Midnimo-II (Unity)
Support for the Attainment of Durable Solutions in Areas Impacted by Displacement and Returns, in Galmudug and Hirshabelle States

The IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) population in Somalia has doubled over the past two years, from 1.1 million in 2016 \(^1\) to some 2.6 million in 2019 \(^2\). In addition, there are 131,000 refugees and refugee returnees across the country as of 2019\(^2\). The States of Galmudug and Hirshabelle, two of the most recently-established federal states in Somalia, had at least 428,000 IDPs as of end of 2018, due to climate related crises and conflict \(^4\). The IDP and refugee communities have tended to settle in the periphery of urban centers, putting strain on limited resources and overall social cohesion in those areas.

The Midnimo program was developed to support the government to address the challenges of mass displacement and returns in urban and peri-urban settings of Somalia. The first phase, Midnimo-I, began in Jubaland and South West State in late 2016. In December 2018, the United Nations and the Government of Somalia, through the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), signed a partnership agreement to implement the second phase of the project, called Midnimo-II. The second phase focuses on the states of Galmudug and Hirshabelle.

Midnimo-II is funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund and is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat). The Midnimo-II project aims to provide long-term durable solutions to displacement affected communities in priority locations in Hirshabelle and Galmudug States.

In Galmudug the project covers the towns of Abudwaq, Dhusamareeb, Galkayo and Hobyo, and in Hirshabelle, it covers the towns of Jowhar, Balcad, and Beledweyne. Midnimo-II aims to strengthen the capacities of government at all levels and communities to work together to deliver the activities of the project in an accountable and transparent manner. A key aim of the project is to ensure that actions are participatory and inclusive, people-centered, government-led, context-specific, gender-oriented, and resilience-orientated.

In Hirshabelle State, Midnimo-II was launched in Jowhar, on 20 March 2019, by His Excellency Vice President Ali Abdullahi Hussein, along with

**FACTSHEET**

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There are an estimated 428,000 IDPs in Galmudug and Hirshabelle States

**MATTERS OF FACT**

- **Start Date:** February 2019
- **Duration:** 18 months
- **Coverage:** Hirshabelle and Galmudug
- **Budget:** US$ 2.7 million
- **Donor:** UN Peacebuilding Fund
- **Main Partners:** UNDP (lead coordinator), IOM, UN-Habitat

**National Coordination:**
UNDP, Federal Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation, and Joint Steering Committee, **State Coordination:** Hirshabelle: Inter-Ministerial Committee Galmudug: to be determined.

Source: OCHA Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019
representatives from the Office of the President of Hirshabelle and the Ministries of Interior, Commerce, Labor, Planning, Women, Finance, Humanitarian Affairs, and Public Works. Representatives of the business sector, civil society, youth sector and the UN also attended the launch.

Midnimo-II bridges humanitarian and development efforts and contributes to peace and state-building. It is part of a broader set of durable solutions programs that include Midnimo-I, Danwadag, Building Resilient Communities in Somalia, Dhulka Nabada and others, and links to programs on stabilization and local governance in the project locations. Midnimo-II helps to move from an aid agency driven modality to one where the government and community co-design and lead nationally aligned and owned programs. Midnimo-II therefore has four main components: Community Empowerment and Social Cohesion; Urban Resilience; Livelihoods and Employment; and Gender and Women’s Empowerment which is crosscutting across all components.

1. Community Empowerment and Social Cohesion
   Main UN partner: IOM

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING

Central to Midnimo-II approach is its participatory community planning process led by Core Facilitation Teams (CFTs). Comprised of local authorities and community leaders that are formed and trained through Midnimo-II, the CFTs spearhead a week long participatory community planning process. Host communities, IDPs, returnees, marginalized clans, youth, and women among others are all invited to take part in the planning process. The planning processes are aligned with the government’s existing inclusive planning systems and approaches, as outlined in the Wadajir Framework for Local Governance, which was launched in 2016. The main focus of the planning processes is to map out risks and resources and identify and prioritize community needs and their solutions.

DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND REFERRAL OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

“Community Action Plans” (CAPs) are developed based on the inclusive participatory consultations and focus on the community’s vision and priorities to attain durable solutions. Many of these priorities can be public infrastructure and vital services for both displaced and host communities, and which at the same time can provide short term employment opportunities through cash for work scheme. Priorities that are outside of the scope of Midnimo-II are referred to the government, humanitarian and development actors, private sector and diaspora. These community based public works help promote collective action and partnership amongst community members, which can help build social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

CULTURAL ARTS AND SPORTS EVENTS

Midnimo-II supports the Core Facilitation Teams to carry out cultural, arts and sports events that strengthen social cohesion and promote unity of the displaced-affected communities. These events are suggested, planned and implemented by the communities themselves, bringing together different population groups to forge a common identity and counter destabilizing influences. In addition to cultural and sports events, Midnimo-II will support durable solutions focal points who will work to increase community outreach and community input into activities that build durable and sustainable approaches to displacement.

Community Empowerment and Social Cohesion Milestones

- Capacities of district authorities and government improved
- Communities and local stakeholders trained on participatory and inclusive planning
- Tools and capacities for coordination and information management developed
- Functioning CAG and CBM&EC
- Updated CAP
- Gender-differentiated baseline
- Improved social cohesion and stakeholder support
LAND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS THROUGH PARTICIPATORY LAND AND URBAN PLANNING, AND SETTLEMENT UPGRADEING

Displaced populations face tenure insecurity and obstacles in accessing justice or compensatory measures for land ownership. Midnimo-II therefore supports the government to develop a roadmap for drafting and validating land legislation through participatory land and urban planning consultations, area and town planning exercises, and respective trainings.

These activities are facilitated by the Core Facilitation Teams and attended by representatives from host communities, returnees, IDPs, and government, as well as by traditional and local leaders, to ensure that land management and urban planning tools are designed in an inclusive and participatory way. Under the project, Urban Profiles will be drafted and aligned with the Community Action Plans, to map humanitarian and development projects. The Urban Profiles will also help to illustrate urbanization trends and settlement upgrading strategies, in conjunction with first concepts for long-term town planning.

In selected areas, the project will support a local area coordination mechanism to unlock additional resources for improving living conditions of communities affected by displacement, as well as for the hosting communities.

LAND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Midnimo-II supports the government to create predictable systems and procedures that regulate land use, and which clarify roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders.

These systems and procedures stipulate access to land rights through legislative work, and by solving a variety of local disputes at local and community level. This will be done through developing Terms of Reference for Land Dispute Resolution Commissions or committees at regional level.

At community level, Dispute Resolution Committees (CDRC) will be formed, trained and supported. Members will be selected by Community Action Groups to mediate land related community disputes. The Community Dispute Resolution Committees also inform the displacement affected communities about their options for referrals to courts in liaison with customary authorities. In this regard, the programme closely cooperates with the UN Peacebuilding Fund supported Dhulka Nabada Programme.

2. Urban Resilience. Main UN partner: UN-Habitat

Urban Resilience Milestones

- Drafting and validation processes for land legislation and formulation of area/town plans.
- Urban Profiles and toolkits to draft town planning concepts and produce regional settlement maps.
- Terms of Reference for Land Dispute Resolution Committees.
- Establishment of Community Dispute Resolution Committees and training of committee members.
- Community driven and government led pilots for settlement upgrading, improved connectivity and social cohesion.
- Improved local government capacity to coordinate durable solutions actions (area coordination mechanism).
- A strategic spatial framework for urban solutions.
- Capacity building for government partners
Lessons learned from Midnimo-I show that economic revitalization can be a key strategy in addressing displacement, as it counteracts aid dependency and improves individual, household and community self-sufficiency. The Midnimo-II livelihoods and employment component therefore aims to rapidly increase economic stabilization for IDP and host communities in Galmudug and Hirshabelle, by improving access to diverse income-generating opportunities, livelihoods employment and market systems.

Through this it aims to build the capacity of youth and communities to withstand, and recover, from the economic and social impacts that result from prolonged and recurrent displacement. It also aims to create immediate economic relief for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups through cash for work activities, business incubation, and support for business startups.

Midnimo-II incorporates gender and women’s empowerment in all of its activities, and aims to raise women’s participation to an average of forty percent. It also will ensure that fifty percent of the operational budget is spent on women focused and gender-oriented activities. A gender-differentiated baseline will also be developed.

### Livelihoods and Employment Milestones

- Capacity building of line ministries for durables solutions
- Public and private partnerships
- Livelihood needs assessments
- Participatory market system development
- Market systems assessment and sector analysis
- Innovation challenge training and funding
- Quick impact livelihood support (Cash for Work)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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