTERM EVALUATION

OF

**MIDNIMO PROJECT TO MAXIMIZE
PEACEBUILDING IMPACT IN JUBBALAND, SOUTH
WEST AND HIRSHABELLE STATES,
SOMALIA**

Prepared By: Axiom Monitoring and Evaluation Limited

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ACRONYM

AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhea
CAG	Community Action Group
CAP	Community Action Plan
CBM&E	Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
CBP	Community-Based Planning
CFT	Core Facilitation Team
CDRC	Community Dispute Resolution Committee
DDP	District Development Plan
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FMS	Federal Member State
FO	Field Observation
HLP	Housing Land and Property
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JPLG	Joint Programme on Local Governance and Service Delivery
JRIA	Jubbaland Refugee and IDP. Agency
KII	Key Informant Interview
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MoI	Ministry of Interior
NDP	National Development Plan
PEM	Public Expenditure Management
PBF	Peace Building Fund
SWS	South West State
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN TFHS	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
YES	Youth Employment in Somalia Programme
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1st December 2016, IOM and UN Habitat have been jointly implementing the *Midnimo* (meaning “unity”) project to tackle the negative impacts and consequences of displacement on peacebuilding and human security. The project is Government-led and community-driven to ensure a bottom up approach to drive transition and recovery processes in displacement affected communities. The *Midnimo* project is funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF) and the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UN TFHS), and is intended to promote stability in fragile and displacement affected areas of Somalia, as well as the attainment of durable solutions to internal displacement.

The aim of the midterm evaluation was to measure progress against set results, focusing on the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, and to provide evidence-based recommendations to inform the future phase of the *Midnimo* project. All of the following stakeholders were involved in the evaluation: IOM and UN Habitat project staff, community-based groups/teams/committees (created as part of the project), local authorities, federal member states ministries of interior, project staff from PBF, RCO office, UN agencies working on related programmes, and IDP/returnees in the communities.

There are some notable impacts the project has made, but the most important result, which will be explored in more details in the key findings section, is the successful promotion of government-led and government owned projects that ultimately helped in building trust and confidence in government structures and government’s ability to support durable solutions. Even in locations like Hudur, where no infrastructure rehabilitation activity has yet been implemented due to delays after the town planning exercise, the intensive CBP processes and creation of community groups and committees have been praised by all stakeholders, including local authorities, federal member state ministries, IDP/returnee communities, as well as agencies working on similar projects that are making use of the *Midnimo* approach and Community Action Plans (CAP). The fact that IDPs and returnees can sit together with other members of the host community to prioritize activities is one of the innovative aspects of the project which has worked well in terms of promoting inclusive dialogue and aligning projects to the real needs on the ground. In terms of gender and inclusivity, desk review of project reports found that women make 39% of the participants in the CBP processes. In all locations inclusivity in community-based groups and committees is, however, not close to the 40% women inclusion target set by the *Midnimo* project for CAG and CBM&E with percentages indicating 18% and 12% respectively. Women only make up 13% of those involved in the Community Dispute Resolution Committees (CDRC).

The *Midnimo* project has created much needed short-term employment opportunities and discussions with members of the community highlighted the importance of income generation for those who need it most, especially IDP and returnee youth. While creating short-term employment opportunities, community projects rehabilitated or constructed key social and economic infrastructure that benefited everyone. In Kismayo, school construction and rehabilitation projects have created opportunities for children from both host and displaced communities to receive free education and learn together. The projects constructed a livestock market and a market shed in an IDP settlement in Kismayo, providing a base for vulnerable communities to do business, thus promoting income generation and business creation. The construction of a solar powered shallow well, in the IOM shelter site in Madina village, is accessible to IDPs and returnees, and once complete, is expected to improve access to water for household consumption, livestock watering, food security and livelihoods diversification through initiation of all-year-round horticultural enterprises. In Dollow, the *Midnimo* project is upgrading Dollow Airport facilities, with a waiting hall and latrines and members of the community and local government are happy with the short-term employment opportunities generated and the future economic benefits that the project is expected to bring for the district. A football tournament was organized to engage young people, and this was helpful in promoting social cohesion in Dollow. In Baidoa, the rehabilitation of the livestock road has improved accessibility to basic services; for example, an MCH along the road rehabilitated reported an increase in patients’ numbers. Also, the accessibility to the livestock market has improved. Many new settlements could be seen alongside the road, and women also started creating small businesses in the vicinity of the road. Income from the cash for work activities resulted in some of the beneficiaries reconstructing their shelters in Kismayo. Lastly, in Hudur, the project is at the initial stages in terms of infrastructure projects as no projects have yet been implemented; nevertheless, the community has identified the participatory process so far to be beneficial to the community in bringing about cohesion and integration; improving the relationship between the community and local authority; and responding to the need of the community. The CAP has

been drafted and presented to relevant ministries in South West State (SWS), and this methodology has been incorporated into the drafting of the Land Law for SWS, another important achievement of the project.

Perception surveys found overwhelmingly positive opinions on project's impact in terms of improved understanding of joint planning and improved perception of physical safety. Overall, 85% and 90% of respondents from FGDs across all locations answered yes when asked if they have a better understanding of joint planning/CBP and if different groups understand how to work together towards similar goals. On questions related to security, 97% of respondents believe the project brought improvements to security in their community and to their own physical safety. Responses on all questions are positive in Dollow and Kismayo, but Baidoa had the highest percentage of negative responses on questions related to understanding CBP and common vision. The surveys also found it is women in Baidoa who, when asked these questions, answered negatively.

The trainings provided to Core Facilitation Teams (CFTs), Community Action Groups (CAGs), Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation Committees (CBM&E), Community Dispute Resolution Committees (CDRC), and local authorities were useful for beneficiaries to better understand and gain skills on different topics such as land dispute resolution (land law, city planning, housing, land and property (HLP) and land dispute management, peacebuilding), community consultation, information management and community-based planning, as well as conflict management, disaster cycle management, protection and channels of communication. Interviews with members of these groups and local authorities confirm that capacity building strengthened their technical capacities. However, these groups cannot operate without donor/government support since they work on a volunteer basis, do not have offices, and are not paid allowances for transportation nor salaries.

In terms of strategies and legislative processes, the project has made considerable progress in Baidoa and Kismayo. In Baidoa, the project supported the drafting of the land law in conjunction with the government to regulate land administration, regional and town planning as well as land conflict resolution; the law is yet to be approved through parliament, but stakeholders are hopeful that it will be approved. In Kismayo, the trainings for government officials positively shaped the establishment of the land commission to directly address issues of conflict and displacement, showing the strong commitment by the government in supporting durable solutions for displaced communities.

Recommendations to improve future phases of *Midnimo* are geared towards ensuring technical and financial sustainability of community structures created, which is necessary to maintain the positive outcomes achieved to date, and sustain the community infrastructure prioritized through the CBP processes. This would also require a stronger focus upon area based planning for the affected communities to concentrate the improvement of community infrastructure linked to long-term development horizon and short-term benefits for livelihood activities. In addition, this would require greater financial support through salaries, allowances, office space, but also more formal ToRs for community groups, to formalize their role. Recommendations also emphasize the importance of creating employment and promoting self-employment and access to finance as complementary interventions that can add onto the short-term nature of cash for work. For communities, the needs are many, and in different districts, the evaluation highlights the expectation and priorities that communities would prefer to see implemented. However, technical screening of priority projects and close coordination with local and state authorities remains crucial to foster implementation schedules and delivery rate. Generally, these recommendations are responsibilities of the Government, and steps have been taken by IOM and UN Habitat to request written commitment from the line ministry in maintaining and operating community structures and taking forward the implementation of CAP priorities.

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Having undergone years of protracted conflict and violence, Somalia has made positive steps towards peace and stability, culminating in the 2012 Transitional Federal Government, the first internally recognized government since the beginning of the civil war. Together with the federalism and decentralization processes in Somalia, the country is making considerable efforts towards state-building and inclusive governance.

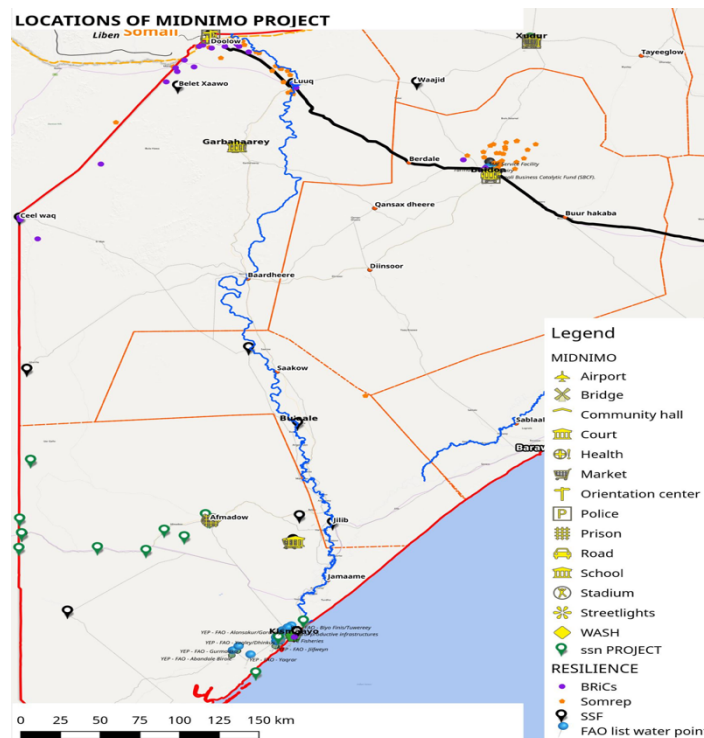
The waves of conflict and violence, coupled with competition over natural resources, recurrent natural disasters, and clan clashes are resulting in waves of displacement that contribute to instability and tensions amongst communities. In fact, drought, insecurity and conflict remain key drivers of displacement in the country, and inevitably, the years of conflict and instability challenge the resilience of vulnerable communities like IDPs and returnees and their coping mechanisms.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data on displacement in Somalia estimates that there are over 2.6 million IDPs in Somalia, who continue to be amongst the most vulnerable communities requiring urgent assistance in many areas such as nutrition, protection, access to water, sanitation and shelter¹.

Jubbaland and South West State are two of the regions with the largest numbers of IDPs and returnees. The effects of armed conflict against Al-Shabaab, interclan clashes, and effects of drought, famine and floods have created a very large displacement crisis in the state. There are an estimated 148,000 IDPs in Jubbaland, of which 42,000 live in Kismayo and the number of Somali refugees who fled Jubbaland after the war broke out is approximately 500,000, most of whom are now resident in camps in Kenya and Ethiopia and make up the majority of returns to Jubbaland².

As of April 2017, 85% of displacements were from the Bay region, and as of end of January 2018, over 270,000 IDPs had arrived in Baidoa since November 2016, surpassing the host community population in Baidoa town estimated at 200,000 people. The number of IDP settlements also increased from 261 in November 2017 to 305 in January 2018³. These patterns of displacement create different dynamics with host community, with increased competition over resources being a contributing factor for tensions and distrust between displaced and host communities.

Responding to the displacement of persons either by climate change and the subsequent drought that followed or due to armed conflicts within Somalia and the intended closure of the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya and eventual return of refugees, *Midnimo* was conceptualized. *Midnimo* means unity in Somali and it began on 1st December 2016, originally expected to end on 30th November 2018, but now expected to be operational until 31st of August 2019, thanks to a cost extension for the project which also saw the expansion of the project into Balcad district of Hirshabelle State. As a project it contributes to the attainment of durable solutions in areas impacted by displacement and returns in line with the Somalia National Development Plan (NDP). Jointly implemented by IOM and UN-HABITAT, the program received an initial funding of \$2.7 million from the Peace Building Fund (PBF) to be implemented in Jubbaland



¹UNHCR: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/64858_0.pdf

² UN Draft Area Based Durable Solutions Action Plan, 2018: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59394adc893fc080a39af409/t/5a2146c6ec212d686cb2165b/1512130258481/Joint+Area+Based+Durable+Solutions+Action+Plan_Kismayo.pdf

³ OCHA State-by-State Drought Analysis, 2018: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20180228_state-by-state_drought_analysis.pdf

(districts of Kismayo, Garbaharey, Afmadow and Dollow) and South West State (districts of Baidoa and Hudur). An additional \$ 2 million was requested from UNHTFHS to implement the project in Jubbaland (Kismayo and Afmadow districts).

2. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The *Midnimo* project is designed to provide a bridging support package, between humanitarian interventions and medium and longer-term development interventions, to groups affected by displacement and promote peaceful reintegration of returnee and other migrant groups within their host communities. In doing so, the *Midnimo* project intends to build local leadership capacities by empowering local authorities, IDPs, returnees, and existing communities to engage in a participatory and inclusive consultation process to mutually define the solutions to their needs. The *Midnimo* project thus contributes to both Peacebuilding Priority Plan outcomes and focuses on the first and second steps of the Wadajir Framework (Social Healing and Governance in Practice and Peace Dividend Projects). In summary, the project:

- Promotes durable solutions for returnees and IDPs,
- Increases their social cohesion with host community, and
- Improves governance at the Federal Member State and district levels in urban and peri-urban settings in Somalia.

The core activities of the projects are:

- Inclusive Community Planning
- Development, Implementation and Referral of Community Action Plans
- Cultural Arts and Sports Events
- Land Legal Frameworks through Participatory Land and Urban Planning
- Land Dispute Resolution

The project is currently being implemented in Jubbaland State (Kismayo, Dollow, Garbaharey, Afmadow); South West State (Baidoa, Hudur) and Hirshabelle State (Balcaad), with future expansion into Hirshabelle and Galmudug states under the second phase of the project (*Midnimo II*). *Midnimo II* is not only an extension of *Midnimo I*, but has additional specific components, specifically responding to the request of the FGS and President of Hirshabelle State to build on the outcomes of the reconciliation conference organized by the Government in January 2018. *Midnimo II* is also aiming at expanding the time horizon to implement activities in Balcaad and ensure improved alignment between activities funded by UNTFHS and PBF in Jubbaland. The evaluation only focuses on the pilot districts of Kismayo, Dollow (Jubbaland state), Baidoa and Hudur (South West State) from the project start (December 2016) to September 2018. The aim of the evaluation is to highlight the lessons learned and best practice based on the progress of the project. While large-scale impacts cannot be expected at this stage, the evaluation pays particular attention to the perceptions of the key stakeholders like the government, communities and various groups implementing and monitoring the CAPs, as well as perception of vulnerable youth, displaced communities and concrete impacts of community implemented projects on the ground.

The evaluation looked at the effectiveness, efficiency, outcomes and prospects for sustainability of activities. Due to the linkages of the project with various initiatives related to governance, employment, peace building, stabilization and rule of law, the evaluation also collected information from stakeholders beyond IOM and UN Habitat to better understand synergies between programmes and the level of collaboration and complementarities with other projects, including those funded by the PBF, to assess the catalytic effect of *Midnimo*.

The following are the objectives of the midterm evaluation:

1. To evaluate implementation of the project against set results, using existing data and evidence.
2. To evaluate the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, contribution towards impact and sustainability of the project.

3. To provide recommendations to enhance project relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, networks/linkages and collaboration, sustainability and achievement of results as well as recommendations that will improve monitoring of progress benchmarks and results

Based on the initial debriefing discussion with IOM and UN Habitat *Midnimo* staff, the evaluation team identified specific considerations and areas of focus which include mapping the historical context and changes within the *Midnimo* programme from 2016-2018, the catalytic effects of *Midnimo* in relation to the broader peacebuilding framework in Somalia, the perceptions of communities and Government on their level of involvement and inclusion in the project.

3. METHODOLOGY

The midterm evaluation of the *Midnimo* project employed qualitative data collection techniques including a desk review of primary and secondary data from directly available documents and online sources, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, field observations and perception surveys. Field data collection was conducted in Kismayo, Dollow, Hudur and Baidoa, as well as Mogadishu in order to interview key informants from IOM and UN Habitat Project staff, and key persons from UN agencies involved in peacebuilding, employment and governance programming.

Data collection took place between October and November 2018 in Kismayo, Dollow, Hudur, Baidoa and Mogadishu. At the request of IOM staff, a short perception survey was delivered to participants of the focus group discussions in all target locations to look specifically at indicators related to perceptions on the joint planning and improvements in physical safety and security. The perception surveys were delivered using Axiom ME call center and took place between 28th and 29th of January 2019. The timing of the perception surveys is important to note, as various factors could have influenced answers in Baidoa due to the events surrounding the SWS Presidential Election which took place on 19th December 2018 and the resulting deterioration of the security situation.

3.1 Desk review

The desk review phase of the evaluation gathered all documentation received from IOM and UN Habitat, with focus on the project documents, final reports, semi-annual reports, and the CAPs. The desk review findings are used in this report to complement the findings obtained through field data collection and as a means to triangulate data to ensure the validity of findings. The desk review information is provided in this report to map the historical context and changes within the *Midnimo* project from 2016-2018, analyzing the gender and social inclusion aspect of CBP processes and lastly, the catalytic effects of the *Midnimo* project.

3.2 Qualitative techniques

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted face to face with key individuals involved in the project. For this reason, purposive sampling was utilized to ensure that the selection of key informants was appropriate to collect the most relevant information required to achieve the goals of the midterm evaluation. Due to the large number of stakeholders in the *Midnimo* project, KIIs were tailored to different groups as follows:

1. *Government*: local government representative (municipalities/District- DC or Mayor) and state level government representative (SWS and Jubbaland state Ministry of Interior).
2. *Project staff*: staff from IOM and UN Habitat in the target locations, including Mogadishu.
3. *Members of community bodies*: CAGs, CBM&E, CDRC.
4. *Other agencies*: project staff involved in the Joint Programme Local Governance and Service Delivery (JPLG), Youth Employment in Somalia (YES) Project, DSRSG/RCO/HC, UNHCR, PBF Coordinator.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) collected in-depth information from members of the community directly and indirectly benefiting from the *Midnimo* project. A core aspect of the project is the implementation of Community Action Plans (CAPs) through inclusive planning processes, hence understanding how these community projects are prioritized and how they benefit local communities was explored with members of displaced communities and members of vulnerable host communities. Three FGDs were organized in each district with women, youth and men from IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host

communities. Purposive sampling was used to select individuals of similar demographic groups to form a sample group, consisting of 6-8 people. Discussions were conducted in a culturally appropriate manner, with separate focus group discussion for men, women, and youth. This approach made participants comfortable, and more willing to express their opinions.

Field observations (FOs) targeted a sample of rehabilitated or constructed infrastructure which was important to validate the implementation of these activities and provide feedback to the IOM and UN-Habitat teams on the status and impact of these projects on the community. High quality photos were taken as part of each field visit which are provided to as interactive map in the annex of the report. The field observations look at accessibility, functionality, progress, maintenance, and sustainability of the infrastructure in question (either works that were completed or those in progress).

Case studies were collected from beneficiaries (both direct and indirect) of the *Midnimo* project in all target districts. Selection of the beneficiaries was refined to collect human interest stories from those living in the vicinity of implemented community-based projects. As much as possible, the team obtained information from vulnerable women to understand gender-based challenges and opportunities for vulnerable women resulting from the implementation of *Midnimo*. While the human-interest stories included in this report portray the experiences of specific individuals, they highlight broader lessons learned and recommendations for the wider project.

Perception Survey: these surveys included 4 questions aimed at collecting specific information on the number of respondents expressing a better understanding of joint-planning and a common vision, and perceiving improvements on their physical security in the communities. The Axiom ME team called all 106 participants to FGDs, and 89 of them responded to the survey.

The table below summarizes the response rates for qualitative data collection methods employed for the midterm evaluation

Technique	Location				
	Mogadishu	Baidoa	Hudur	Kismayo	Dollow
KII	7	12	7	11	8
FGD	n/a	3	3	3	3
FO	n/a	3	n/a	2	1
Case study	n/a	1	1	1	1
Perception Survey	n/a	25	31	11	22

3.3 Evaluation Limitations

The evaluation team did not experience major challenges during data collection. In some instances, as with the case of Mogadishu and Baidoa, respondents were not available to be interviewed as they were busy or absent, but the evaluation team mitigated these problems by interviewing additional persons from the same organization/institution to collect more information. In the case of Mogadishu, the evaluation team conducted interviews via Skype for participants who were not available for face-to-face interviews. In Hudur, difficulties in coordinating with project contacts on the ground resulted in delays during data collection. This evaluation is limited in time allocated, sample size, specific location of the study and findings should be understood to be within the period of the study.

4. General Findings

4.1 Mapping the Historical Context, Changes within the *Midnimo* Project and catalytic effects

The programme has experienced some changes in its programming. In 2018, *Midnimo* was able to expand into two new districts which were not initially proposed. The district of Hudur in SWS was a new addition (instead of the initially planned Afgoye district) as well as the district of Balcad which also expanded the scope of the project to another state – Hirshabelle State. Similarly, with expansion to new locations, *Midnimo* was able to secure additional funding of \$500,000 from the Peacebuilding Support Office which supports existing projects but also provided the chance for *Midnimo* not only to expand, but also to support community prioritized public works outside the funding scope of *Midnimo*.

According to the project staff from IOM and UN Habitat, the *Midnimo* concept evolved to include federal government, local authorities and federal member states directly into the project to take the lead in implementation. This strategy differentiates *Midnimo* from other programmes, because it essentially facilitates the government to lead implementation and take ownership of the project, which they would not have had the capacity nor resources to do. In fact, the project is implemented by government, host communities and displaced communities, who prioritize activities, and during the prioritization process, a sense of trust and community cohesion is promoted. The *Midnimo* project was also flexible enough to directly respond to the new stabilization initiatives and the influx of returnees from Dadaab to Kismayo and Baidoa, and as part of this response, cooperation with government and other agencies in the field was essential. It is notable that *Midnimo* project has managed to make sure that the voices of IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable groups are on a par with those of the host communities, which is encouraging for future participation of these groups, especially in relation to urban planning and land conflict resolution.

Midnimo project staff acknowledge certain activities which were done differently from previous programming, such as a context analysis, conducted with host communities, IDPs and returnees, which marked the first-time different stakeholders were brought together to design a programme. Consultation workshops and having communities decide projects to be implemented marked one of the greatest changes in implementation of the *Midnimo* programme, a point expressed by all stakeholders ranging from local communities, local authorities and displaced groups in Baidoa, Hudur, Kismayo and Dollow. Previously, there were no CAPs, but these are now available at district level and highlight all priorities based on context-specific analysis of needs and solutions. The CAPs avoid duplication of activities in the districts, hence they serve as a reference point for a wide range of actors implementing in the target locations. The project closely aligns with government priorities such as the Wadajir framework, state recovery and stabilization frameworks, state development priorities and NDP which reinforces the ownership of the government and their vested interest in seeing the project succeed, as stated by MoI Jubbaland and SWS. The expansion of the project in later phases of *Midnimo* to more districts in SWS and Hirshabelle shows the increased scope of the project over the years.

At the local level, the CBP processes are having catalytic effects in the areas where they have occurred. In the preplanning process in Hudur, Baidoa, Kismayo and Dollow, there was involvement of multiple stakeholders –state representatives, district officials, councilors (only in Hudur) and governors; and UN agencies - this shows the project has created important linkages from the communities to the different levels of government as well as to other partners. According to *Midnimo*, the resulting identified solutions from the CBPs are being linked and integrated into “Federal Member State (FMS) and national peacebuilding, conflict resolution, anti-poverty and other transitional and development plans such as the FMS Stabilization Priority Plans in Somalia.”

Midnimo is a catalyst in scaling-up peacebuilding efforts via UN agency, other donors and development agencies. Since its inception there has been an increase in funding from UN TFHS which has seen the project expand in Jubbaland and Peacebuilding Support Office to expand into Balcad. According to the *Midnimo* semi-annual report, partners involved in working with *Midnimo* are UNDP YES/DALDHIS, UNHCR-led PBF project and EU funded REINTEG which are supporting priority public works projects and complementing *Midnimo*'s work in Baidoa and Kismayo. The *Midnimo* project is increasingly collaborating with other agencies and working directly with agencies like UNDP in the JPLG programme, UNICEF, ILO, NRC, DRC,

and FCA to avoid overlapping of activities. UNDP, for example, was involved in the design of the *Midnimo II* project, and essentially, JPLG builds on *Midnimo*. An interview with a UNDP staff involved in the JPLG programme notes that the agency has adopted the CAPs and utilizes these to prioritize their own interventions. The reason for this is because of the complementarity between the JPLG and *Midnimo* project; *Midnimo* essentially creates the conditions for effective local governance and JPLG builds on this aspect of the project to implement its activities. This highlights the success of *Midnimo* in influencing decision-making and ensuring that projects complement each other, rather than duplicate each other. While agencies maintain their own management plan and incorporate the community action plan, different projects can address similar issues in a more comprehensive manner. UNDP, for instance, is part of a consortium implementing the YES programme. UNDP interventions focus on creating youth employment, while the *Midnimo* project also promotes employment, but through the implementation of community infrastructure priorities and counseling, therefore complementarity is important with agencies working on achieving different goals in the same location and targeting similar groups of beneficiaries. Coordination meetings, project planning meetings, and steering committee meetings included staff from other agencies and programmes, hence the *Midnimo* project is creating linkages and facilitating coordination. Interviews with key staff working in complementary programming confirmed that collaboration occurred in the areas of capacity building for local councils, youth rehabilitation and youth employment generation initiatives. In the second phase of *Midnimo*, stakeholders from other agencies hope for greater community engagement in terms of working on CAPs alongside enhancing participation of minority groups, vulnerable people and addressing gender issues in the communities. The representation of different socio-economic groups was well known by IDPs and returnees who took part of the evaluation, and this form of representation had a positive impact on peacebuilding, which can be seen from the fact that in none of the towns did community members report conflicts, tension or violence throughout the implementation of *Midnimo*. Findings, to be explored in the key findings section show that the project has not created any tensions between displaced and host communities in any of the location, and despite challenges, communities are learning to live together, discuss and plan initiatives in a collaborative manner.

Because *Midnimo* works so closely with the government, and because it is a government-led programme, other agencies like UNDP see *Midnimo* as inevitably linked to their own interventions in the target locations. Any agency which works in supporting government institutions and officials to promote government led interventions, is part of the “*The Midnimo Project*” in its approach, where the government is the lead. UNDP, for instance, was involved in training government officials on decentralizations to improve service delivery to the communities by linking community-based groups with government. This is an example of how different projects are working together, under the overarching *Midnimo* approach, to promote peacebuilding and development at local level. *Midnimo* is also exemplary in the way it acts as a reference point for various PBF Projects and non-PBF projects. An interview with a UNHCR staff confirms the close collaboration with IOM on the UNHCR PBF project named the Somalia-Kenya Cross-border project, where IOM is an implementing partner, and *Midnimo* provides complementarity on many aspects of this project. Out of the 5 projects under the PBF, 3 of them directly use *Midnimo* CAPs for designing their projects and selecting beneficiaries. According to UNHCR staff, there is complementarity, as PBF utilizes the *Midnimo* approach and builds on the activities implemented under the latter through the CAPs. Furthermore, duplication is avoided because communities have a strong understanding of the different project’s strategies, and the various activities agencies are working in.

In the process of strengthening local governance, by building capacities of local and state level government, the *Midnimo* project has been successful in creating an enabling environment for the promotion of durable solutions and improved relationships between members of the host community, IDPs and returnees. The project is in line with the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) in the implementation of community plans, and since the project engaged displaced communities in decision-making, addresses their basic needs and their ability to increase cohesion and unity in the community, it is promoting peacebuilding. As will be later explored in the key findings section of the report, the strongest aspect of the project, beyond only the implementation of the infrastructure projects, is the sense of belonging expressed by displaced groups who feel not only involved but heard. As many stakeholders interviewed, ranging from the community-based groups, to the government, from *Midnimo* staff, to staff from other agencies working in similar programming pointed out, what makes *Midnimo* different from other projects is the meaningful role played by IDPs and returnees. This “multi-sectoral” and “multi-community” project, as it has been defined by a key informant working on governance, is unusual in the Somalia setting, and it is what makes it innovative. The project is building durable solutions by tackling the most important needs of communities, like health, education, wash, roads, livelihoods and is strengthening the capacity of communities to deal with conflict,

in particular land disputes. In doing so, local governance and the aspect of reconciliation between host and displaced communities is strengthened. Government credibility and trust from displacement affected communities is also reinforced.

4.2 Gender and Social Inclusion

The *Midnimo* peacebuilding and stability approach has an emphasis on inclusive participation. Inclusive participation according to *Midnimo's* annual report and quarterly report, involves gender balance as well as different socio-economic groups which are community defined to participate in community driven processes.⁴

Gender participation in community driven processes in Jubbaland State and South West State

Process by gender Locations	Community Based Planning (CBP) meetings		Community Action Groups (CAGs)		Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation (CBM&E)		Community Dispute Resolution Committee (CDRC)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Dollow ⁵	49	51	9	2	4	0	N/A	N/A
Baidoa ⁶	69	31	19	3	4	0	8	1
Hudur ⁷	75	45	7	3	3	1	N/A	N/A
Kismayo ⁸	116	74	9	2	4	1	5	1
Sub-total	309	201	44	10	15	2	13	2
Total	510		54		17		15	

The above table details the participation of the different genders in the various community driven processes in Dollow, Baidoa, Hudur and Kismayo. The overall participation in the CBP meetings indicates that a large number of women were included as compared to those in the CAGs, CBM&E, CFT and CDRC. Percentage-wise, women make 39% of the participants in the community-based planning process.

According to the project document “the project will ensure at least 40% of the CAG and CBM&E members to be female.”⁹ The above data indicates that there are a disproportionately lower numbers of women in CAGs and CBM&E as compared to men, with percentages indicating 18% and 12% respectively. The discrepancies are greater when focusing on individual locations; for instance, the CBM&Es in Dollow and Baidoa consist of no women. Furthermore, in the CAGs, which consist of more members, women remain under represented; for example, in Baidoa there is a 22-member CAG consisting of 19 male and 3 females. Looking at the reporting on the output investigating the formation and equitability of CAGs and CBM&E of the same locations, the statements “the CAGs and CBM&E have equitable male and female representation...” and “each CAG is comprised of three women and four men, and each CBM&E is made up of four women and three men”¹⁰ cannot be ascertained. This raises questions regarding gender balance, women empowerment and capacity building of women within *Midnimo* decision-making structures.

According to *Midnimo* reports¹¹ 7 out of 14 outputs focus specifically on gender, which means they were “designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment”¹² but only two outputs explicitly mention consideration of gender – output 2.1 and 2.3. This creates a challenge in terms of identifying, implementing and measuring the ways in which gender is mainstreamed in the remaining five outputs.

Inclusive participation is another necessary aspect of the *Midnimo* project. This involves the participation of the various socio-economic groups identified¹³. Sampling the CBM&Es below, various aspects of

⁴ Final report- Midnimo annual progress report, 2017

⁵ Data on Dollow – Updated CAP

⁶ Data on Baidoa – Baidoa Community Action Plan, 28 Sept. 2018

⁷ Data on Hudur– Hudur Community Action Plan. Feb, 2018

⁸ Data on Kismayo – Kismayo Community Action Plan Updated

⁹ Project Document – Peace Building Fund-Somalia_Midnimo

¹⁰ Final report – Midnimo annual progress report, 2017 –

¹¹ This is in every period of reporting from quarter 1 of first year (2017) to the most recent report of quarter 1 of 2018)

¹² Final report – Midnimo annual progress report, 2017

¹³ Group includes widows, youth, orphans, the elderly, elders, people living with disabilities, livestock and crop farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders from IDPs, returnees and host communities across clan divide.

inclusivity were fulfilled especially in Baidoa, Hudur and Kismayo. For Dollow, the CBM&E composition majority involves government representatives, which challenges the idea of inclusivity especially in terms of embracing returnees and IDPs as well as keeping the process community owned and driven. Findings show that women are generally happy with their level of involvement especially at the community-based planning meetings, they are however not well represented in the other community-based committees which Midnimo set project target of 40% was not achieved.

CBM&E Composition

Baidoa		
No	Sex	Affiliation/Title
1	M	Returnees
2	M	Wadajir Village/HC
3	M	Waberi/Host Community
4	M	IDPs

Hudur		
No	Sex	Affiliation/Title
1	M	IDP
2	F	Business group
3	M	Community elder
4	M	Returnee

Kismayo		
No	Sex	Affiliation/Title
1	M	Spiritual Leader
2	M	Traditional Elder
3	F	Women group member
4	M	Civil Society member

Dollow		
No	Sex	Affiliation/Title
1	M	District commissioner (DC)
2	M	Deputy DC
3	M	Religious leader
4	M	District Humanitarian coordinator

Social Inclusion

Examining the CDRC in the tables below, it can be said that in Baidoa, the committee is more inclusive than in Kismayo. In Baidoa the committee involves individuals from varying spheres of the society whereas in Kismayo, the committee is made up of community elders with the exception of representation from women's group. Despite the inclusivity in Kismayo's CDRC, there is a noticeable lack of involvement of returnees and IDPs in both locations. This is important especially considering that conflict may arise regarding resources may involve individuals from the exempted groups.

CDRC composition

Baidoa		
No	Sex	Title
1	M	District Youth
2	F	Youth
3	M	Youth
4	M	Youth
5	F	Youth
6	M	Elder
7	M	Business Man
8	F	Women group
9	M	Religious
10	M	Religious
11	M	Elder

Kismayo		
No	Sex	Title
1	M	Farjano Community Elder
2	M	Alanley Community Elder
3	M	Shaqalaha Community Elder
4	M	Gulwade Community Elder
5	F	Women group

The community action groups on the other hand satisfy the inclusivity definition provided by the community. As indicated by the tables below, there is involvement of IDPs, returnees, host community;

local elders and leaders, women and youth. Given the disparities in representation of different beneficiary groups in the various community forums, a guiding selection criterion could be developed in order to emphasize gender and inclusive quotas as important to the success of the project and expected outcomes.

Baidoa CAG			Kismayo CAG			Dollow CAG		
No	Sex	Affiliation/Title	No	Sex	Affiliation/Title	No	Sex	Affiliation/Title
1	M	IDPs- Duurow umbrella	1	M	Alanley Village	1	M	Qansaxley IDP leader
2	M	IDPs-Mey nii dan eh umbrella	2	M	Shaqalaha Village	2	F	Women group
3	M	IDPs- Daryel Bulsho umbrella	3	M	Gulwade Village	3	M	Village leader
4	M	IDPs- Bakool umbrellas	4	M	Farjano Village	4	M	Village leader
5	M	IDPs- Udub umbrella	5	M	Fanole Village	5	M	Village leader
6	M	IDPs- Moy Hoderesi umbrella	6	M	IDP	6	M	Village leader
7	F	IDPs- Daacad umbrella	7	F	IDP	7	M	Kabasa IDP leader
8	M	IDPs- Hirme Liiban umbrella	8	M	IDP	8	F	Women group
9	F	Returnees	9	F	Returnee	9	M	Youth
10	F	Returnees	10	M	Returnee	10	M	Village leader
11	M	Returnees	11	M	Returnee	11	M	Imam
12	M	Returnees	Hudur CAG					
13	M	Darusalam Village	No	Sex	Affiliation/Title			
14	M	Isha Village	1	M	Village leader			
15	M	Salamey Village	2	F	Youth group			
16	M	Adaado Village	3	F	IDP			
17	M	Howl Wadaag Village	4	M	Village leader			
18	M	Wadajir Village	5	M	Retrunee			
19	M	Bardale Village	6	M	IDP			
20	M	Waberi Village	7	M	Village leader			
21	M	Towfiiq Village	8	F	Women group			
22	M	Horsed Village	9	M	Village leader			
			10	M	Village leader			

Feedback from IDPs, returnees on inclusivity and relevance of the *Midnimo* project

The above analysis is based on feedback from the desk review of the membership of different groups, and while this is a key indicator of inclusiveness, focus group discussions with IDPs and returnees provided an interesting insight onto the representation, inclusion and perceptions surrounding the effectiveness of the project in addressing the needs of IDPs and returnees, which is explored in the key findings section of the report. In all locations, youth, men and women from IDP and returnee communities describe the community-based planning process as inclusive and representative of the different socio-economic groups. Government, host community, representatives from IDPs and returnees, women groups, business groups, religious leaders, minorities and members of marginalized communities were included, and because of this, all activities were seen as reflective of the real needs of the community. In Baidoa, for example, the construction of the feeder road addressed a real need of the community since there were problems of accessibility created by poor road conditions. This benefited host and displaced communities, and since this priority was identified collectively, the project was seen as relevant by both groups. In Hudur, men and youth believe that the community consultation process promoted trust and respect between different groups since *Midnimo* provided the avenue to discuss the most important issues face the community, something which was not possible before. Insecurity is seen as a greatest threat in this town, and displaced communities felt that with the promotion of dialogue, the project is bringing host and displaced groups together. Violence, conflict over land and the threat of Al Shabaab are described as the key factors of instability in this location, hence, a focus group discussion with IDP and returnee women maintains that projects such as the rehabilitation of the police station are vital to promote law and order to minimize conflict in the community.

In Kismayo, discussions with vulnerable women revealed that they fully participated in community-based planning and that their needs were well represented and though they felt that projects implemented so far

addressed the needs of the community, and the government led the implementation, these discussions show great expectations that the government will provide shelter and healthcare too. Nevertheless, women, youth and men in IDP and returnee communities in Kismayo, believe that the project helped tackle the needs for livelihoods through short-term cash for work. In Dollow, IDPs and returnees felt that the rehabilitation of the airport created vital income for the most vulnerable and they saw this as tackling the immediate needs of IDPs and returnees, especially youth. The project was seen as reflecting of the community needs because of the aspect of employment creation, and the hope that the socio economic benefit resulting from upgrading the airport will ultimately benefit the whole community. The next section provides more information on how and why the *Midnimo* project was relevant to the needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities.

4.3 Relevance

In all districts, communities face challenges such as insecurity, displacement, drought, lack of access to basic services, limited livelihoods, and poor access to basic services such as education and water. Land conflict and dispute is a major problem facing communities. Furthermore, while the whole community is affected by the effects of drought, IDPs and returnees face specific challenges related to their displacement status such as lack of shelter and insecurity, looting and violence, as well as gender-based violence.

The communities in the target locations also include the returnees who are from other bordering countries like Kenya and Ethiopia, the IDPs who are from other drought affected or conflict torn zones and the host community who are residents in Baidoa, Hudur, Dollow and Kismayo. The project broke down divisions in these three groups. The *Midnimo* project has tackled some of the challenges facing the community such as access to water, roads, security, rehabilitation of schools and markets, resettlement and integration as a durable solution for the vulnerable communities. These projects have been well-received at local level. Through cash for work activities, the community infrastructure projects implemented in Baidoa, Kismayo and Dollow addressed the pervasive problem of unemployment and underemployment amongst youth by providing short-term employment opportunities which beneficiaries of the project believe is critical to provide much needed livelihoods support.

The project is considered to be relevant to the community as it addresses the needs of the community especially the vulnerable members, whose needs were prioritized. The project is also seen to be aligned to the district council formation process as it involves community consultation process which is foundation for the council formation. The project is linked to the Wadajir framework as it focuses on the first and second steps of social healing and community peace dividend projects. The *Midnimo* project reflects the priorities set in the National Development Plan (NDP), specifically the resilience chapter which is aligned with the community recovery and extension of state Authority (CRESTA) framework. The project is further aligned to the South West State strategic priority 2017-2019 where pillars 2-6 covering economic development, social human development, infrastructure and resiliencies is covered. For Jubbaland State, the project is seen as closely aligning to the NDP, in terms of promoting rehabilitation of key infrastructure and state level priorities on durable solutions and integration of IDPs and returnees. Thanks to the close contribution of the project to government's plans and community priorities, there is unanimous understanding by the communities in the target districts that the government is the main stakeholder and takes the lead, and IOM and UN Habitat remain only the implementing partners.

Local authority is appreciative of the alignment of the *Midnimo* project with the government's priorities, and members of the community-based groups feel engaged and consulted on implementation. In all locations, however, the needs of the communities are many, and the demand for more projects tackling urgent needs is a recurrent point, pointing also to the high expectations which communities have of the *Midnimo* project, which are ultimately responsibilities that the government should take forward. In Kismayo, for example, most of the projects relate to the education, shelter, WASH and livelihoods sector, all important priorities based on the evaluation findings, however, a clear gap lies in implementation of community projects in the health sector, more specifically, support to health facilities. In this location, constructing MCH clinics and hospitals was reported a priority for the community, therefore support to the health care system through rehabilitation and/or construction of MCH clinics and hospitals, in the face of health challenges such as Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and high infant mortality would enhance the project's relevance. In Hudur, the situation is similar, and livelihood, WASH, education, protection and shelter were seen by the community as the main projects which *Midnimo* should implement.

The project was relevant in the way it was designed to promote CBP and security in the communities. The overwhelming majority of FGD respondents have positive perceptions of their ability to understand joint planning/CPB and feel the security situation improved thanks to the project. Overall, 85% and 90% of respondents from FGDs answered yes when asked if they have a better understanding of joint planning/community-based planning and if different groups understand how to work together towards similar goals. On questions related to security, 97% of respondents believe the project brought improvements to security in their community and to their own physical safety. Responses on all questions were positive in Dollow and Kismayo, but Baidoa had the highest percentage of negative responses on questions related to understanding CBP and common vision. The surveys also found it is women in Baidoa who answered negatively these questions. While FGDs and KIIs did not find negative perceptions amongst community members and women in particular, the timing of the perception survey post-SWS Presidential election, the insecurity, and violent demonstrations in Baidoa against Ethiopian troops are factors which should be kept into consideration. It is important to therefore contextualize the findings of the perception surveys for Baidoa by looking at the SWS Presidential Election and its possible effects on social cohesion and security.

5. Specific Findings per Region

5.1 Jubbaland State

5.1.1 Kismayo

Summary

The Midnimo project has made notable achievements in this district and community members are fully aware of the CBP process and overall, pleased with their level of inclusion in decision-making. The successful involvement and ownership of the project from local authorities ensured no challenges during the selection of beneficiaries for CAG, CFT, and CDRC, and moreover, a level of trust has been built between local communities and the government, who is well advanced in promoting initiatives for displacement affected communities.

There is high expectation from the community and community-based groups, as well as local authorities, that the project will implement other key priorities in the health, shelter and WASH sector, because needs are high. It should be remembered that Midnimo and CAPs are ways to facilitate the government and community groups to implement, monitor and take forward other community priorities. School construction and rehabilitation projects have created opportunities for children from both host and displaced communities to receive free education and learn together. The project constructed a livestock market and market shed in an IDP settlements, providing a base for vulnerable communities to do business, thus promoting income generation. The construction of a solar powered shallow well, in the IOM shelter site in Madina Village, is accessible to IDPs and returnees, and once completed, is expected to improve access to water. Micro-finance and business training are lacking amongst vulnerable groups, particularly youth, and providing these are a key recommendation to improve the project. Furthermore, capacity building training for community-based groups and committees needs to be enhanced, as members of these groups and committees feel they would benefit from more frequent trainings. While activities related to infrastructure works were deemed sustainable, because structures are now existing and operational, the financial sustainability of the community-based groups remains a challenge that could affect the sustainability of the project. Amongst the needs of these members, allowances, salaries, office spaces were the most reported by members of these groups and Midnimo project staff.

Effectiveness and Efficiency

In Kismayo, the project has been implemented smoothly, and community groups and committees have been selected without any major setbacks. The Ministry of Interior oversaw the selection of these groups and committees, and members of these groups confirmed that their selection occurred through a voting system inclusive of IDPs, returnees and members of the host communities. Minorities and women from members the host and displaced communities were involved in the selection of these groups, but for the CDRC persons with disabilities were not involved in selection according to a respondent from the local authority. The project ensured the involvement of the government through the CFT to oversee the implementation, identification of beneficiaries, community mobilization and CBP.

Members of the community confirmed that the CBP process effectively engaged all socio-economic groups like widows, youth, orphans, the elderly, elders, people living with disabilities, livestock and crop farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders from IDP, returnees and host communities across the clan divide. In this respect the project was effective in creating platforms for all groups to be involved in decision-making on projects aimed at benefiting the community. Thanks to this CBP process, these group were engaged in a broader dialogue to understand the root causes of conflicts, the priorities in the community, and own the process of community development.

The committees and groups created in Kismayo received various capacity building training to enhance their ability to understand CBP. The CAG, for example, was involved in a 6-day training that covered topics on community consultation, information management and community-based planning, as well as conflict management, disaster cycle management, protection and channels of communication. CDRC members

received similar trainings, with more focus on land conflict resolution and management of cases/disagreement on issues surrounding land.

“The trainings were useful, but they were only conducted twice; we need continuous training and capacity building in order to provide benefits to the community with the skills we learnt”-CAG member

The trainings were received positively and built knowledge and skills amongst members of the committees who passed on the knowledge to more members of the community, through a training of trainers so that these members can in turn raise awareness of important issues like sanitation and community dispute resolution. A problem reported by a member of the CAG was that the number of training received throughout the project period were too few, limiting the ability of members to gain more knowledge and delve deeper into the different trainings received. Nevertheless, the trainings did translate into stronger capacities for community-based groups and for the local authorities too, who drafted the *Midnimo* Hand Book, containing CAP needs to form the basis of the implementation of any projects by international agencies, essentially becoming a reference point for community-based interventions. For the government in particular, the trainings on land dispute resolution (land law, city planning, HLP and land dispute management, peacebuilding) culminated in the creation of the Land Commission to address issues related to land conflict and displacement.

“After the training, we started to advocate more on tackling the land issue challenge which the government responded to by creating the land commission which would hopefully help in solving many problems affecting the community especially the displaced”- Member of the Local Authority

More generally, the project was effective in implementing community infrastructure projects prioritized by the community. Respondents from FGDs were all aware of the implementation of the construction and rehabilitation of schools, shallow wells, latrines, and the livestock market. The implemented projects benefited the community, but also displaced communities, as youth from IDP communities confirmed their involvement in short-term cash for work. Women also reported being actively engaged in the community action planning and decision-making and expressed trust in the government because of its capacity to advocate on HLP issues and oversee the projects implemented. These projects directly impacted on the access to basic services and conflict resolution in the community; the selection of the project was based on the largest needs in the villages and consideration on existing support, as some communities have fewer resources and receive less support, thus are in greater need. Due to the social, security, and economic situation, the needs largely outweigh the support provided through *Midnimo*. Shelter, healthcare, access to finance for self-employment, and improving roads as key priorities which the project has not addressed according to FGDs. Interviews with members of the CAG, for example, highlighted many important needs for the community which are not yet implemented like providing teacher salaries, nurses salaries, medical supplies, micro-finance, business skills training and more wash and sanitation projects in overcrowded IDP and returnee settlements. These needs all match those expressed by vulnerable communities, leading some respondents of FGDs to feel that the activities implemented by the project are too few and not addressing other pressing needs.

The high expectations from the project are understandable considering the fact that vulnerable groups require considerable support, and members of the IDP community reported awareness of the fact that every vulnerable youth from the community would like to be involved in the cash for work activities or be involved in more trainings or consultation forums. All stakeholders interviewed, ranging from members of groups and committees, government and *Midnimo* project staff agree that resource allocation of \$41,000 per project is insufficient, and efficiency in implementation is hindered by financial constraints. It should be noted that procurement procedures and technical requirements for construction pose challenges for the agencies involved in *Midnimo*, and that is it hard to match the expectation of the community considering the difficulties faced in procurement processes. While it is understandable that target beneficiaries do not feel \$40,000 is sufficient, projects of this amount that concentrate in specific IDP areas/settlements and link to area-based planning have made drastic differences in the lives of IDPs and returnees in Kismayo.

With regards to efficiency, project staff are aware that the lack of financial incentives provided to community members is a constraint, since most of the people attending workshops decide to forgo their daily work for the duration of the workshop, creating an additional financial pressure. This is particularly problematic, as community members are integral and crucial to the success of the project. Within these financial constraints, the project was implemented in a cost-efficient manner and in line with agreed

workplans. In the opinion of CAG and CDRD members, there were some delays in the implementation of activities from IOM and UN-Habitat side, while all respondents from local authorities with the exception of one, mentioned no delays in implementation of activities. Project staff attributes these delays in implementation to the insecurity and setting-up of roadblocks.

Impact

“The Midnimo project strengthened government structures such as Aqoonside school which was built under the Midnimo project, constructed a livestock market, constructed motorized shallow wells as well renovated the Gulwade school, thus creating and improving the community’s belief in government-led projects.”-
Member of the Local Authority

The *Midnimo* project was successful in building trust between the government and local communities and showing communities that the government is leading in supporting better access to basic services. Government respondents were pleased with the way that UN-Habitat and IOM ensured that the government led the project, which is ultimately why the community has a positive view on the government’s capacities and ability to help displaced people. The process of having communities share their views, be fully involved in planning processes and creating community bodies to share the needs with government, promoted a sense of ownership amongst all stakeholders, and this, in itself, is one of the biggest achievements of the project in Kismayo, also documented in the Urban Profile of this town.

In terms of the implementation of community infrastructure projects, school facilities were rehabilitated as part of the project (upgrading of Gulwade school and construction of the perimeter wall at Aqoonside school) and one of the outcomes of this was integrating more children from host communities and IDP communities to reap the benefits of free education through more appropriate infrastructure for learning, without generating any tensions amongst host and displaced groups. The construction of household latrines in the IDP camp, as well as constructing latrines at Kismayo livestock market, improved hygiene and sanitation amongst IDPs and returnees according to FGDs with women; this was seen as key since poor sanitary conditions in densely populated camps continues to be a serious problem. Interventions such as the rehabilitation of the market shed provided a location for hawkers to sell their products, promoting self-employment amongst vulnerable petty traders, while the construction of the livestock market provided a physical structure for doing business, also encouraging entrepreneurship. IDPs highlighted the positive impacts of *Midnimo* on social cohesion through community wide arts, culture and recreational activities to promote a common identity between host and displaced community across the clan divide. Lastly, the construction of the solar powered shallow well, which was ongoing at the time of the field observation, is expected to improve access to clean and safe water to benefit the wider community, thus tackling the problem of unclean water, poor sanitation and competition over water resources which would otherwise fuel community tension and conflicts. The market also provides water storage for use by buyers and sellers in the market, further improving the availability of clean water in the community.

On impacts related to land dispute resolution there are contradicting findings. Discussions with vulnerable women and men in Kismayo point to the resolution of several land disputes, thanks to the work of the CDRC. The process of land dispute resolutions, according to these discussions, is a fair process, where committee members listen to both sides of cases, look for trusted witnesses, and provide clear evidence, as well as engage with members of the broader community before providing a final verdict. FGDs mention that land disputes in Xafaada Shaqaalaha were resolved by the committee after a long mediation. Interviews with members of the CDRC highlight the high number of conflicts related to land in the community, and the fact that the committee has managed to solve some disputes and is actively engaged in conflict resolution activities. The local authorities attributed the reduction of land dispute cases reported in the district to the work of the committee. Interviews with IOM and UN-Habitat project staff, and CFT and CAG members, however, stated that no disputes were solved and that the lack of capacity of the committee is one of the challenges that limits the committee’s ability to solve conflicts. The differing findings amongst the key stakeholders could point to the lack of communication between the various actors involved in land dispute resolution on the progress of activities of the CDRC.

Solar Powered Shallow Well in Madina village

Key Observations

- The location of the shallow well is in Madina settlement, an IOM shelter-site.
- Construction is ongoing and started in October 2018.
- The water point is expected to be 35-40 meters deep. The surrounding areas/premises are clean.
- The shallow well is located in the centre of the camp, and it is therefore accessible to the majority of households in the settlement.
- At the time of the observation, casual labourers were on site.
- Government, in particular the Ministry of Water and Energy, will provide well trained personnel to take the responsibility of maintenance of the structure.
- No issue pertaining the works was experienced.

Kismayo Livestock Market

Key Observations

- The livestock market is situated in Shaqaalaha village where people from different villages (Shaqaalaha, Alanley, Gulwade, Fanoole and Farjano) can access and bring their livestock to sell in the market.
- The livestock market has enough space to accommodate different livestock such as goats, camels, donkey, cows and sheep and it is functional, with people selling and buying livestock on a daily basis.
- The livestock market is functional, and well ventilated.
- During the field visit, IDPs, returnees were making use of the facility, which was busy at the time. **Approximately 40-50 people make use of the market daily.** The market is operational day and night.
- Communities are appreciative of the project because it also provides shade and a place to rest during hot hours.

Recommendations:

- The market has no fence; a recommendation is for the *Midnimo* project is to allocate funds to fence the livestock market.
- Latrines are used throughout working hours, but the hygiene standards of the latrines are poor. Maintenance is required to ensure the latrines are cleaner.



Figure 1 Kismayo Shallow well



Figure 2: Kismayo Livestock Market

5.1.2 Dollow

Summary

The Project in Dollow is at the initial stages compared to progress made in Kismayo. So far, through CBP processes, the project is upgrading Dollow Airport facilities, with a waiting hall and latrines and members of the community and local government are happy with the short-term employment opportunities generated through the project and the socio economic opportunities this project will bring for the district. A football tournament was organized to engage young people, and this was helpful in promoting social cohesion; the tournament included only 2 teams of the 12 teams available in the district, hence the scope of the activity was limited according to youth who took part in this sporting event. The Midnimo project has experienced delays in the construction of latrines at the airport, and other projects have not yet begun, such as the rehabilitation of Dollow district administration and police station center, construction of MCH at Qansaxley IDP/Returnee camp and the rehabilitation of Dollow orientation center. The CDRC has not yet been established, therefore the report cannot comment on its effectiveness nor any impacts related to resolution of disputes or land conflict in the district. As for the other committees/groups created, there has been no issues in selection of members, except for initial challenges over agreement on villages to prioritize for project implementation, but these challenges were mitigated effectively by the local authority.

The needs of the displaced community are many and implementing other community infrastructure rehabilitation projects would address urgent needs such as healthcare. Projects like farm irrigation, sanitation, construction and rehabilitation of schools and Madrasas, as well as the construction of shelters were mentioned as having the potential to improve the status of displaced communities and vulnerable groups and would enhance the relevance of the Midnimo project. Although the government is trying to mobilize additional resources to enhance its support to displaced communities, the reality is that donor funding and more technical support are required to sustain the project in Dollow, particularly regarding financial support for community-based groups who do not receive any allowances or salaries from the project. Recommendations on the project focus on implementing all remaining priorities in the pipeline as soon as possible, constructing a fence and wall around the airport, and providing more regular trainings and salaries for groups and committees. Moreover, intensive promotion of the CAP and the Dollow Urban Profile, in addition to greater and more efficient coordination amongst local stakeholders to concentrate action on most urgent priorities is crucial to promote peacebuilding in this the town, which acts as a transit point for refugees.

Effectiveness and Efficiency

The vision of the community in Dollow is for *Midnimo* to solve priority needs and to create trust and unity amongst all groups. The community felt involved and engaged in the CBP process, which they described as inclusive of women and youth, who actively participated in dialogue and decision-making. The effectiveness of the project was enhanced by its ability to bring local government at the forefront of the project, and lead in implementation. Local authority roles and responsibilities include participating in consultations meetings, leading in the beneficiary selection, overseeing project implementation, and providing land to IDPs for construction of shelters. State level government, on the other hand, is represented through the core facilitation team, which provides regular updates to the government on the progress of the project.

“The training provided by the project was responding to the gap and needs of the government and they were so helpful to us. These trainings have changed our perception and they are useful.”-Respondent from the Jubbaland Ministry of Interior

Trainings provided to government included land and conflict resolution, land law and city planning, and HLP dispute management, as well as information management, data storing, report writing and information sharing. The government considered these trainings useful and put these trainings into practice through the drafting of the community needs, solving land dispute cases and sharing information with the communities to promote their involvement in decision-making.

Community-based groups were also effectively set-up, and thanks to the *Midnimo* project CAG and CBM&E are operational, with the exception of the CDRC which has not yet been created. No challenges were reported by members of these committees during the selection process. CAG and CBM&E members were selected by representatives from host, IDPs and returnees' communities, and the selection included representation from all groups, like youth, religious committees, education sector, women group's and

persons with disabilities, businessmen and government representatives. Overall, the selection process was seen as transparent and inclusive, as efforts were placed on securing the buy-in of government officials, district authorities and the different communities in the setting-up of these groups and committees.

As with the government, members of the CAG received a 3-day training on community consultation where members were able to express the needs of the community and prioritize the most important interventions, but also share the broader community priorities with other humanitarian agencies. These trainings were considered important by CAG members interviewed because they achieved the goal of creating community priorities and for the members to learn more about community ownership, community integration, conflict management and in turn transferred these skills to other members of the community. Mobilization, awareness campaigns and ToTs for community members are the core activities implemented by the CAG. CBM&E received training on conflict management, disaster cycle management, protection and channels of communication and for these members, and as with CAG members, trainings are seen as important because the effectiveness of project implementation is dependent on the knowledge and skills that the groups and committees obtain through the trainings. The CDRC has not yet been set-up, hence no trainings occurred, and the effectiveness of this committee on resolving land disputes cannot be established at this stage.

“What we learn from the training, when we go back to the community, we also train other community member to benefit from the skills we learnt, and so our skills will reach many people” - CBM&E Member

The infrastructure activity implemented in Dollow is the upgrading of the airport facilities through construction of a waiting hall and latrines; field observations show that the airport is used by IDPs and returnees. Local authority confirmed that more projects will be implemented soon, and these are the rehabilitations of health centers of Qansaxley IDP camp, the rehabilitation of two mayor offices and the fencing of Dollow police station. There are other priorities outlined in the CAP, such as the construction of Kabasa primary school at Kabasa IDP camp and the construction of a main market in this camp. For IDPs and returnees, the upgrading of the airport facilities is seen as a way to facilitate free movement within Somalia, as well as a source of income, as IDPs and returnees are some of the beneficiaries selected to take part in cash for work activities for this project. The project effectively engaged different stakeholders who all benefitted from the project's activities, ensuring its success. For example, because of the close involvement of local authorities in the selection process and overseeing of project implementation, the government experienced good coordination and cooperation with the local community and as a result, is happy with the positive perceptions of the community on their role in the project. Furthermore, some of the respondent from local authority view the relationship between displaced and vulnerable groups as having improved thanks to *Midnimo* with the exception of one respondent from the local authority who stated that much more is to be done to promote trust between government and displaced group and that these groups are not fully satisfied with the government's role.

With regards to the timely implementation of the project, IDPs and returnees from the community do not report any delay of implementation, since the only project implemented so far is the upgrading of the Dollow Airport, but according to the CBM&E there have been delays in activities to construct the latrines at the airport since the construction of latrines had been proposed months ahead but it has only recently started. Field observations confirmed this finding and showed that the construction of the waiting hall and latrines was ongoing at the time of the evaluation. Furthermore, the local authority reports delays in the construction of the MCH, mayor's office, fencing of the local authority compound, and fencing and equipping the airport, showing that implementation is behind schedule in Dollow. It is important to note that in contrast with Kismayo, the local authority in Dollow believes that appropriate financial resources have been allocated for the projects and the budget was considered sufficient to implement activities as per the CAP book. CAG and CBM&E members feel that there are many projects not in the pipeline which would support displaced communities and vulnerable host communities such as farm irrigation, sanitation, construction and rehabilitation of schools and *Madrasas* (Islamic religious schools), as well as the construction of shelters. Although IDPs and returnees are aware of the socio-economic benefits resulting from the upgrading of the Dollow Airport, the main urgent challenges they continue to face which have not been answered through the CBP process are the lack of quality teachers to teach in schools, the lack of health facilities, and the poor road status in Dollow town. While all stakeholders are happy with the airport project, and the economic benefits it will generate, discussions with IDPs and returnees in the community emphasize the lack of projects targeting the major problems in the town, which are schooling, health and roads. Looking at the projects in the pipeline, the rehabilitation of the orientation center and district administration and police station are not projects that would directly solve the lack of adequate education,

healthcare and roads facing communities. Instead, the construction of the MCH, which has not yet started, is the most relevant priority. Furthermore, a review of the CAP details a number of projects which would directly benefit the community, especially IDP and returnees. Based on information from FGDs, and review of CAP priorities, the following projects should be prioritized (with exception of the construction of construction of MCH at Qansaxley IDP/Returnees camp which is already in the pipeline):

- Extension of Durow secondary school (three classrooms and one office)
- Extension of Kabasa primary school
- Rehabilitation of Dollow main road
- Construction of Qansaxley primary school
- Construction of Dolow technical training institute
- Rehabilitation of Dolow general hospital
- Supply of medical equipment for Dolow general hospital
- Supply of medical equipment for Dolow general hospital
- Sanitation activities inside Kabasa IDP camp through CFW
- Sanitation activities inside Qansaxley IDP camp

The evaluation has not found any tensions nor challenges between different stakeholders in selection of priorities, nevertheless, implementing the above priorities would have resulted in more direct benefits for displaced communities, as seen in the case of Kismayo and Baidoa, where projects implemented were concentrated in IDP camps/settlements or nearby these areas.

Impact

“The project has created job opportunities through cash for work and also engaged massive consultation and campaigns, bringing close collaboration, interaction, cohesion and co-existence among the IDPs, returnees and host communities”-Respondent from the Local Authority

For displaced community, the upgrading of the airport is a great achievement of the project because it benefits the community and the government since roads pose a major threat due to fear of Al Shabaab attacks, but with the airport open 5 days a week, and with improved facilities to be constructed, the airport creates a market for neighboring countries like Kenya and Ethiopia. The construction of the airport provided short-term employment for vulnerable youth women and men; based on interviews with MoI, each beneficiary of the cash work received \$6 a day, for 45 days, amounting to a total of \$270.

The creation of the CFT, CAG and CBM&E was seen as a key outcome of the *Midnimo* project in this district. These groups represented the interest of displaced groups and provided support to IDP/returnees, youth and women. IDPs and returnees were directly involved in the identification and submission of their needs and the selection of beneficiaries while youth were involved in cash for work and women are reported to be actively included in decision making process. Furthermore, young people took part in a football tournament which included 2 teams of the original 12 teams planned to take part, which they believe was not properly organized since basic equipment was not available (referee cards, whistles, uniforms, nets, available footballs).

Interview with *Midnimo* staff highlight that there were no major tensions or conflicts experienced during the implementation of the project, and no negative unexpected impacts reported. Certain challenges were experienced in the identification of villages to prioritize projects but the CFT and government officials were able to mitigate these challenges by channeling resources to villages where the need was highest and through negotiation. On the issue of land, the CRDC has not yet been established by the project, but the local authority is involved in resolving land dispute on day to day basis and is providing land for settlements to IDPs and returnees.

Dollow Airport Field Observation

Key Observations

- Upgrading of the waiting hall and two latrines of the Dollow airport commenced in August 2018 and is ongoing.
- The Dollow Airport is in the outskirts of Dollow, 1km away from the town. It is situated on a big compound which is functional and well maintained by the local authority.
- The airport is operational with flights going in and out and security and immigration services being offered. It is mostly used by IDPs and returnees.
- The airport is opened 5 days a week and has 35 permanent staff.
- Construction of the waiting hall is ongoing
- Similarly, construction of the latrines is ongoing and a clear separation of the latrines by gender is visible.
- Observation revealed that the airport is fenced and nicely secured with adequate checking and clearing of people.



Figure 3 Dollow Airport Rehabilitation

5.2 South West State

5.2.1 Baidoa

Summary

The Midnimo project is seen as relevant as it tackles some of the challenges facing the community such as access to water, roads, security, resettlement and integration as a durable solution for the vulnerable communities. The project is also aligned to several national frameworks where it touches on CRESTA, Wadajir framework and district council formation processes. The projects implemented are seen to be effective. Activities such as the rehabilitation of the road has improved the accessibility to basic services. The MCH along the road rehabilitated reported an increase in patients' numbers. Also, the accessibility to the livestock market has improved. Many new settlements could be seen alongside the road. Women also started creating small business alongside the road. The community has praised the cash for work activities as it provides income for the youth, and with this income, some of the beneficiaries have reconstructed their shelters.

Midnimo project is seen by the community as a government led project where the local authority and the committees/groups formed are leading the implementation. The high level of coordination and community engagement/intensive consultation efforts ensured community ownership, and involvement and ultimately a successful approach. This is seen as something that is different in comparison to the previous programming. Midnimo project model is very different from the other existing projects as it directly involved and is implemented by the government, host communities, IDPs and returnees whereby they sit together and prioritize needs and responsive community-based project initiatives. All activities that led to construction are seen as community assets, therefore considered sustainable, but the maintenance of the assets needs to be well defined. Training of the committees is also sustainable as members gained skills to carry out coordination meeting, consultations, settling issues in the community. The community priority, urban profile and land laws are seen as sustainable. The committees are on voluntary basis and may not continue if appropriate sustainability mechanism is not in place.

Recommendations to improve the project in this location include improved regional coordination by bringing together Jubbaland and South West State stakeholders to share successes and failures for learning purposes, as well as expanding collaboration with local and federal institutions. To an extent, this is already happening during quarterly Project Steering Committees, but this recommendation suggests information sharing can be enhanced. Other recommendations include improving/adapting to a more flexible procurement and financial process that does not cause delays in the implementation of the project and expanding outside urban areas/semi urban areas to rural/ to reach more population in where needs are more. Pursuing the area-based planning approach within urban areas to best utilize the limited resources, is a first step towards expansion of the project beyond urban areas

Effectiveness and Efficiency

"The community are positively engaged and are happy with the few projects that have been completed so far including the Isha police station, and the livestock market road." -Respondent from Ministry of Planning

The projects implemented are seen to be effective and road rehabilitation has improved the accessibility to basic services. Alongside the road, there is an MCH, and the workers at the clinic reported that the number of patients increased since the road was rehabilitated. Also, the accessibility to the livestock market has improved. Many new settlements could be seen alongside the road. Women also started creating small business alongside the road. The community have praised the cash for work activities as they improved livelihood, some of those beneficiaries who benefitted have reconstructed their shelters.

The selection process for establishment of the committee is seen as transparent and inclusive. The regional government led the coordination activities, provided oversight and monitoring, supported consultation and ensured the smooth running of the project whereas the local authority provided the community leadership needed to ensure efficiency in community consultation where they were instrumental in analyzing and identifying solutions, providing guidance and advice during community engagement process on clan dynamics. CFT were selected by the government (Office of the Mayor and District Commissioner) through consultation with the community section leaders, like village elders and leaders. CAG was formed

by the CFT with community consultations; appointed leaders from the community were brought together to shortlist people for the community action group. CBM&E were reported to have been formed by the CFT with the community consultations, involving similar gathering as the CAG. Community Dispute Resolution Committees (CDRC) was nominated by the government (office of the Mayor and District Commissioner).

There were several trainings conducted to build the capacity of the committees – training on coordination of consultative meeting, organizing events, solve basic conflicts, creation of SACCO (*ayuto*) within the community and how to manage them and monitor and track project progress. The core facilitation team was trained in information management as well as community-based planning process. The government received further training in civic leadership- the training entailed the need of government agency to ensure that people are aware of their rights and also know their responsibilities. Community cohesion and integration training which brought together different sections of the community and drive toward integrating the returnees and IDPs in the community and ensuring they get the same services and share resources equally. Training in public service activities such as policing, municipal services delivery and public infrastructures training such as housing, land use and settlement.

Challenges such as money sent to the wrong beneficiary, fighting between community members/ neighbours, contribution for burials were resolved by dispute resolution committee. *“Some (18) of the cash for work beneficiaries did not received their monthly payments, some of their numbers were wrong and the payment was made to a wrong number, so we discussed with the local authority and IOM staff, after a long process and mediations between the beneficiaries and the agencies, the numbers were corrected and payments were made.”* The community M&E committee are reported to have also solved some issues within the IDP camps during monitoring, issues of discrimination, dispute between camp leaders and their deputies.

Procurement delays was also mentioned as the cause of some activities not being implemented on time; these are the football field and mental hospital rehabilitation which began in September 2018. Also, the communities took time in decision making of some of the community-based projects that led to some delays, but also shifting of government priorities. The security has also been reported to have improved due to the construction of the Isha Police station.

Impact

“I have learnt that even with no external support, the government and the community can together eradicate vulnerability in the community.” CBM&E Committee Member

The success of the project is characterised by the infrastructure and support provided by the project, such as the livestock market road, police station and cash for work activities. Also, another notable mention of the success of this project is the level of coordination and community engagement efforts which ensured community ownership, involvement and results. The level of engagement and consultation of the government (ministry of planning), is reported to be satisfactory and encouraged other projects such as Daldhis and JPLG to emulate the level of engagement that *Midnimo* has reached. *“the government leading the project instead of the humanitarian agencies is one of the strengthens of the project.”*

The project is seen to have improved the relationship of the government and the community, *“...the government is implementing people’s needs and the people now have more trust and confidence”*. The project has also created a sense of government legitimacy, *“The government at both state level and district level have project facilitation team which are the front staff for implementing the project. I would say that the government is 99% implementing the project”*. The project was reported to also improve the relationship between returnees, displaced communities and host communities. *“...Some returnees got land and its ownership through title deeds. It has reduced the existing tension for the land where IDPs used to settle on privately owned land as well as public without ownership.”*

Youth are reported to be included in the selection process and decision-making processes – they are the majority and take leadership role in all the structures such as the CAG, CFT and CDRC. *Midnimo* has enhanced social cohesion through resources sharing between IDPS, returnees, and host community and the three groups have equality in decision making powers on matter concerning resource sharing. It has also enhanced the cohesion through its consultative meetings where community members are able to discuss common issues and get to know each other and have more interaction. Arts and sports activities are also reported to enhance social cohesion. *“The rehabilitation of a feeder road that will be used by all the*

community members irrespective of whether they are IDPs, returnees or host community and similarly the construction of police station where everyone is served with justice and security is provided to everyone, are components that catalyze social cohesion.” The *Midnimo* project is seen to have a catalytic effect on peace building as it has improved the relationship between the government and community, the IDP/returnees and host community relations. It has also launched initiatives that brought community mainstreaming. These are sporting activities such as football to enhance integration and cultural events such as songs and community dances.

The project made impressive strides on strategy development in the region, such as the development of the Baidoa Urban Profile, the Baidoa and Hudur town planning strategy, the development of the Community Action Plan and the SWS Land Law. The Government’s active involvement in the development of these policies, according to project staff, was evidenced in the participation of high-ranking government officials in the consultations for the drafting of the Land Law to help resettle IDPs and returnees, and City Plans for Baidoa and Hudur. Local authority representatives mentioned, during interviews, that they have been fully involved in the community-planning and prioritization project with 28 priorities, further refined to 16 projects. The local authority praised the work on the land law and UN Habitat support with the city planning process, and more generally, legislative progress, as they see laws and regulations as the strongest way to encourage community members to trust and have confidence in the government. For *Midnimo* project staff, the capacity building activities for the local authorities and state government resulted in greatest coordination and information management within and between different levels of government, which helped execute activities in SWS. There is now greater and better coordination and cooperation amongst agencies, state ministries, governor and district commissioner office.

Field observations

Isha Police Station

- Located near the rehabilitated Isha feeder road enabling accessibility. It is also centrally located as it is 300m from the main road and 1km from the livestock market.
- The police station is newly constructed (March – April 2018), therefore there are still construction materials in the locations.
- There are roughly 15 police working in the office, it has one office room, one check room, two detention rooms, storage rooms, and two latrines. There is not water tank to store water.
- At the time of the observation the station had received some community members. The combined effort of the dispute resolution committee and the presence of the police around has reduced the crime rate.

Livestock Market Road

- The 600m long and 8m wide road is made of gravel and soil found locally.
- The road mainly serve community living in the Isha village, it links to the main road and leads to the biggest livestock market in the whole of Baidoa district.
- The newly constructed road (March -April 2018) is functioning and currently in use by livestock, people and vehicles.
- Roughly estimate places 4500 people using the road as there is a school, MCH alongside the road and people heading to the market making it very busy.
- The section committee is reported to be responsible for the maintenance of the road.

Community Mental Health Care Center

- It is located 2km away from the center of the town at Hawl-wadaag village.
- The construction of extra rooms and volleyball field was ongoing at the time of the observation. Therefore, clear indication on functionality and accessibility of the facility.
- The center is currently busy where they receive about 8 patience per week and there are a lot of activities going on, about 60-70 patients’ relatives visit the center.



11.21.2018 05:20PM

Figure 4 Mental Health Center



11.10.2018 02:42PM

Figure 5 Livestock feeder road



11.10.2018 02:53PM

Figure 6 Isha Police Station

5.2.2 Hudur

Summary

The Midnimo project in Hudur remains very much in the initial phases. So far through intensive planning, the community has been able to participate in a CBP process which was the consultation phase. This meeting which involved officials from local authority and other arms of regional government was able to produce a CAP which is to be facilitated, implemented and monitored by the Core Facilitation Team (CFT), Community Action Group (CAG) and Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation (CBM&E) committee. The CAP albeit extensive, will kick start with four projects as prioritized by the community namely, rehabilitation of the court house, police station, prison and fencing of the market. The MCH and airport road rehabilitation through cash for work is in the preparation stages. No concrete evidence regarding impact can be reported regarding the aforementioned projects as there have been severe delays in their implementation. However, the community has identified the participatory process so far to be beneficial to the community in bringing about cohesion and integration; improving the relationship between the community and local authority; and responding to the need of the community. The community remains hopeful of the project but emphasizes the need for the timely implementation for the community to benefit equitably. Recommendations from the community suggest that project implementation should be carried out as per schedule. The delays have had an impact on other recommendation, especially the suggestion that the project activities should be expanded to include WASH, livelihoods and schools – which are all in the action plan but remain in the pipeline. Other recommendations are incentives; financial and technical support of the committees. Noting the complexity of working in Hudur, which is only safely accessible by air for international agencies, greater involvement of the government and other agencies in implementing CAP would help achieve district priorities.

Effectiveness and Efficiency

The community has a vision of being stable economically, politically and socially which they hope that through the CBP and subsequent implementation of the CAP the stated visions will be achieved. The involvement of the local government is said to be high. Local authority led the project and was the interphase between the donors and the community. They also solve domestic issues and provided protection and other social services. The involvement of the local authority in reaching out to the community and ensuring their participation has resulted with the community having a high satisfaction so far with the project.

Members of the community participated in the CBP processes and were able to raise challenges facing the community, propose beneficiaries and then revert to the community what was discussed in the meetings. The meetings discussed an array of challenges which resulted in an extensive action plan, but the community prioritized the rehabilitation of the court house, prison and police station as well as fencing of the local market. The selected community projects immediately seek to tackle the issue of insecurity, offer pathways to conflict resolution, and promote law and order. On the other hand, the town plan is aimed at unlocking resources for the implementation of further CAP priority projects. The Mayor and Council member presented the town plan to MoI, MoPIC and MoPW on 26-27th September 2018 in Baidoa.

There was the creation of community-based committees, these included the CFT, CBM&E and CAGs. These committees are responsible for community consultations for project implementation; conducting campaigns and awareness in the community; share information with the community and represent their views and; solving conflict and dispute within the community. The mentioned committees also received training according to their respective roles which responded to government gaps.

Data from the field suggests that the selection process was fair because it was reported that those involved in the CBPs were nominated by various communities to represent them. These representatives come from IDPs, returnees and host communities. The elders, religious leaders, youth and women were selected from the community structures. Similarly, selection of members to CAG, CBM&E and CFT were considered fair. The selection was spearheaded by the local authority through community consultations. Member of the CBM&E revealed that the selection of individuals to the groups was based on context, experience and work-related field in order to determine their competency in the various committees. According to the data there were two instances where there was a challenge in selecting the teams and groups. According to a CAG member, individuals initially went in with self-interest. The other challenge was in dealing with the high number of people that were interested in joining groups such as the CAG/CBM&E but there was a restriction on numbers. In all these instances the local authority intervened. This emphasizes the level of

involvement of the local authority in taking on the leadership of the project, their involvement in the selection criteria legitimizes the process for the community as it has been indicated by the data.

The effectiveness of the project cannot be fully determined as all the priority projects agreed upon are in the pipeline and have not yet been implemented. There is no certainty on the causes of delays but according to an informant at the local authority, the delays are said to be caused by difficulties between the government and IOM, which according to another informant has been a challenge for the government as there is mounting pressure from the community regarding the delays. There is although a positive perception of the project and its expectations as far as inclusion of women and youth in the development process. Returnees and IDPs are expected to benefit from their inclusion in terms of settlements. Overall the consultation process is benefiting the community through the strengthening of local authority capacity to deliver services.

Focus group discussions with IDP and returnee communities in the town mention that their priority needs of schools, hospitals are most important for displaced persons, but when looking at the 4 priority projects in the town, it is clear there is a disparity between what the displaced community needs and the projects in pipeline for implementation. Furthermore, discussions with IDPs and returnees mention livelihoods, WASH, education, protection and shelter as key activities, which are all priority project under the CAP, however, they are not implementing and but none of the 4 priority projects, is answering their needs. In line with the findings from discussions with displaced groups and having reviewed CAP priorities, the following projects is reported to be more effective in promoting durable solutions for IDPs and returnees than the current 4 in the pipeline:

- Rehabilitation of main hospital
- Vocational trainings centers/skills
- Installation of piped water system
- Settlements for IDPs Lead
- Construction of MCH
- Borehole
- Communal latrines for IDPs
- Rehabilitation/construction of Islamic schools

Impact

Since the project is facing delays in its implementation, the noticeable achievements according to FGDs and KIIs are the creation of the CFTs, CBM&E and CAG which are facilitating the project and the training that members of these committees are receiving. For instance, the CFTs received training on how to engage with the community and create awareness of the project; conduct community consultations; plan and organize the project implementation team. The trainings had an impact as far as transfer of skills to the locals. According to KII with a member of the CFT, the training was relevant to their roles and created an understanding of project implementation and project sustainability.

Social cohesion and integration due to the inclusive consultation meetings have widely been identified as positive outcomes. The CBP processes helped the community to come together and have meaningful discussions on ways in which to improve the community, making them put their differences aside. Social activities such as the sports events had an impact on integrating the community as well, especially returnees and IDPS, whose relationship with the rest of the community could be characterized as bad or irregular. In addition, consultation with government structures and the local community towards *Midnimo* project has resulted in an improved relationship considering that the local government only had a good relationship with the business community.

Discussions with vulnerable women in the community revealed that another impact of the CBP processes is that the community feels like the project has taken time in doing a community needs assessment and that they are being prioritized in the resulting project activities. The data shows that the consultation processes were highly valued and participation in such forums is important for the community. The CBP made an impact and is something that the community has learnt as a result of the project.

6. Sustainability

“The government will continue their engagement with the community because they care about the community so much. They have been sometimes engaging with the community even before the Midnimo project. My opinion is that this government will remain active with the community even the project Midnimo comes to an end.” -CAG Member in Baidoa

The *Midnimo* project is seen as sustainable because of the ownership, involvement and efforts in building capacities of local structure and government to take forward community priorities based on findings from the evaluation, activities deemed most sustainable are all those related to the rehabilitation/construction of community infrastructure, because the communities believe all these projects are sustainable investments that would continue to provide benefits to the community beyond the duration of *Midnimo*. For vulnerable groups it is not only the rehabilitation of the infrastructure and improvement in services which is important, it is also the lessons learned on inclusivity, community driven consultation, dialogue and joint planning that they see as having reduced tensions. Community integration and social cohesion helps in ensuring that the IDPs and returnees are absorbed into the community as members in the long run is seen as sustainable. The government allocation of land for IDPs and returnees, as seen in Baidoa and Kismayo, hopefully ensures that they get tenure security or land ownership rights.

The skills, competencies and knowledge provided through trainings have created technically sustainable groups but members have expressed the need for more trainings to be provided. Financially, however, there are worries that these groups cannot sustain themselves without the support of the *Midnimo* project, and this has been acknowledged by groups/committee members and *Midnimo* project staff. Community group members work on a voluntary basis and do not receive any financial income nor allowances for activities related to *Midnimo*, which has implications on the motivation and morale of members of these groups. Members of the CAG, CFT, CDRC, CBM&E require additional support from *Midnimo* in order to become fully sustainable, technically, and financially; members of these groups/teams/committees mentioned incentives or salaries as necessary and that funds per project should be increased. They also mentioned additional capacity building trainings, as it clear that capacity can be built only throughout continuous training and testing of participant’s skills. Furthermore, community group members require allowances and a working base such as an office where they can work from, an important point also emphasized by project staff.

The development of the Baidoa district community consultation draft is seen as a sustainable aspect as it lays out community priorities. The community action plan saw out of the 28 priorities about 16 have been selected by other NGOs. Also, the project supported the development of the land law in conjunction with the government which supports city planning and area based planning approaches. It is yet to pass through parliament, but participants interviewed have hope it will as it was seen as inclusive. Baidoa Urban profile that was developed jointly by the community is seen as sustainable. In Kismayo, the Community Action Plan book, detailing all priorities for Kismayo, was developed through the *Midnimo* project, and it now offers a reference point for local and international stakeholders on the priorities for the community in Kismayo. This is a sustainable achievement, as this book now forms the basis for interventions in Kismayo aiming at supporting community-based development. Here, the land commission, aiming at dealing with issues of displacement targeting IDPs and returnees, was created during the implementation of *Midnimo*, and this is a step towards building sustainable institutions with capacities to support displaced communities. It should be noted that the Jubbaland government is leading in supporting displaced groups with JRIA and its current strategy is to relocate IDPs to from the government buildings and private lands to a new village (new Kismayo) where they will be offered land with permanent buildings with neighbouring social amenities for durable solution supported by the government. This strategy will be implemented with close collaboration with IOM, UN-Habitat and ARC and is part of the government’s plan on promoting durable solutions.

Interviews with the state level ministries and local authority in all target locations point to the willingness of the government in taking forward the *Midnimo* project through the implementation of the CAP priorities. There is, however, no indication based on the interviews with government representatives that additional funds have been mobilized and priorities implemented without direct support of IOM and Habitat. Interviews with local authority in Kismayo and Baidoa, for example show that the government is actively searching for additional funding and looking at the donor communities to implement projects. In Dollow,

the local authority even confirms they have been involved in fundraising and collecting money from the local community to support project implementation, and most importantly, there is an understanding amongst government stakeholders generally that with or without *Midnimo* support, the government should lead in the programme because *Midnimo* is not expected to implement all the community projects. This point should be taken forward the CAGs and CBM&E during the CAP quarterly meetings, and the government should support fundraising (including revenue allocation), and to follow up with commitments made. Focus group discussions in all locations confirm that wider community members are aware of the government's lead and full involvement in *Midnimo*, therefore, sustainability dependent upon the government's lead in addressing the high community expectations that more projects will be implemented. In conclusion, the evaluation found that *Midnimo* is not yet fully sustainable when looking at the effectiveness of the community and government to fundraise and implement on their own, without external support. If one looks at the setting up of the CAPs, and the work on urban planning and land laws, however, the project has made efforts in building sustainable strategies to act as reference, and the fact that other agencies like UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, NRC, DRC, FCA are working closely with *Midnimo* is a good indication that the projects is creating the environment for future sustainability and implementation of CAPs not only by IOM and UN Habitat. There is also a common understanding at JPLG agency level that the CAP can be used as a District Development Plan (DDP) until the systems and structures are in place to draft a final DDP as per the Public Expenditure Management (PEM) cycle.

7. Recommendations

The evaluation team has developed the following evidence-based recommendations based on the findings of the mid-term evaluation. The recommendations are divided into those that apply for all locations, and recommendations which are district specific.

7.1 General Recommendations

7.1.1 Strategic level recommendations

- **Revise quotas on women participation in community-based groups:** women form a large percentage of those involved in CBP processes, and in all locations, the role of women and inclusive nature of the *Midnimo* project was praised by all stakeholders interviewed. Nevertheless, the project did not meet the quota for representation in community-based groups, therefore, targets should be revised to achieve realistic women participation in these groups. It could be argued that the inclusive nature of the project through active engagement of socio-economic groups seemed to have contributed more strongly to the success of the programme, despite the lower number of women represented in the groups than originally intended.
- **Develop joint workplans with other agencies for CAP implementation:** CAPs are used as a reference point for various agencies, and to promote coordination and collaborations amongst PBF and non PBF funded programmes, common workplans with other key programme such as RoLs, JPLG, SSF, TIS could be developed to achieved district priorities. Currently, the government invites all actors to the CAP launch and quarterly CAP review meetings, during which it is responsible for identifying commitments from other agencies/organizations and following up on these commitments. This forum can form the basis for discussion of join work plan and strategic implementation between agencies.
- **Develop standardized criteria for project selection:** standard criteria for priority project selection and project development should be applied consistently in all locations and CFT members should be trained on these criteria accordingly, as well as the application of community planning and area-based planning approaches. The project could look into developing an overall "scorecard" outlining a standard set of criteria (for example inclusiveness, sustainability plan, gender mainstreaming), and scoring each of the projects implemented in the target locations, which could help in promoting a more standardized approach within the *Midnimo* project.

7.1.2 Project based recommendations

- **Allocate funds to cover allowances, salaries for community-based group members:** it will be difficult to sustain the work of community-based groups when they work on a voluntary basis, with no

incentives. Revising current fund allocations or expanding the budget which is seen as limiting by all stakeholders, could cover allowances, salaries and office space for members of these committees. It could be argued that this is a responsibility of the community, who should be able to support their own community structures to hold government accountable, however, taking into account the realities of operating in Somalia, and the level of poverty and difficulties facing local communities, it is unlikely that this would be possible. It is therefore in the interest of *Midnimo* to conduct an analysis of the time and effort involved in being part of groups/committees, and assess the resources required and means to obtain those resources. One suggestion could be to encourage contributions from the government and the community, to match the amount required for these group members to operate. Contributions could be in the form of in-kind assistance or direct financial support so that community and government are taking forward the operation of the groups. Furthermore, financial support should be in line with the concrete deliverables from the community-based groups.

- **Provide access to finance for youth from IDP, returnees and low-level income host communities and persons with disabilities:** cash for work provides short-term cash relief for IDPs and returnees, but to create longer-term employment, promoting self-employment through provision of micro-finance to vulnerable groups can create job opportunities. The *Midnimo* project should explore opportunities to provide access to finance and business training for youth and persons with disabilities as a strategy to create long-term jobs.
- **Expand beyond urban areas:** Semi urban areas and rural areas experience more problem and face more difficulties; therefore, one strong recommendation is to expand to rural areas in South West State and Jubbaland in order to reach more people, and most importantly, to develop realistic approaches to mitigate foreseeable logistical challenges in more remote areas.
- **The committees should be handled in a more professional manner:** In the target locations, some members of committee are not aware of ToRs (which have actually been developed) and believe agreements were verbal, while some members mention written agreements, while other refer to informal agreements. Mainstreaming the existing ToRs with signed agreements should be considered as a way to institutionalize committees/groups and make sure all members are aware of this document.
- **Train community leaders and government on fundraising:** improving fundraising skills is a necessary activity to help community leaders and government in unlocking more resources to implement projects and maintain community-based groups. The CAP is a guiding document, but it is not in the scope of the *Midnimo* project to implement all priorities, but capacities should be built to ensure that community structure and the government are able to channel funding to CAP from other donors, agencies, as well as the private sector.

7.2 District Specific Recommendations

7.2.1 Kismayo

- **Expand community projects to include support to health facilities and road rehabilitation:** access to healthcare is one of the priorities for the communities, and with high infant mortality rates, mother and child health services are critical. The *Midnimo* project should consider prioritizing the upgrading or rehabilitation of existing health facilities/mobile clinics or MCH clinics to provide health services to the communities. Roads infrastructure is poor and road rehabilitation is a priority for the community, which could ease access to basic facilities for displaced communities in IDP/returnee camps/settlements.
- **Provide more trainings throughout projects period or refresher trainings.** Capacity building training is a core component of the projects, but participants of trainings would like to see more frequent trainings provided as part of the *Midnimo* project to enhance technical skills, especially for local authorities and CDRC.
- **Implement longer-term and more sustainable projects:** stakeholders believe that larger community projects should be implemented and these would require more financial resources than the \$40,000 allocate for the current projects. *Midnimo* does not limit finances to \$40,000, but rather basis financial allocations on the type and scale of projects, hence focusing on fewer but larger projects that can potentially have greater impacts should be explored.

7.2.2 Dollow

- **Re-assess project priorities based on the need of IDPs and returnees:** construction of health facilities (which is in fact a priority project to be implemented through the construction of the MCH in the IDP camp), road rehabilitation, micro-finance and promoting youth entrepreneurship and skills are all projects that IDPs and returnees see as critical to uplift their situation. Farm irrigation, sanitation, construction and rehabilitation of schools and Madrasas, and the construction of shelters have also been recommended by members of community groups. For local authorities TVET training and job placements for youth are key. The local authority acknowledged that prioritizing the community needs and selecting activities was initially very difficult because the community raised many different issues, hence re-assessing priorities would be appropriate.
- **Provide more trainings for community-based groups and local authority:** the project should maximize on the number of trainings provided to the CAG, CBM&E, and local authority to strengthen capacities of these groups to be technically sustainable. Currently, these groups do not believe their sufficiently trained to operate.

7.2.3 Baidoa

- **Increase regional coordination:** through bringing together Jubbaland and South West state stakeholders to share successes and failure for learning purposes. Also expand collaboration with local and federal institutions was recommended by members of local authority.
- **Improve/adapt to a more flexible process:** that does not cause delays in the implementation of the project such as procurement and payment processes as recommended by members at all levels of respondent.
- **Pursue the area-based planning approach:** Small-scale projects are important in Baidoa, but the huge problem of mass forced evictions remains, preparing and managing large re-settling initiatives continues to be a huge challenge. Keeping the ongoing efforts on land legislation and first implementation steps under the project is key.

7.2.4 Hudur

- **Establish stronger information sharing/feedback system in case of delays in implementation:** Delays remain a major frustration and short coming in this location as perceived by the community. In the event of delays, the community should be kept informed by the local authority in order to guarantee the continued support and good will of the community as the delays in implementation are starting to create tension within the community. During CAP quarterly review meetings, the government should fully inform communities on progress, challenges, and mitigation measures for delivering activities.
- **Expand community projects to cover more sectors:** For truly sustainable and durable solutions more interventions in the areas of livelihood, WASH, education, protection and shelter need to be incorporated. This is stated as a recommendation due to the projects lack of timely implementation. Improved livelihoods were to occur via the cash for work in the construction of the identified projects, but due to delays, this has not yet been achieved. Linkages to the JPLG programme to strengthen local institutions in taking the lead for local economic development and apply the town development plan can help unlocking resources to implement other important projects.