



Citizen-led discussions on RE-INTEG programme priorities in Somalia

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Introduction

Amplifying Durable Solutions

Over 2.6 million Somalis are currently internally displaced as a result of protracted conflict, drought, and insecurity.

The EU's RE-INTEG programme focuses on innovative, durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees- enhanced governance, employment opportunities and access to basic and protective services. The overall objective is to contribute to Somalia's transition out of fragility. The emphasis on durable solutions necessitates stronger relations of engagement and accountability between authorities, service providers and citizens, whether displaced or host.

A Common Social Accountability Platform for Somalia

To respond to the need for greater communications, community engagement and accountability in the RE-INTEG programme, AVF deployed its Common Social Accountability Platform (CSAP) to build two-way conversations between citizens and RE-INTEG stakeholders on durable solutions programme components.

CSAP leverages AVF's interactive radio method for building dialogue and gathering public opinion to build a sustained channel for open conversation between citizens and decision-makers, across sectors. By turning this citizen engagement into evidence that decision-makers respond to in public radio

dialogues, AVF catalyses stronger accountability relations to strengthen the legitimacy and responsiveness of authorities.

In this case, CSAP served to amplify RE-INTEG's visibility and resonance with the Somali population; to increase knowledge and understanding among displacement-affected populations of their rights and responsibilities; and to derive citizen-generated evidence to inform RE-INTEG learning, adaptation and accountability.



Implementation districts

Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo, Garowe, Beletweyn, Galkacyo, Bossaso, Dhusamareb, Hargeisa

HAGE: Building inclusive community engagement at scale

AVF deployed a six-show interactive radio engagement in collaboration with Hargeisa-based media organisation MediaINK and a network of 21 radio stations across the districts of RE-INTEG implementation. The show was branded as HAGE, meaning "guidance". This is meant to signify the notion that the audience was the guide of the show, highlighting the emphasis on audience engagement and citizen-driven content.

Who participated in the radio dialogue?

- The six-show interactive radio engagement reached an estimate of **94,360 people**¹.
- **150,884 people** reached on social media.
- **9,436 individuals** participated in the radio discussions hosted over six weeks.
- 8,997 provided data that met quality standards for analysis of insights
- 60.5% were men and **39.5% were women**, suggesting the channel could be used to engage women effectively but maintained a gender bias
- Of the total participants, **41.0% were living in IDP camps**. Of these, **86.0% were recently displaced**. Those who lived in IDP camps were likely to be older.
- The majority of participants were **under the age of 36**.

TOPICS

Durable solutions policy
Housing, Land and Property
Livelihoods
Social inclusion (youth)
Service delivery (education)
Social inclusion (displaced groups)

¹ The total estimated listenership for HAGE provided by MediaINK is 2.9 million for the 21 stations combined. AVF uses more conservative estimate of listenership based on a ratio of unique participants in the radio show to unique listeners of 1:10 added together for 6 shows. Using the unique participants per show as a basis, the estimated minimum total listenership is 94,360.

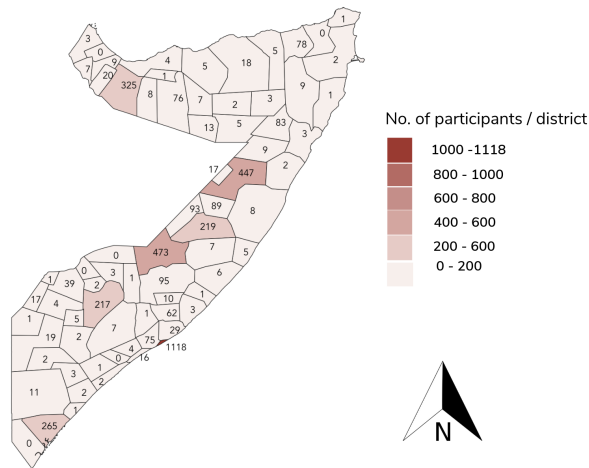


Figure 2 Number of participants per district

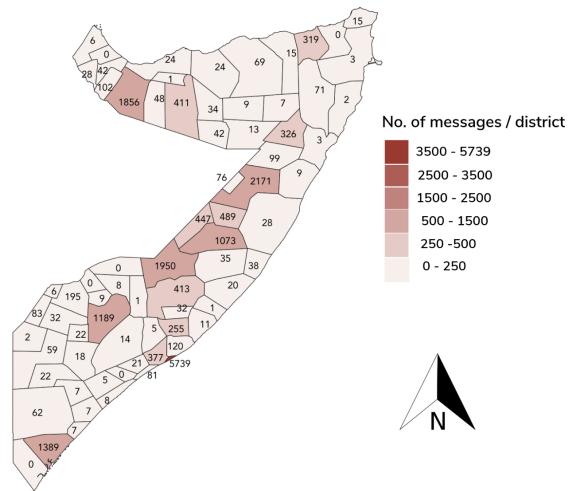


Figure 1 Number of messages per district

Recommendations

1. Somali authorities must be and seen to be front and centre of effective durable solutions programming.

A lack of good governance was the overwhelming theme when Somalis offered strategies to tackle the displacement crisis (episode 1) or explained the cause of forced evictions (episode 2). It is vital that authorities are seen to be leading the way in tackling displacement in a long-term fashion as well as handling immediate situations fairly and effectively. Specific programming to support the visibility of local governance in durable solutions programming should be accelerated.

2. Amplify locally relevant rights-based messaging around assisted voluntary return and adequate HLP provision. A minority of views lays fault with the displaced (not governance or instability or drought) for the crisis, for evictions and for livelihoods needs. A rights-based approach to tackling these views should leverage more widely held beliefs in the community that emphasise community solidarity, common identity and piety, rather than formal legalistic language, to engender stronger support for displaced persons.

3. Leverage strong Somali support for community collaboration, solidarity and participation for durable solutions. Across different topics - from strategies to deal with displacement, to ways for improving livelihoods for the displaced and their inclusion in decision-making - community solidarity, common identity and collaboration came through strongly. Working with local authorities, durable solutions programming should give further and fuller emphasis to community-led action that includes displaced persons in integrated host-displaced decision-making forums.

4. Emphasise the role of Youth as 'pillars of society' for their inclusion in decision-making. Most Somalis believe youth should be more involved in decision-making, but a minority consider they are a cause of problems. Programmes which give visibility to immediate programming needs and fostering greater social cohesion.

5. Increase international support for the provision of quality and fair education services to displaced people. The CSAP engagement provided evidence that EU-REINTEG partner work to support education services in South West State is distinctly valued (when compared to views from other regions such as Banadir). Importantly, quality and fairness came up as key determinants of citizens' value estimations. Equitable access to education services, especially for marginal groups, must be ensured.

6. Enhance the role of community voices in more accountable durable solutions programming. The large numbers of Somalis, IDPs and hosts alike, that joined the conversation evidences citizens' desires to have their voices heard by decision-makers. The project also evidenced the rich perspectives that communities have on durable solutions which can guide more effective and accountable programming. EU-REINTEG partners should seize the momentum for a broad cross-sectoral multi-agency engagement and accountability platform that: (i) amplifies EU-REINTEG consortia member success stories and messages; (ii) provides programme and policy actors with citizen feedback, and, crucially, (iii) leverages citizen engagement and social accountability to build stronger governance.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS POLICY

“What do you think should be done about the large displacement crisis in the country?”

RADIO DIALOGUE 1

Guest: Alas Abdullahi from the Ministry of Planning Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) in the Federal Government.

Participants: 2,514

RE-INTEG work highlighted: Efforts to re-integrate IDPs displaced in major towns implemented by the Ministry of Planning

CITIZEN VOICES

Good governance, peace and security: The majority of participants in the discussion shared the view that good governance, peace and security were needed to tackle the crisis. Reflecting greater instability in the Emerging Federal States (EFS), participants in these states (47.0%) were especially likely to raise this strategy, as opposed to only 5% of participants in Somaliland (though they shared a belief that good governance was the priority strategy).

“The displacement crisis in the country can be stopped, if there is a stable government in place.”

Female, 18 years,
Guriceel

“The solution is provision of assistance for the displaced and getting rid of corruption in the country.”

Female, 19 years,
Hargeisa.

“Displacement crisis can be prevented if peace and order can be achieved in the country.”

Male, 20 years, Lower
Shabelle.

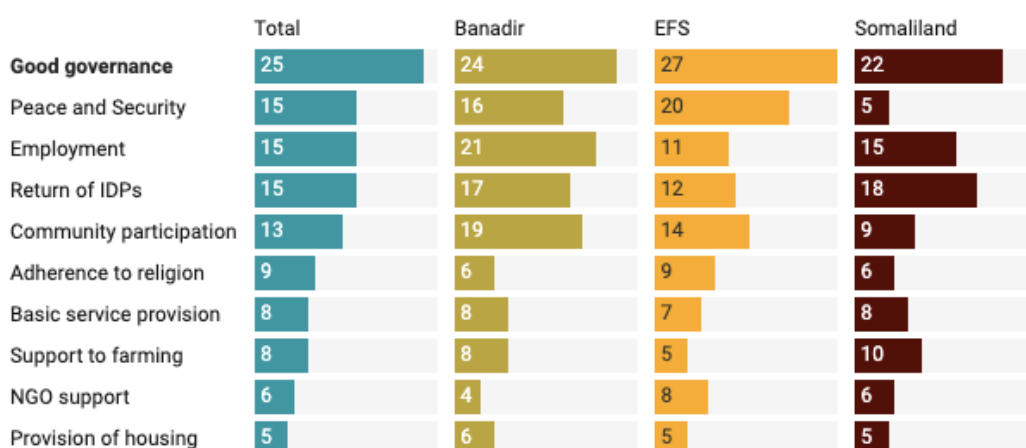
Community participation and crowdfunding: Rather than focusing on the formal language of reintegration, many participants argued that community participation is important for solutions to the displacement crisis and encouraged the spirit of solidarity. Community participation was more commonly mentioned by IDPs (9.0% more IDPs mentioned this theme than non-IDPs). Participants also advocated collective fundraising efforts directed towards meeting the needs of displacement-affected communities. This was considered both an imperative of the wider community and also the responsibility of privileged Somali individuals.

“Community participation and support can be used to solve the displacement crisis in the country”.

Male, 35 years, Hodan

“I think the displaced people can be assisted if the wealthy people in the community donate some funds for the sake of the people who are troubled by droughts and conflicts”. Female, 23 years,
Hargeisa

Proposed strategies to large scale displacement (%)



Source: Africa's Voices • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

*“What do you think is
the cause of forced
evictions in your
community?”*

RADIO DIALOGUE 2

Guests: Deputy Commissioner and acting Chairman Mohamed Amin Abdullahi, National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRI) - Mogadishu; Abdirisak Aden, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) - Mogadishu; and Khadar Qorane, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) - Somaliland.

Participants: 1879

RE-INTEG work highlighted: NCRI’s eviction guidelines; NRC provision of legal aid assistance.

CITIZEN VOICES

Lack of good governance, corruption, and weak justice systems: The causes of forced evictions mentioned by participants were several and varied across locations. Lack of good governance (23.1%) was the most common cause of forced evictions raised. This is commonly perceived to result in a lack of accountability (corruption was raised by 19.7% participants, although far less cited in Somaliland), and weak justice systems (10.7%) which cannot effectively resolve any conflict. When considered together, a broader concern with governance (lack of proper governance, weak justice system and corruption) as cause of forced eviction was referenced by the great majority of participants in both Banadir and EFS, and over 40.0% of participants in Somaliland.

**“It is caused by lack
of proper
governance in our
country.”**

Male, 26 years,
Hargeisa, Host

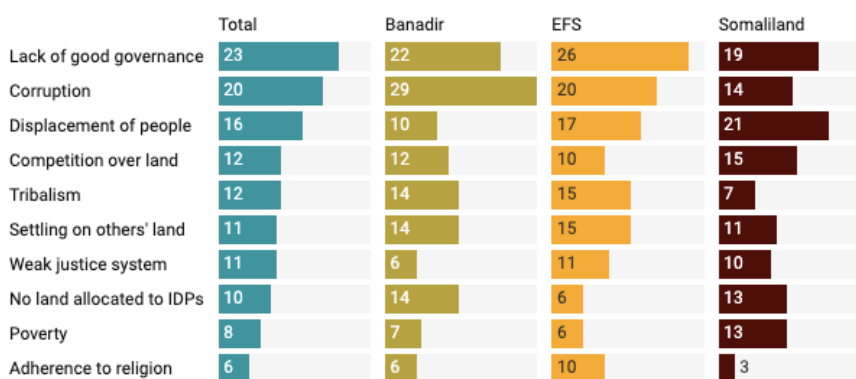
**“I think it is because
of existing violation
of rights and
unavailability of
justice.”**

Male, Hiiraan

**“They don't believe
in the rights of
people but it is about
misuse of power.”**

Male, Baardheere,
Host

Relative frequency of themes showing causes of eviction (%)



Source: Africa's Voices • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Shortage, allocation and management of land was a close corollary. Displacement to cities, competition over land and no land allocated for people were frequently raised. Participants varied in where they laid the cause of forced eviction. In Somaliland, participants laid the cause on the displaced people themselves (21.0% raised the cause of displacement to cities). However, in Banadir, 14.0% of participants laid the blame on the government, referencing the lack of land allocation for the displaced.

**“I believe the people are evicted because they live in a land with no valid
documentation to show their claim.”**

Male, Mogadishu, Host

RADIO DIALOGUE 3

LIVELIHOODS

“What do you think could be done in your community to support people achieving sustainable livelihoods?”

Guests: Mohamed Artan, CARE Somalia - Mogadishu and Mubarak Mohamud, World Vision - Somaliland

Participants: 1890

RE-INTEG work highlighted: Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs) run by CARE Somalia and Self-Help Group (SHG) scheme in Somaliland implemented by World Vision. Beneficiaries of both programmes also featured in the radio shows.

CITIZEN VOICES

Community participation was a strikingly common theme, with participants invoking solidarity and social action to drive better livelihoods outcomes.

“They should support each other according to how better off they are from the other.”

Male, 22 years, Marka

“This can be achieved through community collaboration.”

Female, Galgaduud

Stop aid dependency versus support from NGOs. A small yet lively debate emerged between those who advocated less aid dependency and those who looked to aid actors to support livelihoods. This suggests that the mode of support from aid agencies is crucial.

“Don't give people fish teach them how to fish and it is important to teach people the necessary skills needed so that they can get out from the humanitarian hand.”

Male, Burco, Host

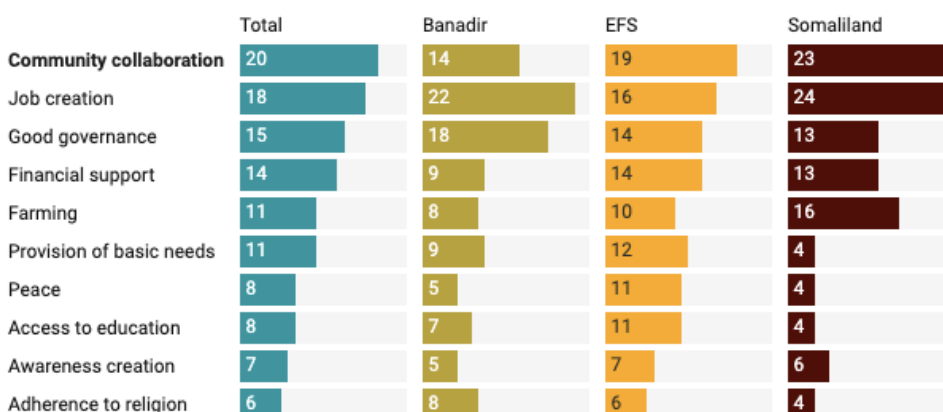
Farming, Job Creation, Skills and Financial Assistance all featured prominently as well, with many citizens voicing a desire for greater support to self-reliance and opportunity.

“What can be done is creation of jobs and invest in farming so that we can overcome the challenge of hunger and work towards people being able to afford their daily sustenance.” Male, 29 years, Togdheer, Host

“Providing loans and credits for the people to start their own businesses.”

Koodbuur, IDP

Relative frequency for themes ways of achieving sustainable livelihood (%)



Source: Africa's Voices • [Get the data](#) • Created with Datawrapper

SOCIAL INCLUSION (YOUTH)

*“Do you think youth
are sufficiently
involved in decision-
making in your
community? Yes, or
No? Why?”*

RADIO DIALOGUE 4

Guests: Abdulkadir Warsame, CARE Somalia

Participants: 3458

RE-INTEG work highlighted: CARE Somalia’s efforts to raise awareness among youth on the importance of social cohesion as a prerequisite for peace, democracy, and development. Testimonials from programme beneficiaries also featured in the show.

CITIZEN VOICES

Youth are the pillar of society was the most frequently referenced idea (70.0% of participants in Banadir and 67.0% from EFS). It’s important to note that many participants seemed to explain the reason why youth *ought* to be included as opposed to justifications for the state of youth inclusion. Some participants also raised the argument that youth are capable, come with brilliant and fresh ideas and they are the leaders of tomorrow.

“Youth are the pillar of the society so they should be involved in decision making.”

Male, Hiiraan, Host

“They should be involved (...) instead of leaving every decision (...) in the hands of the traditional elders.”

Male, 20years Wadajir, Host

“The youth are the future leaders so they should be involved in decision making.”

Male, 49 years, Sanaag, IDP

Youth exclusion: A lively debate was observed between those who considered youth are not involved because they are looked down upon, versus others who believed that youth should not be involved because they are wayward, incapable or elders make better decision-makers.

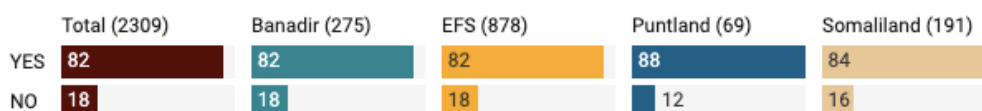
“The society does not consult with the youth in any form so there is no way they will be involved in decision making.”

Female, 19 years, Baidoa

“No, we are told since we are young we cannot participate or engage in important decisions in the society.”

Female, 40 years, Mogadishu

Are the youth sufficiently included in decision making? (%)



[Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

SERVICE DELIVERY (EDUCATION)

“Do you feel satisfied with the education services provided by international aid in your community? Yes, or no? Why?”

RADIO DIALOGUE 5

Guests: Ahmed Isaack, Concern Worldwide

Participants: 2851

RE-INTEG work highlighted: Concern Worldwide programme aimed at improving the quality of education in South West State (SWS). Testimonials from programme beneficiaries also featured in the show.

CITIZEN VOICES

Reasons for satisfaction with education services: The majority of respondents (75.0%) were satisfied with academic services provided by the aid agencies. Crucially, in the SWS where the EU had made considerable investment in education, the level of satisfaction was considerably higher (85.0% overall) than in other EFS (Galmudug - 73.3%, Hir - Shabelle - 73.1%, and Jubbaland - 72.5%) and even Banadir (76.2%). In both regions, participants referenced the provision of education for the vulnerable and those who cannot afford school fees as the main reason for satisfaction, suggesting some success of education programmes reaching the most needy in these locations.

“Yes because this service helps people in our community who cannot afford to pay for their education like the displaced people.”

Male, 40 years, Galkacyo

“Yes I am satisfied with the education services provided by the aid actors because we don't have quality education in our country.”

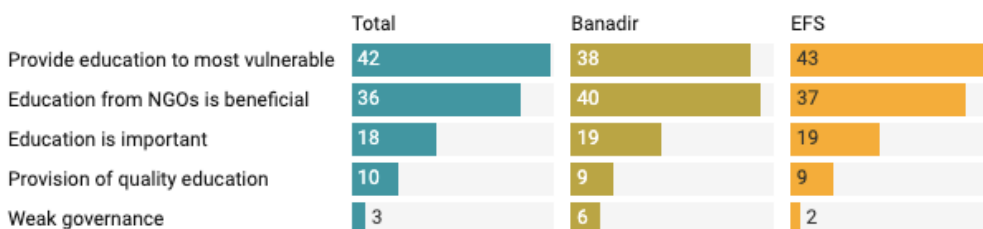
Female, 16 years, Heliwa

Reasons for dissatisfaction with education services: Many expressed dissatisfaction with education and referenced that education services are not sufficient, are of low quality and lack monitoring. 63% of participants in Banadir were more dissatisfied than others with the quality and value of the education services provided by international aid (cf 44.0% participants in EFS). This is encouraging for the support provided by the EU RE-INTEG in strengthening the education services in South West State. Corruption and aid agencies as being unjust was voiced more by participants in EFS 32% cumulatively as compared to 18% participants from Banadir.

“No, because they don't deliver their services in a just manner.”

Male, Madino

Relative frequencies for satisfaction with education services provided by international aid



Source: Africa's Voices • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

SOCIAL INCLUSION (DISPLACED GROUPS)

“Do you feel displaced groups are sufficiently involved in decision-making in your community? Yes, or no? Why?”

Africa's Voices Foundation

This brief is authored by Khadija Mohamed, Programme Officer and Elena Georgalla, External Relations and Communications Lead at Africa's Voices.

See more about AVF's work supporting citizen-led discussions on RE-INTEG priorities [here](#).

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RADIO DIALOGUE 6

Guests: Hodan Hashi, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Participants: 2902

RE-INTEG work highlighted: the Community Action Planning work implemented by NRC in Jubaland and Kismaayo. Testimonials from beneficiaries of the programme also featured in the show.

CITIZEN VOICES

Reasons for social inclusion of displaced groups - Part of the society: Respondents who perceived displaced groups to be included in decision-making mainly mentioned that they are part of the society (72.0%) and should be consulted in decision processes. Nonetheless, participants tended to concentrate more on the “ought to be” rather than responding to whether IDPs are currently involved in decision-making.

“Yes because the displaced people are part of the progress that the society is trying to make right now.”

Male, 25 years, Xamar jajab

“Everyone's opinion is important and they should be part of the decision making.”

Male, 17 years, Hiiraan

Reasons for social exclusion of displaced groups - Not part of the society: The view that displaced groups were less likely to be included in decision-making was mostly held by men. The primary reason stated was that they are not part of the society. This suggests that communities hold mixed opinions on the extent to which displaced groups are integrated into society.

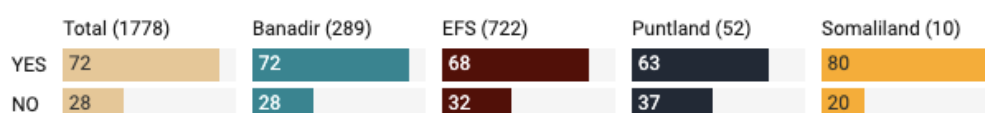
“They are not seen as part of the society.”

Male, Karaan

“No because they do not have support from the rest of the society.”

Female, 20 years

Are the displaced groups sufficiently included in decision making? (%)



[Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

