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Literature Review:

Livelihoods and Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement in Somalia Region, Ethiopia

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Cover photo: Houses constructed for relocated IDPs, Goljano woreda.
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Introduction

As of January 2021, the Somali region of Ethiopia is home to 884,642 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 408 sites, the majority of whom are displaced due to insecurity in Oromia and/or climatic shocks, including drought. Additionally, there are 408,741 returning IDPs in 111 different villages, representing a 173% increase from the previous assessment in August 2020. When IDPs arrive at their destination, few are left with any productive assets and access to employment opportunities are slim. Moreover, their previous livelihoods may now be much less feasible than before. On top of all this, IDPs are tasked with balancing the interests of their new host communities with their own.

The following literature review was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) working in consortium with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat). It was completed by a team of researchers at the Feinstein International Center of the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. This literature review should be read in conjunction with the final assessment report and the policy [brief](#).

¹IOM (2021). Ethiopia National Displacement Report 7: Site Assessment Round 24 & Village Assessment Survey Round 7: December 2020-January 2021 (6 April 2021), International Organization for Migration, 16.

Methods

This review focuses on development literature from Ethiopia, specifically, that was published in the previous fifteen years. The team chose to focus on recent literature due to the changing political context and climatic patterns across Ethiopia in the 21st century. Additionally, the team first searched for literature specific to the target region, Somali Regional State. In thematic areas where data specific to Somali region could not be found, the geographical scope was broadened to greater Ethiopia. Few literature sources were reviewed whose scope extended outside the country.

Literature assessed includes peer-reviewed, scientific articles, grey literature from both international organizations and NGOs, and government policy papers. Peer-reviewed and grey program impact evaluations were reviewed for information on successful interventions in the Somali region and greater Ethiopia. The authors also reviewed several policy papers from the United Nations and academic institutions for information on livelihoods recovery within the three durable solution scenarios. Reports by national and regional authorities, including Ethiopia's Durable Solution Working Group, were also consulted.

This review's analysis is structured around three key questions, which are posed to the above literature to address. These are:

- 1. How are people's livelihoods impacted by displacement?*
- 2. What do we already know about interventions to address poverty, food insecurity, and resource scarcity in Ethiopia?*
- 3. What are lessons learned about the three durable solutions: resettlement, integration, and return?*

Where gaps in the data exist, our report highlights missing information and potential pathways for further research. As the review was requested with the intent of informing an intervention strategy, it is written for an audience of practitioners and makes recommendations for evaluating and meeting the livelihood needs of the Somali regions' internally displaced population.

Q1: How are people's livelihoods impacted by displacement?

Livelihoods prior to displacement

Prior to displacement, many IDPs in Somali region were primarily pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, or agrarian.² Some also relied on wage and daily labor, collecting/selling firewood, and running small businesses. Herders in some areas regularly crossed the border into Somalia to trade livestock and buy goods in the market.³ Climate-related stressors impacted people's livelihoods throughout Somali prior to decisions to leave. A study of the gendered perspectives of climatic and non-climatic stressors in Borena, a town in southern Oromia, found that women are more anxious about climatic and financial stressors compared to men, who are more likely to be anxious about governance and conflict-related stressors. In this study, women were also found to bear a disproportionate burden of stressors, owing to "existing inequalities in resource endowments and the traditional labour division."⁴ Similar studies could not be found for the Somali region, or for displaced communities in Ethiopia.

Decisions to leave

For pastoralists, the impacts of drought on livelihoods tend to be more gradual, and decisions to leave are often made after a tipping point is reached--or a critical threshold in herd size or resource access below which pastoralism is unsustainable.⁵ In some cases, pastoralists sell off livestock as an initial coping mechanism and are then forced to move to find new ways to support themselves and their families.⁶ Conflicts are also increasingly the leading cause of displacement in Ethiopia, according to IOM's round 24 DTM. The conflict along the Somali-Oromia border is particularly relevant for this study, where inter-ethnic competition over access to natural and political resources has erupted into violent conflict in recent years. Droughts and other natural disasters exacerbate these conflicts, particularly when already limited natural resources become scarcer, including farm and grazing land.⁷

One study of internal displacement in Somali found that although Oromos and Somalis have had longstanding positive relations, rising levels of mistrust and discrimination since 2015 culminated in targeted attacks against Somalis in Oromia, including physical violence, destruction of property, and rape.⁸ Under these circumstances, people left their homes abruptly and without advanced planning,

² Elizabeth Stites, Antenanie Anyew, Andargachew Eniyew, Sabrina Robillard (2018). "Those who Scattered: Understanding Internal Displacement in Ethiopia," Feinstein International Center, 26.

³ IDMC (2020b). "From basic needs to the recovery of livelihoods: local integration of people displaced by drought in Ethiopia," *Thematic Series No matter of choice: Displacement in a changing climate*, 18.

⁴ Anbacha, Abiyot Eliyas Anbacha and Darley Jose Kjosavik (2019). "Gendered perspectives of climatic and non-climatic stressors in Borana, southern Ethiopia." *Journal of Arid Environments*, Volume 166, Pages 28-36. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2019.02.012>.

⁵ IDMC (2019). "'Nothing to put in your mouth': Seeking durable solutions to drought displacement in Ethiopia," *Thematic Series No matter of choice: Displacement in a changing climate*, 5.

⁶ IDMC (2020a). "Beyond drought: adding life to the numbers," <https://www.internal-displacement.org/features/beyond-drought-niger-ethiopia-somalia-iraq-displacement>.

⁷ Catley, Andy and Alula Iyasu (2010), "Moving up or moving out? A rapid livelihoods and conflict analysis in Mieso-Mulu Woreda, Shinile Zone, Somali Region, Ethiopia," Feinstein International Center, 47.

⁸ Stites et. al, 24.

often leaving behind relatives and assets.⁹ Conflict along ethnic lines has also displaced Oromos living in Somali region, and one study found that violence particularly targeted adolescent boys.¹⁰ In many cases of both conflict and slow-onset drought-induced IDPs in Oromia and Somali regions, decisions to leave were made as a last resort and once all other options were exhausted.¹¹ Many respondents in this study noted that by the time they left, they were scarcely making a choice.¹²

Decisions about how, when and where to go are often made by male heads of households and elders, although in desperate circumstances “women made decisions to leave without or despite male approval.”¹³ In some cases, the communities move together, and community leaders make decisions for the collective. A study of resettlement schemes in Oromia found that female household members were more reluctant to leave than male members.¹⁴ Decisions over where to go are often closely linked with livelihood opportunities and where people feel they will be supported. This includes clan ties, proximity to urban centers for wage labor and access to markets, availability of safe drinking water, humanitarian assistance programs, and education for their children.¹⁵

Impact of displacement (and continued stressors) on livelihoods

The impacts of conflict, natural disasters and displacement compound and alter the assets and livelihood opportunities IDPs have access to in post-displacement contexts. In Somali region, conflicts severely impact people’s productive assets, in addition to triggering displacement. In Tuli Guled--where conflicts between clans displaced 24,000 households--over 42,000 hectares of land were impacted by the conflict, animals were killed, crops were burned or uprooted, and animal health facilities and farmer training centers were destroyed.¹⁶

Drought and other climate shocks also decimate livestock. During the 2015-2017 drought in Somali, “families lost anywhere from 20 to 200 animals, including goats, sheep, and camels to the lack of water and food. They fled to IDP sites with very little, having lost not only their livelihoods, but their lifestyle¹⁷ as well.” In response to climate shocks, many people are forced to sell their livestock as a last resort, often at very low prices.¹⁸

⁹ Ibid, 25.

¹⁰ Nichola Jones, Workneh Yadete and Kate Pincock, “Raising the visibility of IDPs: a case study of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities among Ethiopian IDP adolescents,” The Humanitarian Practice Network, May 2019, <https://odihpn.org/magazine/raising-visibility-idps-case-study-gender-age-specific-vulnerabilities-among-ethiopian-idp-adolescents/>.

¹¹ Stites et. al, 36.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Wayessa, Gutu Olana and Anja Nygren (2016). “Whose Decisions, Whose Livelihoods? Resettlement and Environmental Justice in Ethiopia.” *Society & Natural Resources*, 29(4), p. 396.

¹⁵ Stites et. al, 36.

¹⁶ Tulli-Guled IDPs Return Response Plan: July-December 2020 (July 2020), Somali Regional State, Disaster Risk Management Bureau, p. 5. Field Assessment Report: Assessment to Tulli Guled IDPs and Returnees 23rd-27th June, 2020, Durable Solutions Working Group.

¹⁷ Ann Hollingsworth (2019). “Like a drop of water on a fire: Inadequate investment in Durable Solutions for Drought IDPs in Ethiopia,” Refugees International Field Report, 10. See also: IDMC (2020b).

¹⁸ Stites et. al, 30.

Having sold off or lost assets prior to or during displacement, IDPs rarely have any access to land and productive assets, and some IDPs “are living in a location where their previous form of livelihood is no longer viable” due to differences in environmental conditions or prolonged climate shocks.¹⁹ In some instances, few IDPs have a desire to return to their former lifestyle since they lost everything.²⁰ Conversely, IDPs interviewed in another study said they would return to pastoralism if they had access to animals,²¹ demonstrating the diversity of needs and interventions required for IDPs in Somali.

In addition to the direct consequences of displacement on livelihoods, there are numerous other ongoing stressors that impact both IDPs and host communities. In a study of the Doolo zone of Somali region, the portion of pastoralists decreased from 80 percent to 20 percent as a result of repeated climate shocks, according to local authorities.²² Additionally, as livestock migration patterns have shifted as a result of drought, “woredas with better rainfall levels are sustaining higher grazing pressure, leading to fears of pasture and water depletion,” including in Shabelle, Doolo, Korahe and Jarar zones. Pastoralism and agro-pastoralism are also threatened by floods and landslides (which have become more severe due to droughts that diminish absorption of soils), desert locusts, and invasive plant and tree species.²³

Prices of food are also increasing in Ethiopia, likely due to a combination of lower crop yields and increased cash availability as a result of the national Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) transfers,

Ethiopian currency inflation and poor macro-economic policies, travel restrictions relating to COVID-19, rising fuel prices, and issues related to security affecting transportation of food.²⁴ Price increases are further exacerbating food insecurity in Somali region, which has some of the highest rates of acute malnutrition among children in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.²⁵

Displacement also impacts the livelihoods of host communities. One study from Oromia found that following the arrival of IDPs, employment rates of host community fell, particularly for women: 85 percent of women were engaged in work prior to the arrival of IDPs, compared with 56 percent after; individuals surveyed attributed the reduction in employment opportunities to the arrival of IDPs.²⁶ Additionally, obstacles to employment for IDPs “not only limits the positive contribution IDPs could make to the local economy, but also maintain their reliance on humanitarian assistance, which could divert funds away from investments that would benefit all.”²⁷ The study observed some positive impacts on the host communities’ livelihoods, including increased consumption that benefited local merchants.²⁸

Coping strategies and alternative livelihoods

IDPs are largely dependent on humanitarian assistance, particularly food aid and support from host communities.²⁹ An assessment of returnees in Tuli Guled by the Somali Regional Disaster Management

¹⁹ Ibid, 6.

²⁰ IDMC (2020a).

²¹ IDMC (2020b), 18.

²² IDMC (2019), 9-10.

²³ IDMC (2020b), 15.

²⁴ A Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) key message update found that staple food prices in Addis Ababa had risen 50 to 100 percent in March 2020 compared to the previous five-year average. Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNet), “Ethiopia: Atypical staple food price increases further limit food access,” Key message update, March 31, 2020.

²⁵ IDMC (2020a).

²⁶ Yasukawa, L. (2020). “The Impacts of Internal Displacement on Local Communities: Examples from Ethiopia and Somalia.” *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 39(4), p. 547.

²⁷ Ibid, 550.

²⁸ Ibid, 547.

²⁹ IDMC (2020a), 5, and IDMC (2020b), 9.

Bureau found that “the majority of the returnee population in the returned sites have no source of income and rely on others to assist.”³⁰ Another report noted that the lack of focus on durable solutions and livelihood recovery for drought-induced IDPs led to reliance on humanitarian assistance “that offered them limited opportunity to become self-reliant and failed to promote the overall resilience of the host communities in which they settled. This missed opportunity has only prolonged aid dependency and suffering.”³¹ Humanitarian aid to drought-induced IDPs has decreased in recent years, putting further stress on host communities.³² Coping strategies include consuming cheaper or less preferred food, reducing food consumption, relying on support from host community and relatives, and borrowing food from shops.³³ A multi-sectoral needs assessment conducted by the Norwegian Refugee Council found that 35 percent of respondents in three zones of Somali region borrowed food from shops, and 29 percent said food aid was their primary source of food.³⁴

Facing few opportunities to continue their previous forms of livelihoods, IDPs have adopted alternative livelihood strategies. These include day labor; collecting and selling sticks or firewood; migrating closer to urban areas for work, including abroad to Djibouti (from where they send remittances home); running small businesses, such as tea shops; women selling milk in markets; and hunting rabbits and other small animals.³⁵ While often cited as an alternative livelihood strategy for IDPs, wage and day labor

tends to be “unreliable, ad hoc and only an option for able-bodied men.”³⁶ Due to institutional, social and financial barriers, women have fewer adaptation strategies available to them than men. For example, women are less able to migrate to urban areas for work due to home and child-rearing responsibilities.³⁷ A study of conflict-induced adolescents in Oromia found that adolescents were compelled to work on farms in host communities under exploitative conditions.³⁸

COVID-19 has further exacerbated many challenges IDPs face in accessing employment opportunities. A rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on labor markets in the Somali and Tigray regions conducted by ILO found that while there was a decrease in income for all workers, those in the informal sector experienced greater income losses (41 percent decrease for day laborers with oral contracts compared with 19 percent for laborers with a written contract).³⁹ The assessment noted that income losses especially impacted women and IDPs, who are overrepresented in the informal sector; youth also had a harder time finding employment due to reduced demand and closure of educational institutions.⁴⁰

Many studies find that IDPs are willing and eager to work to support themselves, but are frustrated by the lack of opportunities and their continued dependence on humanitarian assistance.⁴¹ IDPs have expressed interest in vocational and skills trainings, as well as loans and microcredit opportunities to

³⁰ Tulli-Guled IDPs Return Response Plan: July-December 2020 (July 2020), Somali Regional State, Disaster Risk Management Bureau, p. 3.

³¹ Hollingsworth, 4.

³² IDMC (2020a).

³³ IDMC, (2020b), 10-11.

³⁴ NRC (2020). Multi Sector Needs Assessment in Fafan, Dollo and Koraha Zone, Somali Region, 7.

³⁵ IDMC (2019), 11. See also: Hollingsworth, 14-15.

³⁶ Stites et al., 6.

³⁷ Hollingsworth, 11-12.

³⁸ Jones et al.

³⁹ ILO (2021). “Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on labour markets in Ethiopia: A case study of the Somali and Tigray regions,” International Labour Organization.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Stites et al., 7, and Hollingsworth, 15.

invest in livestock or other small businesses.⁴² Other services requested included cooperatives for livestock and small trade, cash for crops, cash for work, restocking livelihoods, and training on sustainable livestock and agricultural production in extreme environments.⁴³ Women interviewed in one study said they wanted to start their own business or learn to farm, given that their previous dependence on pastoralism was no longer viable for their families.⁴⁴ In some cases, the lack of opportunities and frustrations over dependence have led IDPs to continue moving to bigger cities, and in some cases, abroad.⁴⁵

Gaps in the literature

There are several critical gaps in the existing literature on the impact of displacement on livelihoods and the strategies households adopt in response. Little is known about intra-household dynamics related to livelihoods in the context of displacement in Ethiopia, including what opportunities are available to different members of the household, and

how decisions related to livelihoods and intra-household divisions of labor are made. We can assume that household dynamics by age and gender change with displacement, but few details are known. For example, while we know that both domestic and economic tasks are certainly gendered (e.g., women care for children and sell milk, while men are charged with large animal husbandry), there is less information on how rigid these gender roles are or how gendered dimensions of livelihoods may fluctuate given social and economic pressures. There is also little available literature on what roles women and children assume when men migrate for work in the context of displacement in Somali region, and although there is statistical data on single-male-headed and single-female-headed IDP households, we do not know a lot about the specific challenges these households face in displacement contexts. Additionally, some studies have alluded to decision-making at the community level; greater efforts should be made to understand the relationship and influence between community leaders and members, and how this might impact approaches to durable solutions (including representation and decision-making power of women, youth, disabled persons, and other marginalized groups).

⁴² Hollingsworth, 16.

⁴³ IDMC (2020b), 19.

⁴⁴ Hollingsworth, 11-12.

⁴⁵ Stites et al., 7.

Q2: What do we already know about interventions to address poverty, food insecurity, and resource scarcity in Ethiopia?

Unfortunately, from an assessment of available literature and heavy presence of development agencies, it follows that a majority of development interventions in Ethiopia lack formal, peer-reviewed evaluations of effectiveness and impact. The following section discusses available literature regarding livelihood interventions in Somali region and greater Ethiopia, and highlights areas which may require further consultation and research. Training, technology, and financial service interventions may apply to both agriculture and pastoralism as the main livelihood forms of the Somali region. Unfortunately, few impact evaluations, including those from greater Ethiopia, focus specifically on interventions for IDPs, representing a significant gap in this analysis.

Training and Information Sharing

With regard to traditional livelihood interventions, the results of impact evaluations conducted in Ethiopia, including in the Somali region, point to the significant positive effects of training and information campaigns on their own on the adoption of new techniques and technologies, which subsequently improve agricultural productivity and household income. However, authors

appear to disagree over the most effective ways to balance programs that assist IDPs with learning new skills with those that tailor livelihood interventions to existing knowledge levels.^{46, 47, 48} An AIEAA evaluation from 2014 finds statistically significant improvement in farmer income as a result of Farmer Training Centers in Haramaya District, a region of Oromia near to this study's targeted sites.⁴⁹ Information, including that obtained through extension services, has shown to be key in overcoming present bias and the adoption of improved, low-tech methods for agricultural and livestock production.⁵⁰ In a 2020 study, IDPs interviewed by IDMC requested training for more sustainable livestock and agriculture in extreme environments and vocational training tailored to local labor markets.⁵¹

Technology Adoption

There have been a large number of interventions in Ethiopia surrounding the adoption of improved and new technologies to improve productivity in both the agriculture and livestock sectors. Key to the effectiveness of technologies is the adoption of multiple, complementary methods, tailored to

⁴⁶ Alemu, Dawit, Wilfred Mwangi, Mandefro Nigussie and David J. Spielman (2008). "The maize seed system in Ethiopia: challenges and opportunities in drought prone areas." *African Journal of Agricultural Research*, Vol. 3, No. 4, 305-314.

⁴⁷ Abera, Kidist, Olivier Crespo, Jemal Seid and Fasil Mequanent (2018). "Simulating the impact of climate change on maize production in Ethiopia, East Africa." *Environmental Systems Research*, Vol. 7, No. 4.

⁴⁸ IDMC (2020b).

⁴⁹ Wordofa, Muluken G. and Sassi, Maria (2014). "Improving Smallholder Farmers' Income through Farmer Training Centers: An Impact Evaluation in Haramaya District, Ethiopia." Paper prepared for presentation at the 3rd AIEAA Conference, AIEAA.

⁵⁰ Mengistu, Fekadu and Engdawork Assefa (2020). "Towards sustaining watershed management practices in Ethiopia: A synthesis of local perception, community participation, adoption and livelihoods." *Environmental Science & Policy*, Vol. 112, 414-430.

⁵¹ IDMC (2020b).

the local context. Wordofa et al. show that improved crop varieties and livestock technologies (including portable poultry houses, poultry birds, cattle breeds, animal feed, and apiculture technologies), when combined, have large positive effects on income among rural smallholder farmers.⁵² Given the salience of changing weather patterns and increased volatility of rainfall across the country (see discussion of climate change adaptation below), much attention is paid to water-related agricultural interventions, including the effectiveness of rainwater harvesting (RWH) and related irrigation and soil enrichment techniques. In-situ RWH techniques, including pit enclosure, half-moon, and soil bund embankment techniques, have shown to have positive impacts for agriculture in degraded rangelands, common to the Somali region.⁵³ In eastern Oromia, RWH techniques have had statistically significant positive impacts on both farm income and household nutrition.⁵⁴ Nevertheless, several studies show that poverty may be deeper and more severe among rainfed households than those who have access to groundwater irrigation (GWI), reflecting the

heightened risk associated with rainfall volatility. GWI, including boreholes or dug wells, has also been shown to be financially feasible under both partial and full cost recovery schemes.⁵⁵

With respect to technology adoption, it is important to recognize the gendered dimensions of demand for new techniques in agricultural and livestock production. While simple adoption indicators may not show differences across differing gender groups, the complementary inputs and services to enable technology adoption--including access to education, information, land, credit, and other resources--are highly affected by gender and age. Technologies that reduce men's labor time may also appear more valuable, and many women are reluctant to adopt labor-saving technologies in favor of appearing as hard-working. Moreover, technological interventions, among others related to financial services, tend to target men as the "farmer," irrespective of how much agricultural work is performed by male members of a participant household. Thus, in technology interventions, household makeup must be heavily considered, including the availability of and access to male-related labor.⁵⁶

⁵² Wordofa, M.G., Hassen, J.Y., Endris, G.S. et al. (2021). Adoption of improved agricultural technology and its impact on household income: a propensity score matching estimation in eastern Ethiopia. *Agric & Food Secur* 10, 5. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40066-020-00278-2>.

⁵³ Tadele, Demisachew; Awdenegest Moges; and Mihret Dananto (2018). "Impact evaluation on survival of tree seedling using selected in situ rainwater harvesting methods in Gerduba Watershed, Borana Zone, Ethiopia," *Journal of Horticulture and Forestry*, Vol. 10, No. 4, 43-51.

⁵⁴ Jafer Mume (2014). "Impacts of Rain-Water-Harvesting and Socio-Economic Factors on Household Food, Security and Income in Moisture Stress Areas of Eastern Hararghe, Ethiopia." *International Journal of Novel Research in Marketing Management and Economics*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 10-23.

⁵⁵ Hagos, Fitsum and Kassahun Mamo (2014). "Financial viability of groundwater irrigation and its impact on livelihoods of smallholder farmers: The case of eastern Ethiopia." *Water Resources and Economics*, Vol. 7, 55-65.

⁵⁶ Badstue, Lone, Anouka van Eerdewijk, Katrine Danielsen, Mahlet Hailemariam and Elizabeth Mukewa (2020). "How local gender norms and intra-household dynamics shape women's demand for labor saving technologies: insights from maize-based livelihoods in Ethiopia and Kenya." *Gender, Technology and Development*, 24:3, 341-361.

Business and Financial Services

Throughout the country, cooperatives are a highly popular form of stimulating agricultural production, household income, and economic development, especially due to their specific support and encouragement by related government agencies. A large portion of Ethiopia's livelihoods development literature affirms the positive impacts of cooperatives on income, consumption, savings, reduced input costs, agricultural performance/yield, output competitiveness, employment opportunities, technology adoption, individuals' business administration skills, and food security.^{57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62} Nevertheless, some key limitations emerge: special efforts must be made to include land-poor and illiterate households, who are often excluded in the targeting of cooperative interventions, however may also stand to see the greatest improvements as a result of the intervention.^{63, 64} Furthermore, the impact of cooperatives on productive asset accumulation is mixed.⁶⁵ Abebaw and Haile suggest that a lack of asset accumulation in cooperative interventions is due to project participants' being among the poorest who own few assets at the beginning, and their propensity to consume is much higher than saving and investment in fixed assets. In their study, they find

that although the livelihoods of women cooperative participants have improved, they are still poor as compared to non-participant women.⁶⁶ Abebaw and Haile find that cooperative members are more likely to be male and of older age groups.⁶⁷ Mojo et al. find that land rights issues and social unrest are major threats to the effectiveness of cooperatives.⁶⁸

Other financial service interventions may include start-up capital, including microfinance services, for small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) models. IDPs interviewed in an IDMC study of the Somali region specifically requested microfinance services for livestock and crops for small-scale trade with Somalia.⁶⁹ A national-level World Bank study concludes that investing in women-owned enterprises provides one of the highest return opportunities available in emerging markets. Due to higher female unemployment rates and women's likelihood to hire other women, women-owned SMEs are posed to contribute to rapid economic growth.⁷⁰ A women's VSLA program implemented by Oxfam in the Somali region led to improvements to access to credit and markets, technology adoption, earnings, access to water and grazing land, wealth, asset ownership, and non-farm business development. Notably, however, OXFAM's savings and loans groups had no effect,

⁵⁷ Getnet, Kindie and Tsegaye Anullo (2012). "Agricultural Cooperatives and Rural Livelihoods: Evidence from Ethiopia." *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, 83(2), 181-198.

⁵⁸ Wassie, S.B., Kusakari, H. and Masahiro, S. (2019), "Inclusiveness and effectiveness of agricultural cooperatives: recent evidence from Ethiopia." *International Journal of Social Economics*, Vol. 46, No. 5, 614-630.

⁵⁹ Getnet and Anullo.

⁶⁰ Kebebe, E. and F. Shibru (2017). "Impact of alternative livelihood interventions on household welfare: Evidence from rural Ethiopia." *Forest Policy and Economics*, Vol. 75, 67-72.

⁶¹ Degnet Abebaw, Mekbib G. Haile (2013). "The impact of cooperatives on agricultural technology adoption: Empirical evidence from Ethiopia." *Food Policy*, Volume 38, 82-91.

⁶² Dagne Mojo, Christian Fischer, Terefe Degefa (2017). "The determinants and economic impacts of membership in coffee farmer cooperatives: recent evidence from rural Ethiopia." *Journal of Rural Studies*, Volume 50, 84-94.

⁶³ Wassie et al.

⁶⁴ Abebaw and Haile.

⁶⁵ Getnet and Anullo.

⁶⁶ Kebebe and Shibru.

⁶⁷ Abebaw and Haile.

⁶⁸ Mojo et al.

⁶⁹ IDMC (2020b).

⁷⁰ Strobbe, Francesco; Alibhai, Salman (2015). *Financing Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopia. SME finance community of practice quick lessons series*, No. 2, World Bank, Washington, DC.

positive or negative, on women's work burden, nor did they improve resistance to shocks, including drought.⁷¹ Additionally, Alemu et al. (2018) caution practitioners that similar women-only livelihoods groups models may result in a "backlash effect," where women's increased access to information and income generation leads to increased incidence of domestic violence.⁷²

To improve access to assets, several Ethiopian studies, including in the Somali region, support the use of in-kind transfers or cash grants, rather than the provision of credit.⁷³ Studies in 2019 and 2020 show that credit may ease access and use of technologies and improved agricultural practices. However, an assessment of multidimensional poverty reduction published in 2021, making use of data from the World Bank's Living Standard Measurement Study, finds that the provision of credit to very poor households is a significant contributor to the inability to improve their livelihoods due to high interest rates and significant collateral requirements.⁷⁴ Provision of cash-based assistance has been recognized as a means to improve household purchasing power to support local markets in the Ethiopian context.⁷⁵ Tadesse and Zewdie confirm that improved access to credit is effective for improving livelihood outcomes only for households with greater pre-existing wealth. When the authors control their results for wealth, grant-based investments actually perform better than credit-based livelihood investments, suggesting that livelihood grants, or asset transfers, help to both

reach the excluded ultra-poor and to improve the effectiveness and productivity of rural livelihoods investments.⁷⁶

Safety Net and Resilience Programming

While the above educational, technological and financial service interventions are critical for promoting resilience, Haile et al. remind practitioners that such approaches are not sufficient on their own for lifting households out of poverty in the face of idiosyncratic shocks.⁷⁷ The need for productive alternatives to traditional, shock-sensitive livelihoods points to the importance of livelihood diversification. Ethiopian IDPs, especially those displaced by drought, increasingly acknowledged that the pastoralist way of life may no longer be viable, or as viable, as it was in their origin locations.⁷⁸ Still, pastoralist livelihoods are accompanied by a high degree of adaptability to variable environments as well as cultural importance, reminding practitioners to consider complex indigenous knowledge systems that govern particular livelihood choices.⁷⁹ Regarding diversification, Tsegaye et al. show that as households diversify, inequalities (measured by a gini coefficient) between households seem to decrease. Households that specialize only in livestock now have lower incomes than those who practice farming, or combine livestock and crop farming. Moreover, while

⁷¹ Jonathan Lain (2017). "Resilience in Ethiopia and Somaliland: Impact evaluation of the reconstruction project 'Development of Enabling Conditions for Pastoralist and Agro-Pastoralist Communities'." Oxfam International, 4-11.

⁷² Sintayehu Hailu Alemu, Luuk Van Kempen and Ruerd Ruben (2018). "Women Empowerment Through Self-Help Groups: The Bittersweet Fruits of Collective Apple Cultivation in Highland Ethiopia." *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 19:3, 308-330, DOI: 10.1080/19452829.2018.1454407.

⁷³ Yasukawa.

⁷⁴ Haile, Dereje, Abraham Seyoum and Alemu Azmeraw (2021). "Does Building the Resilience of Rural Households Reduce Multidimensional Poverty? Analysis of panel data in Ethiopia." *Scientific African*. Elsevier B.V. on behalf of African Institute of Mathematical Sciences / NextEinstein Initiative.

⁷⁵ Yasukawa.

⁷⁶ Tadesse, Getaw and Tadiwos Zewdie (2019). "Grants vs. credits for improving the livelihoods of ultra-poor: Evidence from Ethiopia." *World Development*, Vol. 113, 320-329.

⁷⁷ Haile and Azmeraw.

⁷⁸ Hollingsworth.

⁷⁹ Worku, Adefires, Jürgen Pretzsch, Habtemariam Kassa, and Eckhard Auch (2014). "The significance of dry forest income for livelihood resilience: The case of the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the drylands of southeastern Ethiopia." *Forest Policy and Economics*, Vol. 41, 51-59.

“less poor” households still derive a higher share of their income from livestock, these households’ involvement in agriculture and income from crops is more intensive than that of “poor” households.⁸⁰

Increasing evidence demonstrates the benefits of off-farm livelihoods, including wage work and dry forest income, the latter increasingly practiced in the southern and eastern regions of Ethiopia. Haile et al. find that increases in households’ non-farm income, the number of off-farm skilled workers, and wage labor participation are crucial for overcoming risks of deprivation and lifting households from multidimensional poverty.⁸¹ Off-farm income may also benefit agricultural productivity: farmers who participate in off-farm activities face fewer liquidity and credit constraints, leading to increased investment in productivity enhancing technologies.⁸² Alternative, off-farm livelihoods are often critical for women’s resilience to deprivation risks. Kebebe and Shibru find that women are more likely to take on alternative livelihoods.⁸³ In a 2014 study in southeastern Ethiopia by Worku et al., female-headed households emphasized that for them, dry forest income (e.g. income from selling firewood, gum, resin, etc.) was the fastest, most accessible and relatively stable income source. The authors also find that dry forest income may contribute up to 63% of very poor households’ income, a change from earlier decades when traditional livelihood forms were more viable. Moreover, the sale of gums and resins is a promising opportunity for lifting households out of poverty in this region.⁸⁴

IDMC notes that IDPs, despite improvements in coping capacity in 2020, are still very vulnerable to shocks; if they were to face a relatively normal drought, for example, they may be rendered totally dependent on humanitarian assistance.⁸⁵ In the face of climate change, droughts have increased in their intensity and duration in the Somali region.⁸⁶ Furthermore, several climate prediction models point to increasing volatility of rainfall patterns in the near future.⁸⁷ Authors, including Conway, highlight the need for fundamental shifts in thinking away from disaster-focused short-term view of climate variability, to a long-term perspective that emphasizes livelihood security and vulnerability reduction.⁸⁸ In November 2015, The USAID-funded Feed the Future program published the results of its impact evaluation for the project, Ethiopia Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME), implemented in part in Somali region. The evaluation finds that the factors contributing to resilience capacity that were found to have made a difference for households’ resilience to the drought (in at least one of the regions) were: bonding and bridging social capital, access to informal safety nets, households’ holdings of savings and their human capital, access to financial resources, access to markets, and access to communal natural resources.⁸⁹

As such, it is important for practitioners to consider some form of safety net programming to anticipate and respond to potential shocks. In 2005, the Ethiopian government launched its ambitious safety

⁸⁰ Tsegaye, D., P. Vedeld, and S. R. Moe, “Pastoralists and livelihoods: A case study from northern Afar, Ethiopia,” *Journal of Arid Environments*, Vol. 91, 138-146.

⁸¹ Haile et al.

⁸² Ahmed, M., Melesse, K. (2018). Impact of off-farm activities on technical efficiency: evidence from maize producers of eastern Ethiopia. *Agric Econ* 6, 3.

⁸³ Kebebe and Shibru.

⁸⁴ Worku et al.

⁸⁵ IDMC (2020b).

⁸⁶ IDMC (2020a).

⁸⁷ Moges, Desalew Meseret and Bhat, H. Gangadhara (2020). “Climate change and its implications for rainfed agriculture in Ethiopia.” *Journal of Water and Climate Change*. IWA Publishing 2020.

⁸⁸ Conway, Declan, E. Lisa and F. Schipper (2011). “Adaptation to climate change in Africa: Challenges and opportunities identified from Ethiopia.” *Global Environmental Change*, Vol. 21, 227-237.

⁸⁹ Timothy Frankenberger and Lisa Smith (2015). Ethiopia Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME) Impact Evaluation. Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development, Feed the Future FEEDBACK, xiii.

net program, the PSNP, whose objective is to provide food/cash transfers to the food-insecure population in chronically food insecure districts in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level and creates assets at the community level. While a 2017 study finds that the PSNP led to improvements in food consumption, the same study found no statistically significant impact on recipient households' annual income.⁹⁰ An INGO staff member told IDMC that some restocking is a good idea for those whose livestock has been affected by drought. Restocking beneficiaries can do livestock marketing, most effectively led through small cooperatives. This is a good option as the "livestock trade is booming in Warder and Kebridehar, and IDPs could export livestock to Somalia again."⁹¹

Concerning climate change adaptation strategies, Bryan et al. suggest a variety of interventions, including technological options such as use of fertilizers and RWH techniques, altering planting dates, and supplemental irrigation.⁹² Several authors show that most climate change adaptation strategies implemented by maize-dependent smallholders in other regions of the country are complementary. Also, their combination increases the likelihood of farmers' adopting other techniques.⁹³ Initial adoption of these strategies, however, is hindered by a shortage of finance, eligible household labor, and the absence of climate related information, training and extension services. Furthermore, preparation for climate change requires collective action. Communities will need to collaborate to avoid overexploitation of natural resources, especially those communally owned.⁹⁴

Meeting Basic Needs

Finally, effective livelihood interventions require a combined approach to address basic shelter, water, food, education, and health needs. Many IDPs in the Somali region remain dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs, critical for local integration processes to be successful.⁹⁵ However, a long-term approach to meeting these needs is warranted. The literature confirms that optimal livelihood outcomes are associated with key needs being met: data from the World Bank shows that literacy is one of the largest contributors to wealth accumulation. Furthermore, infrastructure is a key enabling factor for livelihood recovery. A lack of market and transportation infrastructure may severely undermine all of the above mentioned livelihood interventions.^{97, 98} A study in a similar agro-ecological zone of Ethiopia (Afar) found that the major factors constraining livelihood activities were external, including the absence of well-functioning markets.⁹⁹

⁹⁰ Abduselam Abdulahi Mohamed (2017). "Impact of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on the Household Livelihood: The Case of Babile District in Somali Regional State, Ethiopia." *International Journal of Economy, Energy and Environment*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 25-31.

⁹¹ IDMC (2020b), 18.

⁹² Bryan, Elizabeth, Temesgen T. Deressa, Glwadys A. Gbetibouo, Claudia Ringler (2009). "Adaptation to climate change in Ethiopia and South Africa: options and constraints." *Environmental Science & Policy*, Vol. 12, Iss. 4, 413-426, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2008.11.002>.

⁹³ Bedeke, Sisay, Wouter Vanhove, Muluken Gezahegn, Kolandavel Natarajanc and Patrick Van Damme (2019). "Adoption of climate change adaptation strategies by maize-dependent smallholders in Ethiopia." *NJAS - Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences*, Vol. 88, 96-104.

⁹⁴ Mihiretu, Ademe, Eric Ndemo Okoyo, and Tesfaye Lemma (2021). "Causes, indicators and impacts of climate change: understanding the public discourse in Goat based agro-pastoral livelihood zone, Ethiopia." *Heliyon*, 7(3), e06529.

⁹⁵ IDMC (2020b).

⁹⁶ Haile et al.

⁹⁷ Worku et al.

⁹⁸ IFPRI (2013).

⁹⁹ Tsegaye et al.

Q3: What are lessons learned about the three durable solutions: resettlement, integration, and return?

Much of the national and international response to internal displacement in Ethiopia has been providing humanitarian assistance, and in general has lacked a comprehensive approach to supporting IDPs to achieve durable solutions.¹⁰⁰ This started to change after the government established an advisory working group following the conflicts along the Somali-Oromia border. In 2017, the Somali Regional State developed a durable solution strategy, which was spearheaded by the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) in line with international principles and frameworks. Although this strategy has gained national and international attention, its implementation has been hindered by poor coordination across stakeholders and sectors, limited resources, and low technical capacity of regional implementers.¹⁰¹ The DSWG is looking into a DS Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to help finance its operations,¹⁰² and Ethiopia has been able to draw on lessons from Somalia's experiences in developing its DSI.¹⁰³ Although the DSI achieved broad stakeholder support from national and regional governments, UN agencies and INGOs, COVID-19 and rising insecurity have hampered its early momentum.¹⁰⁴

The lack of longitudinal and cross-sectoral data on IDPs has prevented analysis and development of long-term strategies and solutions to internal

displacement; short-term data collection (such as IOM's DTM) "should be expanded from the collection of data for the purpose of guiding the planning and coordination of short-term humanitarian response to the generation of a body of evidence that can support progress towards solutions and future policy decisions."¹⁰⁵ Additionally, approaches to durable solutions must prioritize measures to mitigate and respond to the adverse impacts of climate shocks that lead to initial and secondary displacement. A study conducted by Refugees International found that the government had not engaged in robust planning in these areas.¹⁰⁶ Including IDPs in planning and decision-making is also critical; the DSWG and regional administrations rely heavily on INGOs and UN agencies for coordination and gathering information from IDPs.¹⁰⁷

Our team had difficulty locating literature that explicitly considers each of the three durable solutions in turn. Here, we pull from references made in the existing literature. Some reports consider a particular IDP site or DS intervention, while others mention these in the broader discussion of displacement in Ethiopia.

¹⁰⁰ Habte, B., and Kweon, Y. J. (2018). "Addressing internal displacement in Ethiopia." *Forced Migration Review*, Vol. 59, 40.

¹⁰¹ Habte and Kweon, 41.

¹⁰² GP20, "Working Together Better to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement," GP20 Compilation of National Practices, 85.

¹⁰³ GP20, 86-87.

¹⁰⁴ GP20, 86.

¹⁰⁵ Habte and Kweon, 41.

¹⁰⁶ Hollingsworth, 9.

¹⁰⁷ GP20, 85.

Resettlement

In May 2020, the Ethiopian DSWG released a set of principles for planned relocation of IDPs, which include: focusing on those affected; information, consultation and participation; choice on the part of those being resettled; comprehensiveness of recovery, to include livelihoods, social cohesion, and impacts on host communities; integrity of the family and the best interests of the child; and equality and non-discrimination.¹⁰⁸

An assessment conducted by the DSWG of IDP relocation sites in six zones in Somali in January 2020 found that the sites were suitable for IDP resettlement due to their proximity to host villages and basic service facilities, and the availability of grazing and farming land. At the time of the assessment, most IDPs were living in temporary shelters, but construction of permanent housing was underway. Host communities were consulted and had both positive and negative attitudes towards the resettlement of IDPs close to their villages. Positive perceptions include that IDPs bring skills, manpower and entrepreneurship to the host communities, but potential negative impacts include putting additional burdens on already strained services, including water, hygiene and sanitation, health and education. Additionally, host communities fear environmental degradation and afforestation if IDPs rely on trees for building shelters and collecting firewood.¹⁰⁹

A study of resettlement in western Oromia from 2003-2005 offers additional insights and lessons learned.¹¹⁰ The study found that these resettlement schemes displaced both IDPs and host communities,

that many resettlers felt they were forcefully evicted or coerced from their homes, and that IDPs were favored over host communities in resource allocation, including farmland.¹¹¹ Government authorities also unfairly cast resettlers as “miserable” people “who depend on government for food aid and who should be grateful of government care.” Host communities, on the other hand, were treated as “squatters” and “inhabitants of an area with unutilized or underutilized resources,” which was used as justification for eviction without compensation.¹¹² Additionally, these



Houses constructed for relocated IDPs, Goljano woreda.
Photo by Abdirahman Ahmed Muhumed

resettlement schemes were undertaken without appropriate consultation and involvement of IDPs and host communities throughout the planning and implementation phases. Some resettlers interviewed during the study conveyed that resettlers were intimidated or afraid to express any dissent or demand greater service provisions, due to fears of being accused of political dissent by authorities.¹¹³ All of these factors combined to limit the social and livelihood recovery of resettlers and host communities, and prolonged dependence on external support.

¹⁰⁸ Guidelines for Sustainable Planned Relocation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, May 2020.

¹⁰⁹ Site level Report, Assessment on IDPs relocation Sites in Siti, Fafa, Jarar, Korehey, Nogob & Shabele zones, 26 Dec-04 Jan 2020, Durable Solution Working Group, Somali Region.

¹¹⁰ This resettlement program was undertaken by the Government of Ethiopia and coordinated by the Oromia Food Security Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission. According to the Ethiopian government, voluntary resettlement was a response to recurring food insecurity and as a way to improve resettlers' livelihoods. Resettlers were relocated intra-regionally, primarily from eastern to western Oromia, and some traveled over 1000 km to their relocation sites. See Wayessa, Gutu Olana and Anja Nygren (2016). “Whose Decisions, Whose Livelihoods? Resettlement and Environmental Justice in Ethiopia.” *Society & Natural Resources*, 29(4), 387-402.

¹¹¹ Wayessa, Gutu Olana and Anja Nygren (2016). “Whose Decisions, Whose Livelihoods? Resettlement and Environmental Justice in Ethiopia.” *Society & Natural Resources*, 29(4), 393, 296.

¹¹² Ibid, 397.

¹¹³ Ibid, 399.

Integration

IOM's January 2021 DTM assessment found that a majority of IDPs in Somali (89 percent in IDP sites) prefer local integration over other durable solution options. An IDMC report notes the increasing focus on local integration "as a key component of the humanitarian and development community's effort to achieve durable solution in the [Somali] region over the last several months."¹¹⁴ The same study noted that local integration is sometimes the only option for drought-induced IDPs, as there is nothing left for them in the place where they left. While shelter, water and food were the most urgent needs for integrating IDPs, longer-term focus on livelihoods recovery and economic opportunities is also necessary for integration to be a durable option.¹¹⁵ In many cases, people prefer to integrate in locations where their sub-clans are.¹¹⁶ There are some locations that have been identified as being unsuitable for long-term residence, at least at the time of assessment, including Millennium Park and Qoloji.¹¹⁷ In most areas, greater investment is needed in urban areas and infrastructure to support the integration of IDPs.¹¹⁸

Regarding livelihoods for local integration, one study found that some IDPs prioritize greater diversification of livelihoods. Particularly for pastoralists who lived semi-nomadically prior to displacement, some felt that "the best option was that some members of the family, particularly women and children, should stay close to the peri-urban areas to learn new skills and to have better access to water and to services such as education and healthcare - while the men would return to rural areas to raise livestock."¹¹⁹

¹¹⁴ IDMC (2020b), 15.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Somali Regional State Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) (2020). Plan for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) In Somali Region: A Menu of Options for IDPs.

¹¹⁷ Millennium park is located on the premise of a World Bank funded project, which has created greater pressure for IDPs to relocate. Somali Regional State Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB), Plan for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) In Somali Region: A Menu of Options for IDPs, March 2020.

¹¹⁸ IDMC (2020c). "No land, no water, no pasture": The urbanisation of drought displacement in Somalia" Thematic Series *No matter of choice: Displacement in a changing climate*, 12.

¹¹⁹ Ferrández, P. C. (2020). "Community strategies for diversification in Ethiopia." *Revista Migraciones Forzadas*, Vol. 64, 11-12.

¹²⁰ Ethiopia National Displacement Report 7, 19.

¹²¹ Somali Regional State DRMB (2020).

¹²² Tulli-Guled IDPs Return Response Plan, 3.

Return

At the national level, IOM's Dec 2020-Jan 2021 DTM Assessment found that lack of livelihood, destroyed housing, and lack of safety/security were the three most cited factors preventing return of IDPs.¹²⁰ A planning document by the Somali Regional State Disaster Risk Management Bureau notes that IDPs who returned faced major challenges, "as agricultural activities had come to a standstill, houses were destroyed, land disputes arose, and schools and health facilities needed rehabilitation;" this raises the potential for secondary or tertiary movement and displacement.¹²¹

TulliGuled offers an interesting example of IDPs returning following conflict-induced displacement. After a peace agreement was reached between two conflicting clans in Fafan zone, the zonal and regional governments began facilitating the return of IDPs to Tuli Guled and Jinacsani woredas. This process began in June 2020, in coordination with the Somali Regional Disaster Risk Management Bureau, clan leaders, woreda administrators, and Ethiopian Defense Forces. A joint mission to assess the return process was conducted in June 2020. At that time, 7,545 households had returned to Tuli Guled woreda of over 24,000 displaced households; 16,528 were still expected to return. Returnees identified shelter and food as the most critical needs, as many shelters had been damaged or destroyed during the conflict. There was also a critical water shortage, and services such as health, education, grain mills, animal health posts and sanitation were lacking.¹²² Livelihoods also remained impacted by conflict, displacement and

return, and most returnees were dependent on food aid. Over 124,000 hectares of land with crops were burned or uprooted during the conflict, irrigation and water systems were intentionally blocked, and livestock were looted or killed during the conflict, leaving IDPs with nothing. The report recommends greater provision of agricultural inputs and veterinary supplies; providing veterinary and farmer training services; restocking livestock or providing tractors to assist in agricultural production; and providing cash transfers, income generating opportunities, and other livelihood support to prevent negative coping strategies.¹²³

Additional considerations:

As mentioned above and throughout reviewed literature, a positive relationship between host communities and displaced persons, and in turn that of each with service providers, is crucial for sustainable livelihood development. In the Ethiopian context, this relationship is perhaps most pronounced in the issue of land. Several authors highlight that rural land laws are weak in the protection of local land use rights, including with regard to land acquisition for investment in agriculture. Presumably, this condition would extend to the acquisition of land for returned, integrated, and resettled IDPs. Aside from an improved policy environment, authors suggest a highly participative approach to land allocation, one in which committees are formed with representation from both displaced and host populations. Together with local leadership, such committees could make important decisions on key resource allocation issues.¹²⁴ Notably, several authors discourage land rental schemes for resettled and integrated IDPs as it has been shown to deepen poverty by

worsening secure and sustained access to land, reducing productive yield, and dismantling long-standing land-based social relations.^{125, 126} It is important also to take into account any large international or domestic land deals that may be active in or around the area where displaced populations reside and bear severe impacts on affected populations' livelihoods.¹²⁷

In a prime example of fostering mutually beneficial host-IDP relations, Ferrández (2020) suggests a community-based approach to implementation of disaster risk management plans in the Dollo zone of Somali region. Host community members, IDPs and local authorities are provided cash grants to come up with socially inclusive disaster risk management plans. The author notes,

“Identifying durable solutions that emerge from and are appropriate to the communities themselves is one of the challenges facing the development of and support for durable solutions in the region and in the country. A stronger commitment to local counterparts, starting with committees of IDPs and host community grassroots organisations, would enable greater acceptance, ownership and sustainability.”¹²⁸

A report by IDMC reiterates that durable solutions stakeholders, including service providers and local authorities, have identified the need for community-based planning and approaches, and for greater participation of IDPs and host communities. One interviewee notes, “as a result of this work, coordination already has improved and the capacities of local authorities have been strengthened.” Importantly, the IDMC also notes that the involvement of IDPs and host communities remains inadequate in Ethiopian IDP sites.¹²⁹

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Agegnehu, Alelegn Wenedem (2020). “Protection of local land use rights in the process of large-scale agricultural land acquisition in Ethiopia.”

¹²⁵ Haile et al.

¹²⁶ Wayessa.

¹²⁷ Wayessa and Nygren, 387-402.

¹²⁸ Ferrández, P. C.

¹²⁹ IDMC (2020b), 17.

In line with the above, service providers should ensure equitable interventions for both the displaced and host populations. The May 2020 Guidelines for Sustainable Planned Relocation of IDPs in Ethiopia call for a comprehensive recovery plan, one that includes interventions related to livelihoods and social cohesion, as well as addresses the needs of the host communities of IDPs.¹³⁰ This call reflects the growing use of area-based approaches in humanitarian assistance to address interrelated needs of displaced and non-displaced populations.¹³¹ This finding is echoed by the Ethiopia Durable Solution Initiative.¹³² Wayessa and Nygren, in their study of resettlement schemes in Oromia, show that both resettlers and hosts experience uneven redistribution of resources and unfair forms of recognition and political representation, which in tandem limit their possibilities for recovery.¹³³

¹³⁰ "Guidelines" (2020).

¹³¹ Yasukawa (2020).

¹³² "Ethiopia Durable Solution Initiative."

¹³³ Wayessa and Nygren (2016).

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