



## CONSULTATIVE EVICTIONS' MITIGATION AND PREVENTION FORUM IN BAIDOA

March 2021

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continues to contribute meaningfully toward efforts aimed at addressing the threats of forced evictions against communities at highest risk in Baidoa. Due to the multi-dimensional and complex nature of forced evictions, preventive and response initiatives require a cross-sectoral approach that involves government, humanitarian, development, and community stakeholders, including the landowners and affected populations. The situation in Baidoa demonstrates a suite of good practices that offers a useful case study of how advocacy, coordinated multi-stakeholder efforts and government-led initiatives can be effective as complementary measures in addressing forced evictions. A suite of complementary government-led eviction prevention efforts to address the forced evictions phenomenon in Baidoa have been put in place. In 2020 for instance, the Baidoa, the District Administration issued an Eviction Moratorium, suspending evictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, which was first put in place in April 2020 and then further extended to March 2021. This has led to zero evictions being recorded in Baidoa since July 2021. The Mayor of Baidoa further issued a warning of legal action for landowners who disobeyed this directive. The issuance of the directives was in large part due to persistent advocacy and engagement by the Bay Evictions Taskforce, HLP Sub-cluster and the Somalia Protection Cluster.

On March 27, 2021 the Bay evictions taskforce in partnership with NRC facilitated its [second consultative evictions' mitigation and prevention forum in Baidoa district](#) with financial support from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) under the Danwadaag Durable Solutions Programme. The forum used a consultative and participatory approach, in order to ensure that participants were able to openly share their concerns on the current eviction risks and effectiveness of the prevention and mitigation measures put in place in Baidoa.

Among the key attendees were South West State Ministries, including Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Local Government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, South West Commission of Refugees and IDPs, Baidoa Municipality, Baidoa District Court, Bay Region, Humanitarian Actors, IDPs, Returnees, and Bay Eviction Taskforce. The forum was officially opened by Mr. Abdullahi Ali Watiin, Director of Durable Solutions and Urban Resilience and Chief of Staff for the Office of the President South West State of Somalia and then followed by the scheduled proceedings.

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## SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FROM THE FORUM

**Tenure documentation for those relocated to Barwaaqo:** Continued push to support those relocated to Barwaaqo site with individual land tenure titles with the help of NRC and other HLP partners. The concern of selling the land was raised but participants suggested that a strict agreed upon conditionality should be indicated in the tenure documents.

**Evictions moratorium:** In an effort to continue to suspend forced evictions during Covid-19 period, participants raised the need for the local authorities to renew the expiring eviction moratorium. There was an oral commitment to extend the moratorium from 1st April to 30th June 2021. NRC is now working with the Commission to draft an official letter to this effect. The moratorium, the work and leadership of the local authorities, coordination of evictions taskforce combined with Danwadaag's continued leadership in HLP-related matters in Baidoa has in essence contributed to eviction free Baidoa and increased prevention rates.

### Relocation initiatives:

- *ADC Zone land in Wadajir Village:* ADC zone land was first earmarked for donation to DACs in 2018. The land in ADC zone is provided by the local authorities (Bay region governor and Baidoa DC and Mayor Watiin) is not documented but it was jointly visited by the humanitarian agencies and members from the local authorities in 2018. The land is currently empty is the same size at Barwaaqo site. The land is suitable to pursue as many IDPs would prefer to relocate to this side of Baidoa town since they have affiliations with the clan that live on this side of town though there are some IDPs still relocate to Barwaaqo despite having no clan affiliation with the host communities on that side of the town. Discussions on the land should continue and secure offer and allotment letter from the government for consideration of IDP relocation. Participants during the forum raised that more focus should be given to this initiative.
- IDPs in twelve IDP sites around the ongoing construction of the prison and the university in Hanano2 zone will relocate to a land that they purchased through communal contribution. These settlements are in need of relocation support from humanitarian agencies. The IDPs were at high risk of eviction threats since the value of the land around the university and the prison is gradually increasing.