



LANDS AND LIVELIHOODS

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

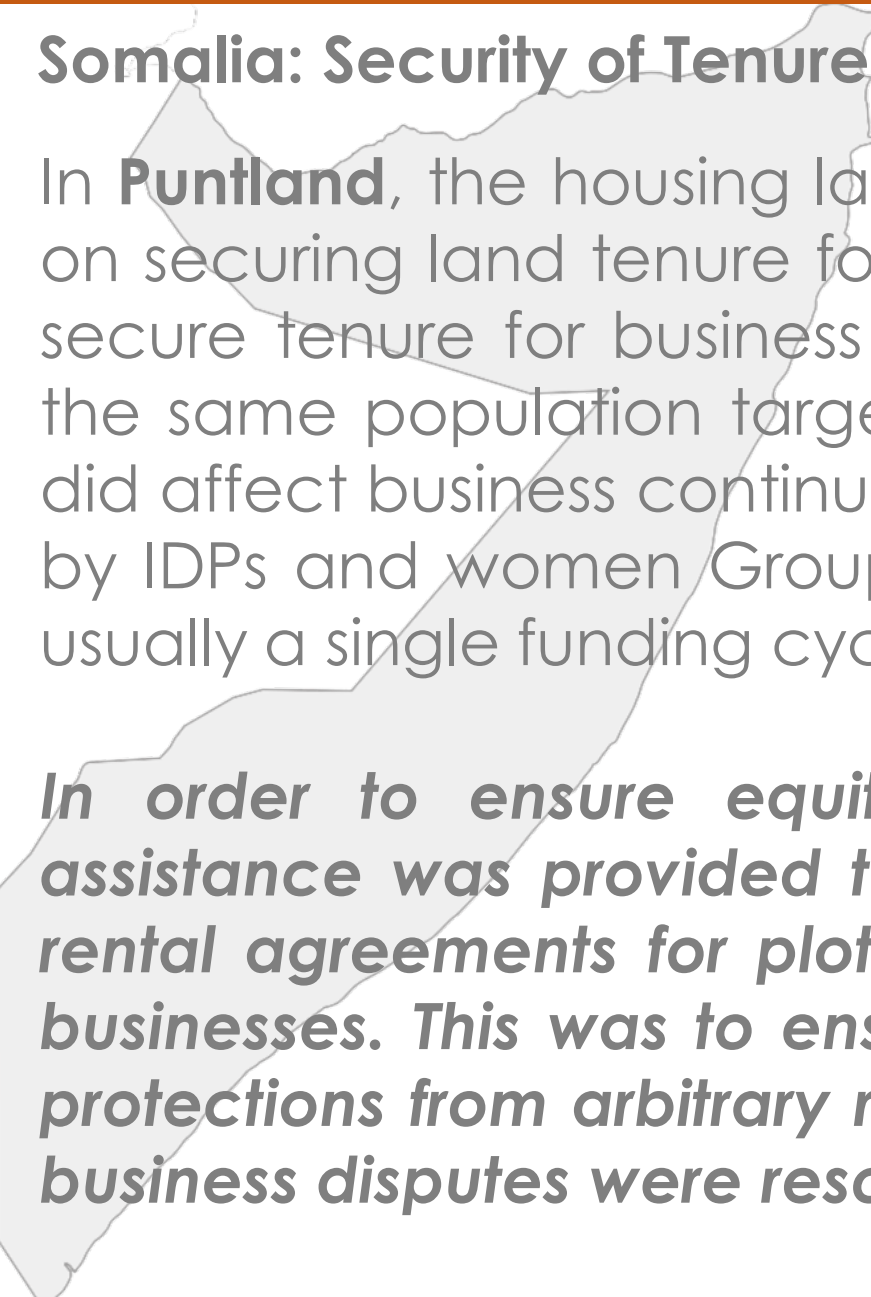
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1. Background Information
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- A large, faint, light-gray background graphic. It depicts a hand holding a dollar sign and a plant. The hand is at the bottom, with fingers slightly curled. Above the hand, a dollar sign (\$) is positioned above a plant with several leaves. The entire graphic is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.
- Fulfilment of the economic rights of the vulnerable populations are directly linked to sustainable livelihoods, economic inclusion and self reliance.
 - In Sub Saharan Africa, access to land and resources is mostly insecure and threatened further by increased pressure on land.
 - This pressure is due to growing land markets, encouraged by economic globalisation and to national policies that favour privatisation and agro-business.
 - Women are disproportionately affected and the majority have little to no ownership or secure access to land and other vital resources, and yet they continue to bear the burden of meeting livelihood needs of their families.
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 - Further still, within the context of displacement, self reliance is important for sustainable durable solutions and creates several avenues for advocacy around local integration.

Somalia: Security of Tenure & Economic empowerment

A light grey map of Somalia is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the text. It shows the outline of the country, including the Puntland region mentioned in the text.

In **Puntland**, the housing land and property interventions were mainly focused on securing land tenure for accommodation and nothing was being done to secure tenure for business investments or assets used to sustain livelihoods of the same population targeted through shelter programmes. Forced evictions did affect business continuity in several locations particularly businesses owned by IDPs and women Groups, and yet majority of these were donor funded – usually a single funding cycle.

In order to ensure equitable participation in economic activities, legal assistance was provided to businesses specifically reviewing and drafting of rental agreements for plots of land or premises prior to the establishment of businesses. This was to ensure that land tenure remained secure and offered protections from arbitrary rental increments and forced evictions. In addition, business disputes were resolved through mediation, negotiation & arbitration.

Uganda: Refugee Land Rights and Livelihoods

- A study on Housing Land and Property rights of refugees in Uganda found that refugees in Uganda were faced with limited access to sufficient agricultural land, and ongoing disputes related to land and resources.
- Formal agreements and written documentation authorizing ownership or access to land were uncommon, raising fears of evictions and confiscation of crops.
- The lack of access to sufficient land did limit agricultural subsistence and livelihoods, and in some cases instigated refugees to move to new locations in search of fertile soil and other income opportunities.
- Issues related to livelihoods and HLP are experienced among the refugee population living in both the refugee settlements in Uganda and in Kampala. Refugees in the settlements who rented land from the surrounding host community are at risk of forced evictions due to their lack of formal agreements, and opportunities to rectify the situations were limited.

In response to this, awareness campaigns focused on land rights, economic inclusion and social cohesion have been organised. This is complemented with social dialogues and land forums held with local authorities and local leaders (refugee and host community).

Key Considerations



1

Land use decisions are long term and slow to change, and yet HLP issues tend to have a long-lasting impact. In order **to create and improve sustainable livelihoods**, there needs to be a solid foundation of secure access to HLP resources. The negative impacts of limited access to HLP and documentation disproportionately affect already vulnerable households.

2

In order **to achieve durable solutions**, in which refugees can fully integrate into the economic and social systems of their place of displacement, there is a need for improved access to both livelihoods and Land.

3

Freedom of movement is an important component of a resilient livelihoods' strategy for refugees and other displacement affected populations; mobility has been proven to be a durable solution for displaced populations and increases **access to economic opportunities** and yet **mobility for livelihoods** is usually **linked to land rights** in the new location and the desire for self reliance.



Within the context of displacement, the lack of corresponding increases in food rations or livelihoods support has resulted in **new coping mechanisms** for affected populations e.g. continuous farming on the same piece of land (usually small plots) for longer periods resulting in an increase of environmental degradation and tensions between communities, and this is worse in regions that are prone to drought.

Population growth and the **increasing demand for land**; land is becoming increasingly subdivided due to urbanisation, displacements et al – this has affected land use, increased land disputes and had a negative impact on economic development.



Relations between IDPs/ refugees and host community members are often generally positive at the onset of displacement, but if rains fail or other environmental hazards occur, the strain on both communities could affect social cohesion and **land is often used as a tool to disenfranchise** the most vulnerable.

KEY CHALLENGES

The **perceptions** around tenure security and land access rights through customary structures needed more in-depth review;

The lack of knowledge by communities on the dynamics of ongoing **land tenure reforms and implications for livelihoods**;

Poor perception of **women's needs and preferences in productive activities** by both humanitarian and development actors made it difficult to define strategies which reach women and men equally

The **role of local leaders and customary structures** in land matters is mainly are unclear;



KEY CHALLENGES

Key Recommendations

i

In order to sustain this projected growth in population and the impact on land rights, there is a need to **plan for livelihoods that reaches beyond agriculture**, including increasing tenure security for both agriculture and other income generating activities

ii

Support avenues for registering property; specifically, assets and investments that are an important potential source of income for refugee businesses and economies.

iii

Identify, map, and support income generating groups (farmers and business owners) to improve their ability to generate income for sustainable livelihoods, self-sufficiency and self-reliance by **mainstreaming land rights in livelihoods interventions.**

This will in essence empower them to have improved access to basic rights and social services.



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