

SOMALIA POST RETURN MONITORING SNAPSHOT

As of December 2019

This post return monitoring snapshot presents selected findings of data collected from Somali refugee returnees interviewed in Somalia over the past 24 months. This data set is based on interviews with 1,148 returnee households across different return locations in Somalia.

Contextualizing the findings

- The survey was only carried out with Somali refugees who received support from UNHCR to return. In the future it is the plan to also expand the survey to spontaneous returnees, in order to allow for comparison of responses.
- The majority of the respondents were returnees from Kenya. Although returnees from Yemen and other countries generally settle in the same areas, there could be differences in responses based on displacement history. Future post return monitoring should shed light on this.
- The responses reveal few significant variations in responses across different locations and across cohorts of returnees. In other words, respondents tend to respond similarly regardless of whether they returned six months or two years ago, and regardless of where in Somalia they have settled.
- Approximately 63% of the respondents were female, 37% male. 92% were the head of household. The average number of children in each respondent household was ~4(3.7).

Profile



High level of satisfaction with decision to return

The vast majority of returnees surveyed i.e. **93% indicated that they were overall satisfied with their decision to return**. The two main reasons given by those satisfied with their return (accounting for approximately 70% of respondents) was happiness to be reunited with their family and the ability to return to their area of origin. Of the ones who were not satisfied with the decision to return, the two reasons most frequently cited were limited livelihoods opportunities (28%) and lack of assistance and support from authorities (18%).

While challenges to reintegration certainly exist, the findings suggest that factors such as family, community and a sense of belonging often outweigh more practical considerations.

Figure 1: Satisfaction with decision to return

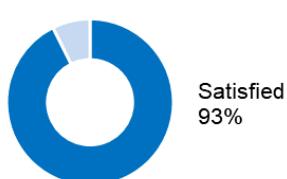


Figure 2: Reasons for being satisfied with decision to return



Stability of return settlement

Although just over half of respondents indicated that they are not in their area of origin (52%), **82% of respondents stated that they plan to remain in their current location permanently**. The top three reasons given for those who planned to stay were to be close to family, community stability and good security. The top three reasons given for those who did not plan to stay were limited livelihoods opportunities, poor access to basic services, and to be closer to family. Of the returnees surveyed, **19% indicated that they reside in an IDP settlement** meaning that more than 80% live within their host communities.

Figure 3: Intention to remain in current location permanently

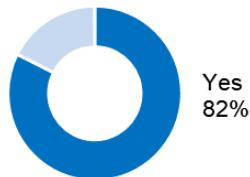


Figure 4: Type of settlement of households



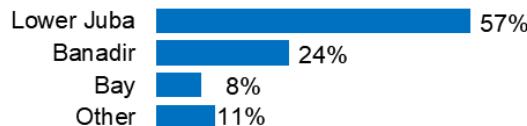
Challenges to reintegration are not generally in the area of security or peaceful co-existence, but rather in access to services and livelihoods

The vast majority of respondents indicated that they did not feel insecure or unsafe in their current location (95%) and that no member of the household had been threatened, intimidated or experienced violence since returning to Somalia (94%). 87% indicated that they are able to move freely in the community and surrounding district.

Figure 5. Sense of security expressed



Figure 6. Current location of respondents (region)



92% of respondents indicated that they have not faced discrimination on the basis of being a returnee. 88% stated that they had not experienced disputes with other (non-returnee) members of the community. Slightly lower numbers, but still a majority, indicated that they feel accepted by other (non-returnee) members of their community in the area of settlement (75%).

Figure 7. Experience of discrimination on the basis of being a returnee

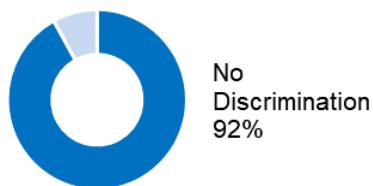
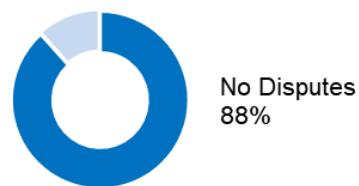


Figure 8. Experience of disputes with other (non-returnee) members of the community in the area of settlement



Challenges to reintegration raised by respondents were particularly in accessing services and livelihoods. More than half of all respondents indicated that not all children in the household attend school regularly (62%), with inability to pay school fees cited as the most common reason (73%).

Figure 9. Households reporting one or more children not attending school

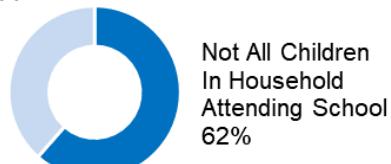
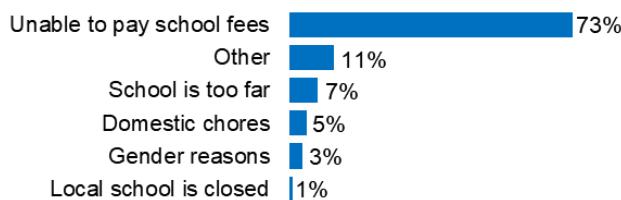


Figure 10. Children in school by gender



Figure 11. Reasons for not attending education



More than half also indicated that their sources of income are insufficient to meet the needs of the household (65%), with 24% stating that humanitarian assistance was their primary source of income. Others relied on day labour or small business income (48%) and on small scale agriculture (15%).

Figure 12. Sufficiency of income levels to meet the needs of the household

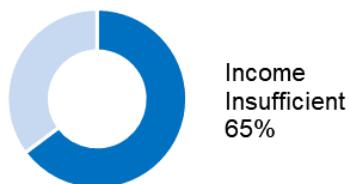


Figure 13. Primary income sources in the past year

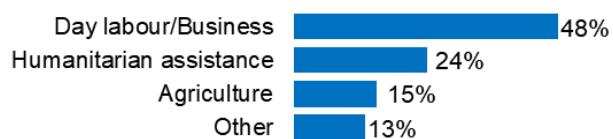
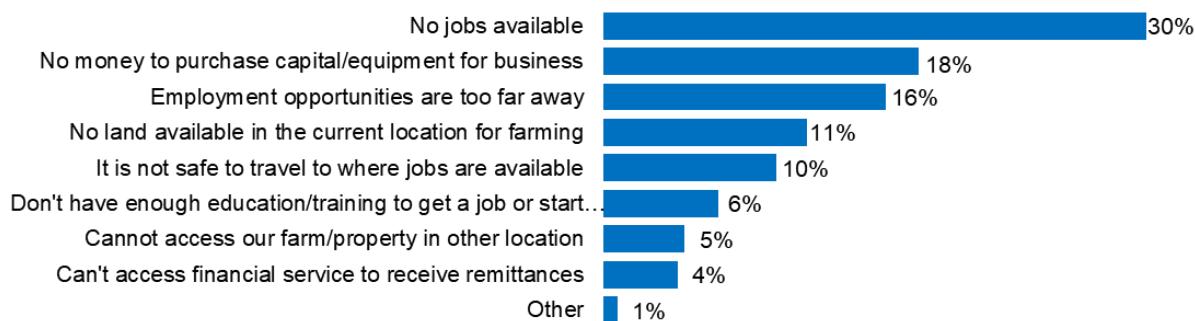


Figure 14. Obstacles to accessing livelihoods opportunities in current location



Particular challenges exist in households containing persons with vulnerabilities

Approximately one fifth of households surveyed indicated that they comprise persons with particular vulnerabilities. Of these, a very high number stated that the vulnerable people in the household are not receiving specific services to support them (87%). As a result, the majority are not coping (63%).

Figure 15. Households containing vulnerable people

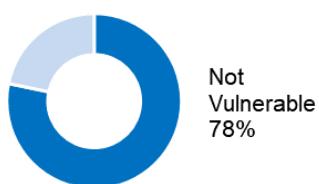


Figure 16. Types of vulnerabilities in households with vulnerable people

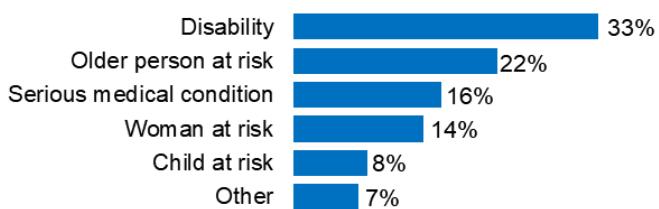


Figure 17. Targeted support services received by the vulnerable people of the household

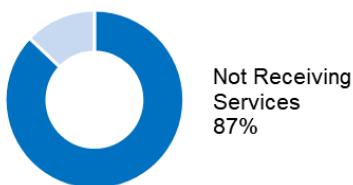
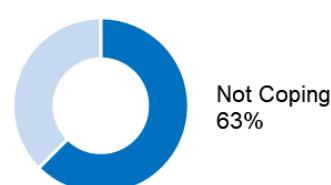


Figure 18. Coping level of vulnerable individuals



The findings presented in this snapshot represent a selection of findings of UNHCR's post-return monitoring. More comprehensive data is available and will be used in discussion with partners and stakeholders, and for planning purposes.

Although further exploration and analysis at field level is needed, the findings suggest that more investment is required in strengthening the service infrastructure in return areas and in developing livelihoods opportunities, in order for returns to be sustainable. Particular emphasis must be placed on identifying and addressing the needs of persons with specific vulnerabilities.

Post-return monitoring is an ongoing activity of UNHCR that will continue throughout and be expanded in 2020.

Methodology

Since December 2014, UNHCR has provided assistance to ~15,000 households in their voluntary return to Somalia. In the current post-return monitoring system, 1,148 household level interviews (8% of the total) have been carried out by telephone and face to face from 2018 to date. The households sampled for telephone interviews were randomly selected from the lists of telephone numbers provided to returnee households on arrival with the goal to ensure representation by year of arrival and region of return. Face to face interviews were carried out with households within communities known to UNHCR and partners and may not be strictly a random sample. Further details on sampling methodology are available on request.

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