

Security On The Move

Everyday security of internally displaced people in rapidly growing Somali cities

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Photos (above and below): Yasiin, Bosaaso, "They look for something of value in this dumpsite so that they can sell it and get their daily income. [...] This woman has found a blanket and some cloth there and will sell it for money for food for her children. Her hut is close to the rubbish dump. She has four girls and five boys all of them without schooling because she does not have anything with which to pay. Two of the boys are there at the dumpsite to help her."



All photos taken by displaced people participating in project

[Lead visual design and mapping for poster: P. Chonka]

Background and methods

- The project has studied conflict-influenced urbanisation in Somalia from the viewpoints of people who have been internally displaced. These people have settled in **four cities in Somalia (including Puntland) and Somaliland**, and has focused on the capacities that vulnerable populations develop to cope with the effects of violence and displacement.
- 104 interviews were conducted with displaced people and 17 with local community members, political authorities and humanitarian agency staff across the project cities of **Baidoa, Bosaaso, Hargeisa and Mogadishu**.
- This was followed by **photo-voice** data collection with 40 displaced people. These participants were given cameras and training to allow them to document aspects of their lives that they wished to share with the researchers and policy makers. Their photos and recorded stories and perspective on these images were collected by the research team. This innovative methodology has been designed to give voice to some of the most vulnerable members of these urban societies and **this is the first time that it has been undertaken in Somalia**.

Preliminary findings

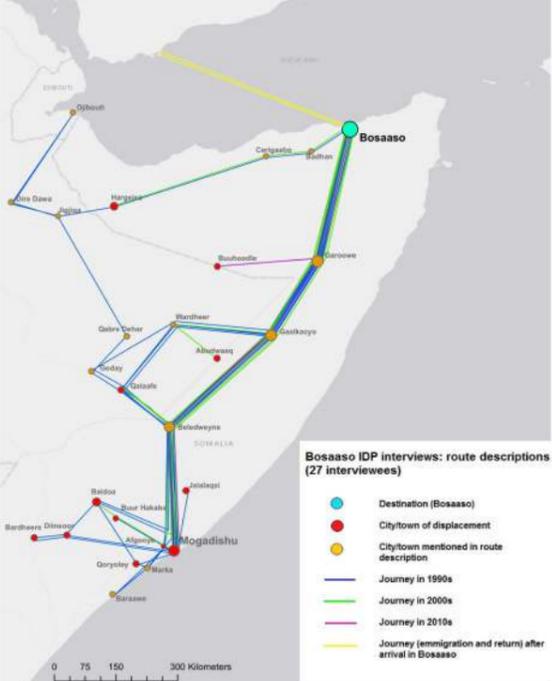
- Displaced people play important roles in urbanisation and economic change across the four cities.
- The regulation of property is central for the ways in which cities are growing. They determine practices of inclusion and exclusion, and claims to property are often articulated violently – usually to the detriment of the displaced who may face cycles of evictions.
- International humanitarian engagement (alongside local political authorities) in resettlement and urban planning schemes has already had a significant impact on the evolution of some of these cities.
- Women often become families' main breadwinners in the camp. They generally work more (for less pay) and face various security threats in doing so.
- Issues of physical insecurity continue to affect displaced people, including domestic violence, theft, rape, threats by 'host' communities, and labour exploitation.
- Despite variations, displaced people across the cities face situations of significant precarity in terms of physical insecurity, land and employment rights, and access to basic services.

Impact

- The project has given displaced people a voice to directly engage with relevant local and international stakeholders. This is being achieved through:
- Public exhibitions** of the participants' photos and testimonies in the four project cities as well as London, Nairobi and Oslo (January-March 2018);
 - Parallel **workshops** held at these exhibitions with invited policy makers, in which participants will present and discuss issues most relevant to them. Alongside the training and equipment they have received, these workshops and exhibitions are designed to empower participants through the transmission of data that they have generated;
 - Academic publications, a full project report**, and related **photo-book** will inform ongoing policy-making on displacement issues in Somalia.



Photo: Ahmed, Baidoa



City/camp growth: satellite images



State House camp (Hargeisa) 2002

State House 'camp' 2017

(Images: Google Earth/DigitalGlobe)



Photo: Asha, Mogadishu, "All those clothes you see we washed for 5.5 dollars; we were two people."