A SEARCH FOR COMPLEMENTARY APPROACHES
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SUSTAINABLE SHELTER SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE SUSTAINABLE SHELTER SOLUTIONS?

- Owner Driven Approaches & Modalities
- Site and Settlement Planning
- Housing Land and Property
- Gender
- Protection Mainstreaming
- Local Building Culture
- Building Back Safer
Introduction to Sustainable Shelter Solutions

The Shelter Cluster’s main target population for 2016 is restricted to internally displaced persons. The current SC strategy targets 480,000 displaced persons. The Shelter Cluster strategy has three main objectives: Emergency, Transitional and Durable Solutions. Capacity-building and a coordination component has been embedded within all of the pillars.

The Somalia Shelter Cluster (SC) has historically provided emergency assistance to newly displaced people affected by natural and human-caused disasters (e.g., flood, fire, drought, conflict and evictions). However, with the overall security situation having improved since the beginning of 2013, the cluster is placing more of an emphasis on sustainable shelter solutions for protractedely displaced persons and is moving away from ONLY lifesaving activities. Since the target population for the SC are IDPs, the nature of their displacement is protracted (for some households, displacement has been lasting for 20 years). SC needs to divert its focus from life-saving interventions and factor in more sustainable and durable solutions for its target groups. Transitional shelter solutions that are relevant to the displacement situation, and which take into account prevailing tenure considerations will be provided for households that have been protractedly displaced in settlements that have traditionally been located in and around the urban centres of Somalia. The concept of transitional shelter\(^1\) covers all interventions from upgraded shelter kits to hybrid solutions. The typology will depend on factors including land tenure, funding levels, specific needs, agency experience, support from local authorities and location of the internally displaced persons settlements, and beneficiaries’ preferences.

Sustainable shelter solutions are a strategic focus of the SC. They look at short-term interventions to tamper the effects of issues such as land tenure insecurity, IDP legal rights status, and low humanitarian funding levels. These however are issues that can only be resolved in the long term, and they do vary substantively in rural or urban settings. Instrumental to tackling long term issues, is building community resilience of IDPs and returnees. Sustainable shelter approaches need to be addressed as a holistic package and need a strong integrated approach with all other sectors (e.g., water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH, education, health). The Shelter Cluster has identified 7 key concepts that show that “A shelter is more than a roof”: (1) HLP (2) Site and settlement planning (3) Owner Driven Approaches and community participation (4) Protection Mainstreaming (5) Localized Solutions (6) Building Back Safer and (7) Modalities.

The Shelter cluster has started several pilots focusing on 4 main approaches: (1) HLP (2) Owner Driven Approaches (3) Local Building Culture and (4) Building Back Safer.

Improved understanding and advocacy of Land Tenure (HLP)

Housing, Land and Property rights protection is an overarching thematic priority of the Protection Cluster and has taken a strong leadership in 2015 to get relevant actors working together in better understanding land tenure security and its fundamental nature for the security of persons, for dignified living standards and for self-reliance.

The lack of access to housing, land and property rights, including insecurity of tenure, is major obstacle to more sustainable solutions to displacement. As a result, forced evictions are likely to further rise as the security situation stabilizes, urbanization continues, land values rise, and foreign and domestic investment increases. There remains an urgent need for improved transitional and permanent shelters that offer more protection, privacy and dignity over longer periods of time; this in turn requires improved security of tenure that Shelter and Protection clusters are striving to enhance, alongside with improved protection and prospects for durable solutions.

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\(^1\) See definition paper on Sustainable Shelter Solutions: www.sheltercluster.org
EXISTING SETTLEMENTS

UPGRADING

TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS

HYBRID T-SHELTERS

PERMANENT SHELTER
Most land in Somalia is privately owned. Dominant clans control land and are often hesitant or unwilling to sell land to outsiders or members of other clans. Lack of access to land and insecurity of tenure are major obstacles to durable solutions and represent a root problem that must be addressed in order to affect change. In urban areas of Somalia, forced evictions are common and likely to increase as the security situation stabilizes, urbanization continues, and foreign and domestic investment increases. Rural-urban migration and growing urbanisation add their own complexity to the situation, as these are global phenomena in developing countries that need to be taken into account.

The SC uses the concept of due diligence as a standard for all sustainable shelter solutions decisions pertaining to Housing, Land, and Property (HLP). This concept requires shelter actors to: (1) achieve as much legal certainty about land rights as is reasonable, given the context and constraints on resources and time; and (2) reduce, as much as possible, the risk that the construction of shelter causes or contributes to increasing tensions and conflicts around land; and (3) avoid future eviction of the beneficiaries.

**Local Building Culture, Building Back Safer and Owner Driven approaches**

Linked to the move toward owner-driven approaches and community participation is the concept of localized shelter solutions for transitional and permanent shelter. This concept prioritizes the local building practices and materials in shelter construction. The assumption is that local communities know best what materials work for their local environment, what shelter design is most appropriate for the culture and climactic context, and how to maintain shelters built in these ways. Furthermore, the SC has noticed after many different evaluations that the construction techniques utilized are not sustainable for the vulnerable population groups: only 5% of the supported beneficiaries with cement-block houses have been able to expand their house using similar building practices. The role of the SC is to use localized solutions as a foundation upon which to provide technical and financial support for the highest quality and most appropriate shelter possible. Community participation and ownership are underlying themes that are embedded in all cluster activities, with a strong focus on shifting away from contractor-driven to owner-driven approaches.

A key concept to ensuring sustainable shelter solutions are, indeed, sustainable is that of building back safer. Often when vulnerable groups are displaced and decide to settle in a new location, resources and knowledge are limited to ensure that the new shelter is resistant to future natural hazards. When SC partners employ the concept of building back safer, they are ensuring that households and communities understand how to be prepared, find a safe location to build, consider the house’s shape and position when constructing the shelter, build a strong foundation, tie-down the structure from the bottom-up, include bracing, form strong joints, and construct a strong roof. The SC advocates that building back safer be integrated into all SC partner designs. More information can also be found on the training pages on the sheltercluster.org.

In the Somalia context, contractor-driven approaches have been the preferred labour assistance method due to difficult access, clan-based tensions, political support, and availability of skilled labour and existing capacity. Since the beginning of 2011 in Somalia, there has been a step-by-step approach to increase the inclusion of the beneficiaries in all parts of the process, from the project set-up until the construction itself and the handover. In an owner driven approach, the prioritization of needs and the decision-making are in the hands of the affected families, giving them ownership of their project. Owner driven does not imply that the affected family should provide construction labour, but it requires that they manage the reconstruction with technical assistance. Owner driven projects are defined by three fundamental requirements: (1) participatory process of decision-making, (2) adequate technical support, and (3) adequate financial assistance.
A Search to Complimentary Approaches

PROBLEM STATEMENT FOR URBAN SHELTER ACTIVITIES

One of the major problems looking at longer term (sustainable solutions) for IDPs is the high cost of the more permanent shelter. Although humanitarian donors in the past have been supportive in the construction of permanent shelter sites (UNHCR Durable Solutions Funding, Japanese Government, Norwegian Government, Danish Government,...), there is more and more hesitance to provide “higher-cost shelter solutions” through humanitarian funding. Especially with the start of the New Deal and now with the formation of the National Development Plan (NDP), many humanitarian donors are cautious to provide funding for projects that are linked with the NDP. Low-cost housing sits within pillar 3, infrastructure projects.

As the development actors in Somalia are still not fully present nor operational in the respective administrative regions in Somalia. As humanitarian actors are still considered the most operational actors within Somalia, there will be a period of building bridges in-between humanitarian and more development oriented programming. This concept note specifically tries to look at complimentary approaches to ensure that humanitarian actors have a triggering effect towards more sustainable and durable solutions in Somalia.

Shelter Cluster has started an approach of Sustainable Shelter Solutions that provides directions towards building these bridges and helps to reduce the budget of humanitarian shelter projects:

- By better understanding the component of **Local Building Culture**, the cost of the construction of houses could be reduced. The promotion of cement-block houses by NGO and UN agencies in Somalia, have shown a non-sustainable approach as only 5% of the beneficiaries were able to expand their houses using the same building technique. The Shelter Cluster has therefore started to look at two pilots to define locally adapted typologies:
  - Kismaayo (see page 5): the adobe structure with improved cement based foundation costs 800 $ compared to a similar sized structure worth 1400$ in cement blocks or Stabilized Soil Blocks (SSB or Interlocking SSB).
  - Garowe (to start): the amount of cement in a stone-block house in Garowe could be reduced by 50% by using mud-mortar (+cement joint filling) for the walls instead of cement blocks or cement-plastering.

- Although many materials that are used in the construction of a house are locally available, most of the materials have been provided by contractors (with trucks). As transport is one of the most costly components in the construction business in Somalia, we need to improve the access of beneficiaries to **locally available resources**. For example, in Garowe there are good stone, sand and earth quarries close to the permanent relocation site that has been identified by the government. If these quarries would be made public, the cost of transport would be reduced dramatically within the housing construction and further reduce the costs of the shelter. The activities would provide a more urban livelihoods approach and could be organized through cooperatives.

- It is generally known that **owner driven projects** have a better value for money than contractor driven projects. Examples in Africa and Asia have shown that you can have a 100% increase in value for money. For example, a Somali refugee returnee (from Yemen) in Garowe received a cash grant from NRC for 3 months (100$/month); after saving the 300$, she added another 50$ and built a Corrugated Iron Sheet house, including a fence around the plot made of recycled tin-cans. Humanitarians have provided similar structures to IDPs in Puntland for the price of around 650$ per unit. Nevertheless, it is important to mention that there will be a stronger component of monitoring and capacity building to ensure minimum quality assurances are put in place.

- It will be crucial to see how the different donors can contribute to this vision as it can not only be pushed by the humanitarian donors. As longer term solutions directly imply a larger commitment from the different stakeholders, it will be crucial that the government received the necessary capacity to take a strong leadership role in this process. Linking the overall vision of Solutions to the **development donors** (WB, IMF, ADB,...) and also including funding from **non-traditional** donors, will alleviate the necessary funding that we are seeking from humanitarian donors.
COMBINING DIFFERENT INITIATIVES AND FUNDING

In January 2016, the objectives of the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) reserve allocation for 2016 were agreed upon. One of the objectives within the SHF allocation regards the protracted IDP situation in Kismaayo and Baidoa: Provide lifesaving and life sustaining integrated response to IDPs and host communities. The clusters prioritized are Food Security, Health, Nutrition and WASH with complementary services by the Education, Shelter and Protection clusters. In total a budget of $5.9 million was allocated for an integrated response.

As Shelter is always one of the most under-funded clusters, the Shelter Cluster has looked at combining different approaches for shelter to ensure that humanitarian funding can be a catalyst for longer term shelter solutions for the protracted IDP situations.

1. After discussion with the resilience consortia, there seems to be an interest in working together on the concept of Sustainable Shelter Solutions as there is a strong component of urban livelihoods within the construction sector. The construction sector in Somalia is one of the strongest expanding sectors and this sector will contribute to more sustainable livelihoods approaches. Together with the SOMREP and the BRCIS in Kismaayo and Baidoa, there will be a strong interest in helping start-up cooperatives within the different community groups (host community, returning refugees and IDPs). Potentials could be in starting up cooperatives for carpentry (building doors/windows for shelters), cooperatives for soil-block making or even vocational training for masons.
   a. Consequence: doors/windows and perhaps also blocks will be provided free of charge to the IDPs for the SHF allocation, reducing the cost of the shelter.

2. There is also a possibility to get funding from non-traditional donors (Qatari and Saudis). Especially with Ramadam coming soon, there will be a possibility in looking at complimentary funding from non-traditional donors. This money should as much as possible be used to strengthen the capacity of the government in order take on board a strong leadership in this process of durable solutions. Advocacy for direct funding to the government could be an option.
   a. Consequence: non-traditional donors could provide support in the purchase of the materials that need to be purchased on the local market like cement, iron sheeting and timber. All these products need to be imported in Somalia.

3. Further discussions with the development donors (WB, ADB, UNDP,...) should be initiated to see how their respective projects could contribute to the overall re-construction/shelter sector.

4. Strong advocacy should be done with the government to ensure that the beneficiaries have access to the public services available around their settlement. This can be strengthened through cooperatives where both host communities and IDP communities are part of. This could be integrated with some strong peace-building activities, protection mainstreaming and advocacy projects on HLP.
   a. Consequence: IDPs and host communities have access to public services free of cost.

5. As many of the voluntary returns from Yemen and Kenya are often mingling with the existing IDP settlements, it will be important to link this initiative to the other target population groups like returning Somalia refugees and returning Somalia IDPs. These projects could help stimulate basic services for the different population groups in each respective region.

6. Shelter Cluster is working together with all different stakeholders to reduce the amount of funding that needs to be advocated from the humanitarian donors. As the vision is linked to an area-based way of thinking, the budget for each different location will be different.
SCHEMATICS and Shelter Project Cycle through Owner Driven Construction

The Shelter Project Cycle of an Owner Driven Construction project is more complex than working through contractor driven approaches. In general, the projects can be split up into different components:

- Capacity building of the beneficiaries regarding shelter: this is a component where the beneficiaries are trained how to deal with their own respective labour force (or small contractors). How can we include the beneficiaries as supervisors within the construction project cycle?
- Locational Vocational training: increasing the construction sector in general through trainings of masons, training of carpenters, foreman...
- Access to public resources through cooperatives: see above
- Provision of materials to the beneficiaries: this can be done through direct contribution, vouchers or cash. These materials often need to be imported in Somalia: cement, timber, nails and iron sheeting.
- Provision of cash to the beneficiaries: the beneficiaries will need cash to pay for the labor component of the construction project and to pay for the locally available free resources (like sand, mud, water and rock).
## Annex 1: BRCiS Baseline Survey for Baidoa and Kismayo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRCIS BASELINE SURVEY</th>
<th>IDPs</th>
<th>Baidoa</th>
<th>Kismayo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender HHH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Age HH</td>
<td></td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>43.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status of HHH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced/Separated</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average HH Size</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main HH Challenges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HHs mentioning Insecurity</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HHs mentioning Food Shortage</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HHs mentioning Water Shortage</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HHs mentioning Poor Housing</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HHs mentioning Poor Sanitation Facilities</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HHs mentioning Unemployment</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Source HH Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual labor</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firewood</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty trade</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of HH Shelter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buul</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGI walls and roof</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud brick</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional house</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership of land where the HH residence is located</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned family land one HH</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned family land more HHs</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rented family land one HH</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rented family land more HHs</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government land</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Water Shortage</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Water Cost</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste disposal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burn</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open place</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare in the community</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services in the community</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH Asset Score</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Consumption Score</td>
<td>Average Household FCS</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietary Diversity Score</td>
<td>Average Household DDS</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Coping Strategy Index</td>
<td>Average Household CSI (reduced)</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2: Background to Baidoa and Kismaayo pilots

KISMAAYO

General
The largest city of Jubaland is Kismaayo, which is situated on the coast near the mouth of the Juba River. The Lower and Middle Juba regions comprise the districts of Kismaayo, Jilib, Jamaame, Hagar, Afmadow, Badaadhe, Bua’ale and Sakow. They have a combined area of 1085sq Kms with a coastline of 530 Kms. The regions are bordered on the south by Kenya, on the north by the Gedo region, Bay and Lower Shabelle regions, with an estimated population of 852,228 people (Population Estimation Survey of Somalia (PESS) 2013-2014).

IDP Population
The IDP population in Jubaland is estimated to be 135,000 IDPs (UNHCR total IDPs per region report, September 2014). Kismaayo is believed to have the largest IDP population in the region mostly located in Farjano and Fanole areas. Recent IDPs profiling conducted by NRC indicated that there are 6,059 IDPs households in Kismaayo towns in 80 settlements. Kismaayo, the second largest city in South - central Somalia has been devastated by civil conflict, floods, famine and the prolonged presence of Al Shabaab, until October 2012. IDPs in Kismaayo are mostly from Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Juba, Banadir, Gedo and Bay. The majority of the IDPs are of Bantu origin.

In 2013, most IDPs in Kismaayo lived in former government buildings, or in ad-hoc temporary settlements which occupy the former government land. Some IDPs have spent over 21 years in these camps. In November 2013, the then Interim Juba Administration (IJA)2 issued an eviction order to occupants of public property in Kismaayo and approximately 23 IDP settlements (2,578 Households) were affected. The evictions were deemed necessary by the administration due to lack of space for public facilities and the evictees were not allocated any substitute land or shelter, but were to receive cash compensation from the IJA. Recurrent clan conflicts, rampant evictions, minimal humanitarian assistance, the embargo of charcoal business by the United Nations and also local ban by Al Shabaab, minimal income sources and high unemployment rate have interrupted the livelihood sources, weakened resilience and coping mechanisms of IDPs, in particular. Kismaayo experienced heavy rains in June 2014 which affected most IDPs in Kismaayo, the IJA provided land for IDPs at Dakiiska area for temporary for those hardest affected by the flooding. More than 2,000 families were relocated with the help of humanitarian organizations in the region.

Voluntary Refugee Returns (VOLREP)
Kismaayo is also a focus area of the VOLREP programme that is led and coordinated by UNHCR. Since the beginning of 2016, 1,085 persons returned back to Kismaayo, with an average of around 50 persons coming back per week. There is a strong need to link these returnees into broader resilience programs to ensure a sustainable. UNHCR is looking at a joint project with NRC, linking the returns to the BRCiS approach.

Resilience Programs (BRCiS) and the PSGs
BRCiS is a humanitarian Consortium that takes a holistic approach to supporting Somali communities in developing their capacity to resist and absorb minor shocks without undermining their ability to move out of poverty. Consortium members are working with 99 communities since November 2013 and will soon start operations in 68 new communities across the Southern and Central regions of Somalia. In Kismaayo, they are working with 3 IDP communities. There is a strong component of urban livelihoods development.

As emerging from the PSG discussions, urban livelihoods are extremely strategic in that they contribute to stabilization of localities, and they allow vulnerable groups not only to cater for

2 Now called the Juba Administration (JI)
themselves and their families but also to become service providers in areas that are not yet reached by local governments. With a fairly quick and inexpensive training, IDP families can be capacitated to form small companies carrying out water treatment services. At low costs, and in contexts where provision of public goods is weak, vulnerable communities are enabled to enhance their productivity and their access to services. This illustrates how resilient communities can be in charge of their own durable solution.

**Achievements in Land tenure and Pilot Local Building Culture**

Since 2014, the Juba administration has worked closely together with the Shelter cluster and partner organizations in securing longer term land tenure solutions. In a first pilot project, ARC had received permanent land in an area called Dhagax Jabinta. Although communities were involved in the location of the site and the typology of the shelter, many IDPs eventually felt un-safe to move there due to multiple reasons: lack of basic services (latrines, school, health...), proximity of the presidential palace, salty water-points and distance to the town for livelihoods opportunities. After many consultations, the shelters were transferred to areas where the IDPs felt safe due to their clan affiliation, in existing settlements closer to town. They were also able to negotiate 5 year land tenure solutions with the host community.

The Shelter Cluster initiated a pilot in Kismaayo to look at the local building culture in Kismaayo. Soil testing was done in one of the IDP settlements that are located at the outskirts of the city and after ‘destructive’ testing it was agreed that the soil contains enough clay in order to be used for the production of sun-dried mud-blocks for the wall-construction. Two different prototypes were constructed to ensure that the beneficiaries would be able to take an informed choice:

- Adobe block house with improved (cement-based) foundation and CGI roof (approved)
- Hybrid shelter with improved foundation and block-board walls

Adobe Shelter

Hybrid shelter
BAIDOA

General
Bay and Bakool are neighboring administrative regions in South Central Somalia. Baidoa district is economically the most important district of Bay region. Baidoa or Baydhaba, as it is locally known is the capital of the Bay region; a strategic town in south-central Somalia situated approximately 250 kilometers west of Mogadishu and 240 km southeast of the Ethiopian border. The town is divided into four quarters, namely Isha, Berdaale, Horseed and, Hawl Wadaag. Each quarter is further divided into six sections. The city is traditionally one of the most important economic centres in southern Somalia, conducting significant trade in local and imported cereals, livestock and non-food items. The combined effects of drought and on-going crisis in Baidoa have had a harmful impact on economic stability and livelihoods, leading to a chronic humanitarian situation and major displacements of population in this region. In 2006, Baidoa became Somalia’s provisional capital before Al-Shabaab took control of the city for three years. This was between 2009 to February 2012 when the group was driven out from Baidoa by TFG forces heavily backed by the Ethiopian army.

Baidoa is characterized by evictions, floods and conflicts. Prolonged conflicts and droughts have severely affected the lives of many residents in these regions in the past five years. Massive displacements have therefore taken place in most of the villages and districts. Currently, the military operations led by the Somali Government troops in alliance with AMISOM troops against Al-shabaab is still going on in these regions.

IDP Population
The Shelter Cluster mapping infrastructure exercise that was conducted in December 2014 reported that there were 62 IDP settlements in Baidoa. Since then, 5 more settlements have been established. The presence of returned IDP’s, previously displaced in Mogadishu and originally from rural villages of Baidoa as well as refugees spontaneously returned from Dollo Ado, is reported in the IDP settlements. Berdale/Tosweyne, Diinsor, Qansaxdhere, Awdinle, Danbal, Seydhelow among other areas has generated IDPs to Baidoa. Currently many of the displaced people are not considering the option of returning to their villages due to in-security and lack of services.

Voluntary Refugee Returns (VOLREP)
Baidoa is also a focus area of the VOLREP programme that is led and coordinated by UNHCR. Since the beginning of 2016, 433 persons returned back to Baidoa, with an average of around 25 persons coming back per week. There is a strong need to link these returnees into broader resilience programs to ensure a sustainable. UNHCR is looking at a joint project with NRC, linking the returns to the BRCiS approach. More than 3,000 IDP returnee families have been supported with NFIs and emergency shelter support in these regions since 2012. During the pilot phase of support to refugees returning from Kenya, NFIs and emergency shelters were provided to returnee families.

Resilience Programs (BRCiS and SOMREP)
BRCiS is a humanitarian Consortium (5 INGOs) that takes a holistic approach to supporting Somali communities in developing their capacity to resist and absorb minor shocks without undermining their ability to move out of poverty. Consortium members are working with 99 communities since November 2013 and will soon start operations in 68 new communities across the Southern and Central regions of Somalia. In Baidoa, they are working with 6 communities and will be expanding with another 5. There is a strong component of urban livelihoods development. The SOMREP Please expand on the BRCiS if possible...

The Somalia Resilience Program SomReP (7 INGOs) is an ambitious approach to tackle the challenge of recurrent droughts - and the chronic vulnerability that results - among pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, and peri-urban households across Somaliathe multi-year program plans to enhance the resilience of 70,000 households by building their communities' absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacity.
Achievements in Land tenure and Pilot Local Building Culture

Since 2014, the Bay administration has worked closely together with the Shelter cluster and partner organizations in securing longer term land tenure solutions. Nevertheless, the land tenure for many of the projects are still only longer term land tenure leases. It is crucial to continue looking at land tenure in Baidoa to ensure more sustainable and longer term programming.

Shelter Cluster partners have moved away from contractor driven approaches towards owner driven construction. They have promoted the use of cash for shelter, combined with capacity building in the construction sector.

Shelter Cluster is also looking at doing a third pilot in Baidoa looking at Local Building Culture. So far, the main typology that has been constructed in Baidoa is the Corrugated Iron Sheet housing. It has been difficult to promote longer term solutions in Baidoa due to the complicated (short term) land lease agreements.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1cFaRiogrENIx7VN0ptYyF8zkdG0