The South Sudanese situation took center stage within the region. DRC developed a regional strategy to guide its response to the South Sudan crisis and to assist the large influx of South Sudanese refugees received in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda where DRC has operations.

DRC Ethiopia embarked on an emergency response for the South Sudan case load within Gambella region. Over 200,000 South Sudanese were assisted through various interventions including emergency water supply, latrine and shelter construction, and implementation of livelihood and protection interventions.

DRC Kenya extended its operations to Kakuma refugee camp as a response to the South Sudan influx. The programme started implementing various interventions on resilience, livelihoods, and life and vocational skills trainings for the South Sudanese youth in Kakuma. DRC Kenya also became a partner to UNHCR in urban areas, implementing livelihood activities in Nairobi with plans to extend to Mombasa.

The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) commenced its work in early 2014 and advanced the agenda of durable solutions among NGOs operating in the region. The secretariat published a research study “A New Deal for Somalia’s Displaced” that takes stock of potential opportunities for promoting and anchoring durable solutions for displaced persons in the Somalia New Deal Compact. The report’s findings have gained significant traction among partners in the sector and will be instrumental in the development of a proposed framework on durable solutions.

The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) launched an innovative mechanism for tracking and collating mixed migration movement in a rapidly changing and virtually data-free context. The mechanism called 4Mi initiative aims to provide more concrete and authoritative information concerning mixed migration flows and monitor trends of migrants within the region. The secretariat also continued to contribute to joint learning in the sector with its research series on “Explaining People on the Move” as well as launched a series of new discussion papers with the first “What If? presents an analysis of different scenarios relating to legislation and policies in the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

DDG’s work on armed violence reduction and conflict management education led to the development and signing of a peace agreement in Gedo region of Somalia between conflicting parties in Belet Xawa district. The district had for a long period experienced a protracted conflict and power struggle that resulted in the displacement of people and increased tensions among two Somali sub-clans along the borders of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. In addition, DDG’s successful work in Somalia was recognized and awarded a special nomination by the LIVIA Foundation which publicizes examples of non-violent initiatives to conflict resolution around the world.

2014 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The South Sudanese situation took center stage within the region. DRC developed a regional strategy to guide its response to the South Sudan crisis and to assist the large influx of South Sudanese refugees received in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda where DRC has operations.

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Cover Photo: IDP Woman in Gardo, Puntland_Axel Fassio/DRC

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CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>ACRONYMNS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>FOREWORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>DRC HORN OF AFRICA &amp; YEMEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>2014 REGIONAL REFLECTIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SOMALIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>KENYA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>YEMEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>GREAT LAKES PROGRAMME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>REGIONAL MIXED MIGRATION SECRETARIAT (RMMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>REGIONAL DURABLE SOLUTIONS SECRETARIAT (ReDSS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>2015 STRATEGIC FOCUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>FUNDING AND FACTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>DRC ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY FORUMS IN 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL**

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit organisation founded in 1956 that works in more than 30 countries throughout the world. DRC fulfils its mandate by providing direct assistance to conflict-affected populations- refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities in the conflict areas of the world and by advocating on their behalf internationally and in Denmark.

DRC’s vision for the regional programme in the Horn of Africa and Yemen reflects the global vision to work towards the protection and promotion of durable solutions to refugee and displacement problems, on the basis of humanitarian principles and human rights. The overall goal of DRC’s strategy for the Horn of Africa and Yemen is: to support and strengthen a regional protection framework for displacement-affected communities throughout the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

**DANISH DEMINING GROUP**

The Danish Demining Group (DDG) is a specialized technical unit within DRC whose mission is to recreate a safe environment where people can live without the threat of Landmines, Unexploded Ordnance and Small Arms and Light Weapons. The overarching aim of DDG in the Horn of Africa and Yemen is to prevent and reduce armed violence in the region. DDG began working to reduce armed violence in addition to its previous humanitarian mine action work in 2008, having seen the threats posed by unregulated small arms and light weapons and explosive remnants of war.

As part of DRC, DDG sees tackling armed violence, and preventing its reoccurrence, as an important part of durable solutions for conflict-induced displacement. Armed violence triggers a humanitarian tragedy but also triggers and prolongs displacement and acts as a major block to development. DDG’s Armed Violence Reduction work spans five sectors, namely: Security Governance, Security Provision, Small Arms Management, Mine Action and Conflict Management.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACRONYMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS    - Al Shabaab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDRD  - Community Driven Recovery and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDRS  - Community Driven Recovery and Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFS   - Child Friendly Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSOs  - Civil Society Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRA   - Department of Refugee Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSP   - District Safety Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSE   - Fire Arms Safety Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSNAU - Food Security and Nutrition Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLP   - Great Lakes Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>HoAY  - Horn of Africa &amp; Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDPs  - Internally Displaced Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNFP  - Kenya National Focal Point for Small Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRE   - Mine Risk Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFI   - Non-food Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECSA - Regional Center for Small Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReDSS - Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMMS  - Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALW  - Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPD   - Strategic Programme Document</td>
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<tr>
<td>SGBV  - Sexual and Gender Based Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>SME   - Small Medium Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNA   - Somalia National Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VST   - Vocational skill training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH  - Water Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YSE   - Youth Empowerment and Safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are pleased to present you with the Danish Refugee Council’s (DRC) and the Danish Demining Group’s 2014 Annual Report for the Horn of Africa & Yemen.

The past year was both a productive and challenging year, with a great deal of success while assisting conflict-affected and displacement-affected populations in the face of significant adversity, as well as many opportunities to learn and grow. The following pages will provide more insight into our programmatic work, achievements across the region and strategic focus for 2015. All this has been made possible through the efforts of more than 1000 committed staff members working from 43 operational bases within Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen and through support from our donors, partners and relevant authorities.

DRC has worked systematically, both from a programmatic and an advocacy perspective, to respond to the South Sudanese crisis, the ongoing humanitarian situation in Somalia, and the emerging crisis in Yemen. Our advocacy efforts throughout 2014 were channeled towards highlighting the need for a long-term perspective of the South Sudanese crisis, advancing the agenda of unlocking protracted displacement situations, and finding transitional/durable solutions for displacement-affected populations through engagement of a broader audience, particularly the development actors.

DDG on the other hand continued its work on mine risk education, explosive ordnance disposal, conflict management, management of small arms, and security and justice sector programming including community and district safety across the region. A key highlight during the year was that DDG’s successful work in Somalia was recognized and nominated for an award by the LIVIA Foundation which publicizes examples of non-violent initiatives to conflict resolution around the world.

At the same time, we have invested significant efforts into strengthening the internal management of DRC and DDG operations. These efforts are articulated in our three-year Strategic Programme Document (SPD) that defines our strategic objectives and provides the general rationale for our programmatic work within the region. The goals within the SPD are systematically backed with results based management and results contracts to enable better and stronger compliance towards achieving our mission and vision.

The regional office is engaging closely with our headquarters in Denmark, particularly since the Regional Directors were formally incorporated in the extended Senior Management Group; while the Horn of Africa and Yemen (HoAY) joined the Global Change Steering Committee, resulting in closer collaboration and stronger input from the field into system and policy development. Finally, in the HoAY, we began the process of integrating the regional support team for DRC and DDG into one hub supporting the entire regional operation.

As we look forward into 2015, we continue to focus on providing effective and integrated responses to the regional crises in South Sudan and Yemen, alongside the high level of humanitarian and development challenges for Somalis, both inside and outside Somalia. Our planned operational base in Djibouti and the planned integration of the DRC/DDG Uganda programme into the HoAY region provides us with greater opportunities to respond to regional crises, most recently in Yemen, and to share learning and best practices across country programmes.

On behalf of the Danish Refugee Council and Danish Demining Group Horn of Africa & Yemen, we would like to thank all partners and donors for their collaboration and support.

Heather Amstutz
Regional Director, DRC Horn of Africa and Yemen

Simon Rynn
Regional Director, DDG Horn of Africa and Yemen
The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) coordinates activities across the Horn of Africa and Yemen from its regional office in Nairobi, Kenya. The regional office functions as a hub for the Danish Demining Group (DDG), the humanitarian mine action unit within DRC, and also hosts the Great Lakes Programme, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) - an NGO forum that drives the agenda on durable solutions and the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMSS).

### TOTAL STAFF IN HORN OF AFRICA

- **OFFICES**: 43
- **LOCAL STAFF**: 960
- **INTERNATIONAL STAFF**: 53

#### ETHIOPIA
- PRESENT SINCE: 2009
- LOCAL STAFF: 92
- INT. STAFF: 12

#### KENYA
- PRESENT SINCE: 2005
- LOCAL STAFF: 71 DRC; 16 DDG
- INT. STAFF: 1 DRC; 1 DDG

#### SOMALIA
- PRESENT SINCE: 1998
- LOCAL STAFF: 303 DRC; 294 DDG
- INT. STAFF: 17 DRC; 7 DDG

#### YEMEN
- PRESENT SINCE: 2008
- LOCAL STAFF: 163 DRC; 7 DDG
- INT. STAFF: 12 DRC; 1 DDG

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8  |  DRC HORN OF AFRICA & YEMEN  |  ANNUAL REPORT 2014
In 2014, DRC/DDG has had to carefully calibrate responses between regress and progress in the region owing to the complex and dynamic environment within the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Starting with the South Sudanese large displacement crisis; the shrinking asylum space in Kenya owing to the increase of insecurity and more restrictive government asylum policy; to the deterioration of humanitarian conditions in Somalia, with concerns that there will be a risk of relapse. DRC/DDG has had to tackle difficult strategic decisions as well as orient its advocacy messages in response to the volatile and fragile situation within the region.

**SOMALIA RISKING RELAPSE OR GETTING A NEW DEAL**

During the first half of 2014, Somalia displayed worrying signs of a deteriorating humanitarian situation. Eight early warnings were issued concerning food insecurity in various parts of Somalia. The situation particularly affected IDP settlements, which were already stressed by two consecutive AMISOM offensives against al Shabaab insurgents and the subsequent influx of approximately 72,000 additional displaced persons to urban centres. In 2014, DRC responded to ten emergencies in Somalia alone supported in particular by its emergency donors, including ECHO, SIDA and CHF. Additionally, DRC participated in the joint NGO campaign ‘Risk of Relapse’ aimed at preventing the repetition of the dire humanitarian situation in 2011 and in ensuring that early warning led to early action. DRC/DDG’s regional management liaised with the Geneva office to ensure consistency in messaging to the member state capitals. The Humanitarian Coordinator and UNOCHA closely cooperated with the campaign through consistent messaging on humanitarian conditions in Somalia.

Whilst being committed to the humanitarian imperative, DRC also chose to engage more systematically with the Somalia’s state-building goals through the New Deal agenda with the objective to ensure humanitarian progress is anchored within duty bearer structures. DRC commissioned a research titled ‘A New Deal for the Displaced’ that contextualizes displacement in the Somalia New Deal process and presents a way forward for displacement to be conceptualized as a development issue. The report was presented at a Solutions Alliance side event in Copenhagen, Denmark the day before the High Level Partnership Forum, in which states and the UN recommitted Somalia New Deal Compact. This event proved a useful avenue for displacement to be integrated in the development agenda and follow up actions are now already planned for 2015.

**DOABLE AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

Despite some return movements to Somalia in 2014, DRC/DDG estimates that more than half of refugees and IDPs are in a protracted or potentially protracted situation in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen, as well as IDPs in urban settlements primarily in Mogadishu linger between the inability to return to their areas of origin and an unwelcome environment preventing further local integration in their place of displacement or asylum.

The space for asylum, particularly for Somalis in Kenya saw a few low points during 2014. Firstly, when the Government officially gazetted Dadaab and Kakuma as the designated refugee camps with reference to “emerging security challenges in urban areas.” For weeks, thousands of refugees and non-refugees were arbitrarily arrested, detained and suffered widespread abuse and violations including beatings, extortion and deportations including recorded cases of refoulement. A second low, during the last months of the year was the attempt to put a fixed ceiling on the numbers of refugees in Kenya through the tabling in Parliament, and subsequent
enactment, of a controversial Security Amendment law. The enactment of the law cast a dark shadow on the asylum space in Kenya since some of the provisions relating to refugee management contradicts both Kenya's constitution and international refugee law, which Kenya is a party to. Though the latter development has been rectified by the courts, the discussion around how to support a more systematic search for durable solutions and how to unlock protracted displacement was central to DRC/DDG throughout 2014.

A number of regional NGO meetings formulating joint positions to the Tri-partite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation of Somalis, along with the UNHCR Regional Solutions Strategy and Return Pilot Project led to the formal establishment of the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), hosted by DRC. It is hoped that the secretariat becomes a strong advocate and contributor to the regional debate and progression around solutions via its research; knowledge bank and training of NGOs on durable solutions. One of the key activities for ReDSS in 2014 was starting the process of developing a common framework for durable solutions which will assist in creating a joint understanding among various humanitarian and development actors alongside a strategy for measuring achievement of durable solutions in displaced communities. ReDSS is a partner to the Solutions Alliance, which was also formed in 2014 to explore innovative and comprehensive strategies of ending protracted displacement.

SOUTH SUDAN – A REGIONAL CRISIS

Since the early signs of outbreak of violence in South Sudan in 2013, DRC began to prepare for emergency response programming in Gambella region, Ethiopia, in anticipation that cross border movements from South Sudan might escalate. In early 2014, the anticipated cross border movements became large scale and DRC’s regional office with colleagues in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan led a regional crisis response to support the large influx of South Sudanese, mainly women and children, with basic assistance and services such as water, sanitation facilities, shelter, food security and protection.

To date, the crisis has left more than 4.5 million people in need of acute humanitarian assistance. Currently, 1.4 million people are internally displaced and 453,000 have sought refuge in neighboring countries. Those remaining suffer a humanitarian emergency, including an acute food crisis with pre-warnings of famine in 2015.

Ethiopia is the largest recipient of South Sudanese refugees. Over 190,000 South Sudanese arrived in the Gambella region since the end of 2013, of which 91% are women and children below 18 years of age. Kenya also received over 42,000 South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana County.

In both countries, DRC has worked hard to rapidly respond and has delivered WASH, protection, shelter and food security support. Emphasis will now be to advocate for more recovery oriented and longer term self-reliance support initiatives ensuring that, should the displacement of South Sudanese refugees become protracted, the refugees can lead as normal and dignified lives as possible while in displacement.

MIGRATION DEATHS AT SEA

The “calm before the storm” has sadly been the adequate description of the sea-faring migrants leaving the Horn of Africa and Yemen in search for better lives in the Saudi Arabian peninsula and others in Europe. The first few months of 2014 were promising with
fewer people crossing the Aden Bay and with far fewer deaths at Sea. This picture changed dramatically over the year during which 2000 people lost their lives in their attempts to find better livelihoods primarily on the northern route to Europe.

The impunity related to the smuggling is arguably on the rise and though future migrants are aware of the many perils, including grave abuses such as rape, beatings and illegal detention, many still chose to embark on their journey. This has been highlighted in several reports that the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) released during 2014, which contributed both to DRC’s protection programming around the issue of migrants, and to increasing the understanding among stakeholders involved in migration issues.

**YEMEN’S COLLAPSE**

The situation in Yemen slowly deteriorated throughout 2014 and threatened to escalate into a civil war. Yemen has remained among the ten most food insecure countries in the world and rough estimates from the UN state that more than 14 million Yemenis are in need of humanitarian assistance. Alarmingly, high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition are persistent due to recurring civil conflict in the North including Sana’a between the Houthi rebels and the government and in the South between various political and militant fractions challenging the political transformative process.

Despite rampant poverty and insufficient basic services, migrants and refugees have continued to arrive in Yemen. Even with a stark drop in migration flows in early 2014, migrant numbers picked up throughout the year confirming a worrying trend that people in large numbers are still trying to leave the region.

DRC scaled up food security and livelihoods programming to a multi-sector response, which incorporated protection and emergency programmes. DRC also strengthened its support structures and safety risk management in Yemen, fearing that the decline in the humanitarian situation will continue beyond 2014.

**DDG’S MINE RISK EDUCATION**

During the year 2014 DDG has refined its approaches to conflict management, including for the first time training staff in Somalia / Somaliland on conflict mediation so that they can respond in a timely manner to the challenging situations they often face in their community or local government level work. Staff specializing in Mine Risk Education also participated in a global DDG retreat to share lessons learned with staff from other regions and develop best practice material that will be applied in coming years. In southern Somalia, DDG worked closely with DRC to develop fully integrated programmes that promote peace and stability through community-based planning that promotes safety, improved local governance, reconciliation and dialogue, and livelihoods inputs. Meanwhile, DDG Kenya responded to emerging tensions around extractive industries and major infrastructure projects with conflict analysis and interactive mapping technology which supports informed and inclusive dialogue among affected stakeholders.

**ENTERING DJIBOUTI**

During 2014, DRC worked systematically to establish operations in Djibouti recognizing the fact that the refugee population relative to the Djibouti’s population represents a significant concern. DRC plans to assist the government in ensuring that Somali refugees and other displaced persons receive appropriate and sustainable support.
DRC SOMALIA

DRC started work in Somaliland in 1998 through the provision of support to displaced Somalis and other populations due to conflict following the fall of the Siad Barre’s regime. As a leading humanitarian actor, DRC Somalia has played an important role in responding to acute crises, protection programming, restoring livelihoods and supporting the attainment of durable solutions for displaced persons.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia remained critical in 2014 despite the relative improvement in stability, humanitarian conditions and displacement during 2013. In 2014, a combination of drought, floods and renewed conflict caused new waves of displacement leading to an alarming decline in food security, further exacerbated by disrupted trade routes. Health and malnutrition indicators also worsened, all of which exposed local populations to increased protection risks.

Over one million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity as of September 2014 according to Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) estimates, representing a 20% increase from March 2014. Alarmingly, 62% of these persons were internally displaced persons (IDPs). Low rainfall also contributed to water shortages, poor livestock performance and reduced access to milk in pastoral areas.

The launch of the military operations in late February, 2014 by the Somalia National Army (SNA) and AMISOM against al Shabaab (AS) contributed to the displacement of over 72,000 persons. Due to persistent livelihood and security concerns, most of the persons displaced by this offensive have not yet returned to their place of origin. Additionally, there were reports of human rights abuses, civilian casualties, arbitrary arrest and detention, sexual violence, forced evictions of IDPs and forced recruitment of child soldiers, particularly in areas where the military offensive took place.

The spontaneous and facilitated voluntary returns of Somali refugees from Kenya to their areas of origin in Somalia was also a significant event in 2014. However, the number of returnees remained low owing to the continued fragility of the situation in Somalia and specifically in the identified areas of return under the UNHCR pilot project on voluntary repatriation: Baidoa, Luuq and Kismayu.

Somalia continued to be a regional centre of mixed migration flows, both as a sending country and as a transit location. Hargeisa in Somaliland and the port city of Bossaso in Puntland remained strategic points and routes for Ethiopian and Somaliland migrants to pass through on their way to Yemen, Saudi Arabia and further to Europe.

Deportations of Somali nationals from Saudi Arabia and Kenya took centre stage during the early part of 2014. Over 21,000 Somalis were deported from Saudi Arabia since February 2014 as part of a crackdown on illegal migrants by the Saudi government. Another 400 Somalis were deported from Nairobi to Mogadishu following a controversial security operation known as operation Usalama Watch (protect the nation) that started in April 2014 with a similar objective of cracking down on illegal migrants and as a strategy to bolster national security.

1 UNHCR Somalia: Update – Displacements caused by military offensive in South Central Somalia 2-6 September 2014
STRATEGIC APPROACH AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

The strategic approach of DRC Somalia in 2014 was guided by its 2012-2014 Country Strategy, which was built on five focus areas: Integrated Emergency Response; Integrated Protection and Empowerment (IPE), Community Driven Recovery and Development (CDRD), Work with Urban Youth and pastoralist support to resilience/livelihood.

INTEGRATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DRC Somalia implemented multi-sectoral emergency and life-saving programming activities throughout 2014, targeting displaced populations and migrants in acute crisis through food-security activities, WASH, distribution of NFIs and protection programming.

In South Central Somalia and Puntland regions, 8,295 households were reached with hygiene promotion interventions and water was delivered through water trucking to 1,897 households. DRC Somalia was able to increase the amount of safe drinking water per person from 10 litres to 15.8 litres per day among the target population in Puntland.

In the past year, a significant number of migrants and refugees travelled through Somaliland and Puntland to Yemen and other locations from their areas of origin mainly Ogaden region, Ethiopia and South Central Somalia. In response to the protection problems faced by migrants and asylum seekers, DRC Somalia embarked on implementing protection interventions that would address the entire cycle of migration – from before departure, while on transit and to the return home. These interventions included distribution of 149 non-food items (NFIs) kits to newly-arrived migrants in Bossaso and Puntland, vocational skills training for returned migrants and provision of vocational kits to successful trainees. A total of 224 migrants in Puntland received training and support to improve their skills and capacities while 44 of these beneficiaries benefited from cash for work and training over four months. At least 100 other beneficiaries received fishing equipment and training, while 80 returned migrants received vocational skills training in the areas of hairdressing, tailoring, and electrical repair, including provision of start-up equipment upon graduation.

INTEGRATED PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

DRC Somalia, in collaboration with the UNHCR-led Somali Return Consortium, continued to facilitate IDP returns to their villages of origin. A total of 2,159 IDP households were assisted with dignified transport to return to their villages of origin on a voluntary basis and were supported with reintegration and livelihood support packages. The sustainable return of Somali IDPs to their villages of origin is one of the key strategies to facilitate the attainment of durable solutions to internal displacement.

As part of the preparation of facilitating the reception of Somali returnees from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya under the UNHCR-led pilot returns project,
DRC constructed a way station in Luuq that has the capacity to receive 100 returnees per day. The first batch of returnees to Luuq were expected to arrive in early January 2015.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT (CDRD)

DRC Somalia aimed to support displacement affected communities to transition from early recovery to development through assisting the community members to review and analyse their resources and needs as well as prioritize their requirements to meet development needs.

DRC Somalia continued to support 142 communities under the CDRD Phase III project in a total of 15 districts across Somalia. A cumulative total of over 40,000 households in the targeted districts benefitted from a range of interventions including rehabilitation of various schools, water access points, roads and health posts. In addition, over 2,000 village council members and local government representatives received training on civic education, conflict resolution and leadership.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

The protracted displacement in Somalia and political instability has resulted in high rates of unemployment and limited opportunities for access to livelihoods, especially for the youth. A total of 1,282 youth at risk of between the ages of 14 – 30 were targeted and trained on vocational skills, micro-grants and their capacity built on conflict mitigation and resolution.

SUPPORT TO PASTORALISTS

Repeated crises linked to political, economic, social and environmental factors have eroded the social, institutional, livelihood, and environmental bases of Somali communities and rendered them increasingly vulnerable to recurrent shocks. The frequency and severity of crises in Somalia that have resulted in crop failure, depletion of livestock, rising food prices, and deteriorating purchasing power have led to an almost perpetual state of livelihood crisis.

In response to this fragile situation and alarming food insecurity, DRC Somalia supported 13,420 households in different interventions through cash voucher, agricultural inputs, vocational skill training (VST) and small medium enterprise (SME) and other communal infrastructures. This was aimed to enhance and build community resilience in order to withstand shocks. This interventions targeted both the IDPs and host communities.

STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR 2015

The fragile situation in Somalia is anticipated to continue in 2015 owing to the continued deterioration of humanitarian conditions, planned SNA/AMISOM offensives against AS, increasing “push factors” from countries hosting Somali refugees, and decreased humanitarian funding. In light of this, DRC Somalia will continue positioning itself as a lead agency on emergency response, durable solutions, livelihoods and resilience programming in Somalia.
DDG SOMALIA

DDG is a specialized technical unit within DRC whose mission is to recreate a safe environment where people can live without the threat of landmines, unexploded ordnance and small arms and light weapons. The overarching aim of the DDG in the Horn of Africa and Yemen is to prevent and reduce armed violence.

DDG has operated in Somalia since 1999, initially clearing mines and other explosive remnants of war and providing mine risk education. Since 2009, DDG has expanded its programmes into armed violence reduction, working in the areas of community and district safety, small arms control, peace dialogue and support for conflict management, in order to ensure maximum impact for the population.

DDG STRATEGIC APPROACH AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The key focus under this strategic area for DDG was to assist communities to prioritize their security needs and to develop their own locally driven approach to safety embodied in a Community Safety Plan (CSP) and District Safety Plan (DSP). The plan is usually implemented by a locally elected Community/District Safety Committee which is designed to be a representative institution with recognized and formal linkages to the government. It includes members from the Community/District Council and formal security providers. DDG provides the technical skills, financial backing and capacity building for the committees in order for them to implement the prioritized activities within the community or district safety plan.

This led to a number of successful initiatives by district safety committees in Somalia. For instance, in Dollow, Gedo region, the district safety planning process in Gedweyne community led to the establishment of a court and police station which the community had prioritized in their DSP. The community, in partnership with DDG, managed to raise 6000 USD (around 30% of the total costs) towards the construction of the police station and the court. The court was opened to the public in September 2014. Various cases were handled in the course of 2014 and disputes settled from Gedweyne community and the surrounding 30 communities under its administration. In addition, the
IN 2014, DDG TRAINED 12,616 BENEFICIARIES IN SOMALIA ON CONFLICT MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND 57,353 IN MINE RISK EDUCATION, 104,983 IN FIREARM SAFETY EDUCATION AND 96 POLICE-COMMUNITY DIALOGUE WERE CONDUCTED IN ADDITION 9,560 SAFE STORAGE DEVICES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO PREVENT FIREARM ACCIDENTS.
DDG SOMALIA
CASE STUDY

DDG’S CONFLICT RESOLUTION INITIATIVE RESULTS IN PEACE AGREEMENT IN GEDO REGION, SOMALIA

Belet Xawa District in Gedo region had, for a long period, experienced protracted conflict and power struggles that resulted in the mass displacement of people, closure of businesses and public services, as well as increased tensions and division among different Somali sub-clans living on the borders of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

As part of its continued work in Somalia on armed violence reduction and conflict management, DDG Somalia hosted a four-day workshop in June 2014 where 220 community members took part in conflict resolution training that was especially designed to address the Belet Xawa District conflict. The training targeted key government officials and various stakeholders. The participants were trained on conflict analysis, negotiation and dialogue, and communication techniques. DDG facilitated open discussions between the conflicting parties while encouraging them to talk during breaks and lunch in order to ease tensions. The sessions brought the groups much closer together through understanding and relating to each other’s personal experiences.

“In order to facilitate these discussions and agreements, DDG consulted with prominent members of the communities and conducted a thorough conflict analysis. From this analysis, DDG decided to build the capacity of the elders in order to resolve and mediate among the conflicting parties. The elders hold a significant leadership role within the communities. Therefore, they could play an independent facilitating role,” said Ahmed Abdulkarid Abdi, Deputy Armed Violence Reduction Manager for DDG.

On the fourth day of the training, a closed door meeting was held in Dolo Ado, Ethiopia between the members of District Administrations of Dollow, Belet Xawa, Luuq, El Waq and Garbahareey and senior members of the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama’a (ASWJ), Vice President of Jubba Interim Administration the Defence Minister of the central government of Somalia and the Ethiopian Ambassador to Somalia. This meeting resulted in the resolution among the participants to develop and sign a peace agreement that would resolve the Belet Xawa conflict.

Key issues agreed on in the agreement included: the reinforcement of the ceasefire by the conflicting parties, return of the weapons taken during the armed conflict, reuniting of the forces that had been divided, and the establishment of an agreed upon council to appoint an interim administration for the Belet Xawa District. All of the agreements made and signed by the conflicting parties were read out to the media, elders and delegations from the Somali Federal Government, representatives from the African Union and all surrounding District Administrations.

“This support [by DDG] contributed to the ceasefire reached in Belet Xawa during the conflict. And now you can’t imagine how I felt when I saw the conflicting parties smiling and shaking hands. Continue to work DDG, you have my trust!” said Yusuf Kanti, former member of parliament of the Belet Xawa District.

DDG’s successful work in Somalia was nominated for the LIVIA Foundation in November 2014. The LIVIA Foundation publicizes examples of non-violent initiatives to conflict resolution around the world.

2 These included: Deputy Defense Minister of the Somali Federal Government, Vice President of Interim Jubba Interim Administration, AMISOM personnel, Ethiopian Ambassador to Somalia, Five district commissioners from Gedo region, traditional elders and different activists supporting the peace process in Gedo region.
The displacement context in 2014 was largely affected by the influx of South Sudanese refugees following the eruption of violence in mid-December 2013 and the growing insecurity in the country. There were various incidences of insecurity in different parts of the country leading the Government of Kenya to attempt to institute stringent security and administrative measures. Despite this, Kenya has continued to host various refugees and asylum seekers from the region. The total number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya stood at 585,363 as of 31st December 2014 with Dadaab hosting 356,014; Kakuma 178,079; and Nairobi 51,270 individuals.

In April 2014, the government launched a security operation known as Operation Usalama Watch in response to rising insecurity in various parts of the country. The operation negatively affected refugee programming in urban areas due to enforcement of a strict encampment policy requiring refugees residing in the urban areas to relocate to Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps.

Towards the end of the year, there was an attempt to make further changes to the asylum regime in Kenya through the tabling in Parliament of a contentious Security Amendment law which would see the capping of refugee numbers in the country to 150,000 as well as limiting the movement of refugees out of the refugee camps which had in March 2014 been designated as the only areas in the country that refugees could reside. Although, some of the contentious clauses in this law were repealed in the High Court,3 other clauses were enacted such as that limiting the freedom of movement for refugees to only the designated refugee camps. This has the potential to further hinder urban programming for DRC and other agencies.

DRC Kenya established operational presence in Kakuma in 2014 to strengthen the protection response to over 40,000 South Sudanese refugees, mostly women and children, who fled from the ethno-political conflict that erupted in South Sudan in mid-December 2013. As a result of this influx, Kakuma refugee camp has surpassed its capacity, resulting in overstretched facilities and congestion within the camp.

However, UNHCR in partnership with humanitarian agencies is pursuing allocation of additional land through discussions with the Department of Refugee Affairs, Turkana County Government, and the host community.

In Dadaab, UNHCR launched a six-months pilot voluntary repatriation project on 8th December 2014 to support an estimated 10,000 Somali refugees to voluntarily return home as part of durable solutions agenda. The project is implemented by UNHCR and the Government of Kenya in partnership with a variety of humanitarian agencies including DRC. The launch of the pilot project is seen as a first step towards the achievement of one of the durable solutions for hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees caught up in a situation of protracted displacement in Kenya.

STRATEGIC APPROACH AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

DRC Kenya’s approach for 2014 included a focus on conducting advocacy towards the review process of the refugee policy framework; capacity building of beneficiaries on Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response; implementation of a community driven approach on protection and enhancing partnerships on livelihood programming.

DRC Kenya engaged in the process of reviewing the Refugee Act 2006 and the development of a National Policy on Refugees with a focus on ensuring that the concept of durable solutions is enshrined in both policy frameworks.

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3 The High Court ruled that the clause putting a cap on the number of refugees in Kenya was unconstitutional and would infringe on Kenya’s obligation to the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1969 OAU Convention
The programme was also involved in lobbying the Government through the DRA to allow exemptions to a broader category of refugees especially students who are enrolled in institutions of higher learning beyond the refugee camps.

**PROTECTION**

DRC Kenya implemented protection activities for 18,583 beneficiaries (8,536 male and 10,047 female) through sharing GBV prevention and response information at community events targeting refugee youth, children, leaders, men and women in Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab as well as implementing community-driven protection interventions in Ifo and Kambioos refugee camps in Dadaab. Five community driven protection project activities such as grinding mill, tuktuk ambulances and donkey carts, kiosks, solar lanterns and first aid training were self-identified and implemented by the community in Ifo-1 camp in Dadaab.

DRC Kenya also used radio programs to sensitize the refugee community on GBV prevention and response as well as sharing information on the existing assistance mechanisms available in Dadaab in regards to reporting GBV incidences or assisting survivors of GBV. The use of the radio programs in broadcasting some of the sessions using the local dialect of the refugees, primarily from Gambella region in Ethiopia, led to an increase in the number of GBV cases reported and enhanced community participation.

DRC Kenya provided appropriate psychosocial counselling and material support as well as referrals to GBV survivors. Out of the total number reached, 3,452 beneficiaries received free legal advice and/or assistance such as representation in courts of law, implemented by DRC Kenya’s local partner the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK). Additionally, the programme finished the construction of a child friendly space (CFS) for educational and recreational activities within Kakuma IV camp. The CFS will be operational in 2015.

In Dadaab, DRC Kenya is responsible for the running and management of safe haven in Ifo-1. The safe haven is a temporary secure shelter within the Dadaab complex where refugee women survivors of SGBV and those with acute protection threats are protected and referred to by other agencies. DRC provides psychosocial support to residents in safe haven as well as providing material support. When hygienic conditions in safe haven deteriorated in 2014, DRC renovated eight units which consequently improved living conditions at safe haven.

**LIVELIHOODS/FOOD SECURITY**

DRC Kenya continued to take lead in implementing livelihoods strategies for refugees in Nairobi and Dadaab with the aim of enhancing the self-reliance and livelihood opportunities for refugees. Over 1,500 beneficiaries received livelihoods support including business development and savings skills training and conditional grants to enable them start or grow their
businesses. The beneficiaries who were trained under DRC Kenya’s business development programme improved their record keeping skills and have used the conditional grants to increase their asset base.

DRC Kenya implemented a pilot project on Fresh Food Vouchers with the support of the World Food Programme. The program enabled 3,000 pregnant women and lactating mothers in Dagahaley refugee camp to access a variety of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat from various vendors in the camp. The initiative has contributed to an increase of the number of refugee women attending prenatal and antenatal clinics run by MSF. The WFP-selected vendors have equally benefited from the voucher system as it has boosted trade particularly during the distribution days and even enabled some vendors to expand their businesses and hire extra staff.

**VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PILOT PROJECT**

As part of the support to the pilot voluntary repatriation project, DRC Kenya was involved in issuing unconditional grants to the Somali refugees who had signed up to voluntarily return to their areas of origin in Somalia. As of December 2014, DRC had disbursed unconditional cash grants to 485 beneficiaries who were voluntarily returning to three identified areas of return in Somalia: Baidoa, Luuq and Kismayu.

**SCHOLARSHIPS/TRAINING**

DRC Kenya awarded scholarships to 2,047 beneficiaries in Nairobi and Dadaab to undertake professional and technical training courses. The courses chosen were based on labor market demand in areas of origin and interest by the students/trainees. DRC also provided career guidance to 4,119 students to help them make informed choices on the courses as well as to impart life skills on decision making and etiquette to facilitate smooth integration into the training institutions. The startup kits included hair-dressing equipment; tailoring equipment and stock for small business startups.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS 2015**

In 2015, the review process of the Refugee Act, 2006 and the development of the National Policy on Refugees and Asylum seekers is anticipated to take center stage and DRC Kenya will continue to engage in the process as a member of the Legal and Policy Taskforce on the Refugee Bill and Policy. Through this engagement, DRC Kenya will advocate to anchor the concept of durable solutions in both policy frameworks.

In addition, DRC Kenya will conduct advocacy on economic integration of refugees within the national and county government’s development plans. This will be done through hosting forums on devolution with the various refugee hosting county governments with the aim of sensitizing the county officials on the benefits of integrating refugee economic activities as part of their respective development plans.

Livelihood programming will also be a key area of focus for DRC Kenya as a strategy towards building the self-reliance of the refugee population. As part of the programming, DRC Kenya will implement market-based livelihood interventions, labor market studies, and scale up community-based sustainable approaches like village savings and loans (VSL). In 2015, DRC Kenya will expand its livelihood interventions to Mombasa with the support of UNHCR.

In line with DRC’s objective of advancing the agenda of transitional and durable solutions, the Kenya programme will continue to support the UNHCR-led pilot project on voluntary repatriation of Somalis through issuing unconditional cash grants to Somali refugees who voluntarily return to Somalia.
DIVERSIFYING DIETARY OPTIONS FOR PREGNANT REFUGEE WOMEN IN DADAAB, KENYA

The introduction of a fresh food voucher program in Dadaab refugee camp by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP), has enabled 3000 pregnant refugee women and lactating mothers to access a variety of fresh vegetables and meat from various vendors in the refugee camp. The initiative has also led to the increase of the number of refugee women attending clinics.

The fresh food voucher initiative has brought many benefits for the thousands of refugee women in Dagahaley refugee camp - one of the five refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya. 

“I am very happy with this voucher system, I can now get a variety of food stuff from the market which is important for me and my baby. I now have a choice over what meals I can cook for my baby especially with access to meat,” noted 33 year old Sadiya Hassan who has a three month old baby and is benefitting from the program for a second time.

The distribution of the food vouchers to the eligible pregnant and lactating mothers takes place at health posts in Dagahaley camp run by MSF. In this way, DRC is able to ensure that refugee women in the programme are attending their regular medical check-ups and are sensitized on the benefits of attending them.

“I have seen many women now attending the clinics and this is good for the general health of the baby and the mother. The vouchers have been a great incentive for many of us to attend the clinics,” said Fatuma Ibrahim who is 6 months pregnant with her fifth child.

The initiative, which is now in its second year of being piloted, has also contributed to increasing attendance of the refugee women to the antenatal and prenatal clinics provided at health posts within the camps.

“Since we started the distribution of the food vouchers, the rate of infant mortality has reduced within the camps. We are able to distribute the food vouchers immediately a refugee woman is confirmed to be expectant up to three months post-delivery of their baby,” noted Harrison Muema, DRC’s Fresh Food Voucher Team Leader.

Once the refugee women have received the food vouchers, they normally visit different appointed vendors located throughout the camps and redeem their choice of vegetables or meat at their preferred grocery shop. The vendors usually receive the food vouchers and cash-in their respective values from WFP at a later date. WFP has appointed 60 vendors throughout the five camps where the refugee women can redeem their vouchers.

“This voucher system has enabled me to have a regular income. I am now able to take care of my seven children and to buy them the items they need for their school,” says Fartun Muse who owns a grocery shop in Dagahaley and is one of the WFP-recruited fresh food vendors. Additionally she is a beneficiary of the DRC livelihood training where she also received business skills training and a small grant to start up her business. “I am now planning to expand my business and to start selling solar lights and cold drinks because my income has increased,” added Fartun Muse.
The Danish Deming Group (DDG) started its operations in Kenya in 2012, beginning with a context analysis to identify key areas of intervention in line with DDG’s mandate and working on three core thematic areas: community safety in border areas; community safety in urban informal settlements; and resource based conflict and conflict sensitivity.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

COMMUNITY SAFETY & CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

DDG Kenya in collaboration with its Uganda program continued to implement a community safety and cross border conflict management project targeting the counties of Turkana and West Pokot in Kenya as well as the Karamoja region in Uganda. On the Kenyan side of the border, DDG supported 13 communities in Loima and sub-counties in North Pokot with community safety planning and advocacy, conflict management education and armed violence awareness, as well as supported a dialogue between border communities and between communities and security providers. The project was supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MAPPING

DDG carried out a conflict assessment targeting counties in the northern part of Kenya which were undergoing major changes. A key change was the roll-out of devolution, exploration of oil and gas, as well as the initial stages of implementation of the Lamu Port, South Sudan and Ethiopia (LAPSSET) transport corridor. The DDG assessment targeted the counties of Marsabit, Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir and Mandera, and was aimed at better understanding how new developments impacted local conflict dynamics and to provide support to Kenyan peace actors and policy makers to develop better informed responses. DDG also embarked on a mapping of conflict risks associated with the LAPSSET corridor project with focus on Lamu. The project is funded by the UKAID Conflict Pool and will continue in 2015.

CONFLICT PREVENTION AROUND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Since oil was discovered in Turkana in 2012, the oil and gas industry in Kenya has received significant attention among international, national and local stakeholders alike. DDG Kenya, in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government, and Professor Kennedy Mkutu of the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi, has been monitoring the local developments around oil exploration closely with the view of promoting informed and conflict sensitive engagement in the sector by local and external stakeholders.

To contribute towards the prevention and management of conflict and to ensure that extractive industries become a positive source of development for the people of Turkana, DDG formed a consortium with Cordaid and Oxfam working with Adam Smith International to prepare the implementation of a pilot project in partnership with the Turkana County Government and Turkana Civil Society groups. The project will commence in 2015 and is funded by the UKAID.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SAFETY

DDG embarked on a pilot project focusing on at-risk urban youth in the informal settlements of Mathare, Korogocho and Kayole, in partnership with PeaceNet Kenya and DRC’s program in Kenya. This assisted DDG to better understand how to contribute to preventing and reducing armed violence in poor and insecure urban areas. DDG developed and piloted youth empowerment planning and advocacy processes as well as enhanced youth awareness on the dangers of guns, in addition to strengthening their conflict management skills. The lessons learned from the pilot project has informed the development of DRC/DDG’s Youth Empowerment and Safety (YES) program framework which is now inspiring youth programming across the region.

STRATEGIC FOCUS 2015

In 2015, DDG Kenya will continue to design and implement programs focusing on community safety and conflict management in border areas of Kenya and Uganda, as well as extending its capacity to respond to growing community safety needs along the borderlands of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. In North Western Kenya, DDG’s teams will ensure that inter-communal cross-border conflict reduction dialogue will be
intensified and will take a leading role in developing a model for improving stakeholder engagement around extractive industries, which can be replicated in other parts of Kenya where extractive industries or large scale infrastructure development projects are ongoing or underway. In Lamu, DDG and partners will carry out research and mapping of existing risks associated with the roll out of the LAPSSET project in the county. Risk maps will form the basis for promoting informed multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed at preventing and mitigating conflict.

DDG will also carry out a conflict analysis and mapping of the Kenya-Ethiopia-Somalia borderlands in collaboration with the IGAD, Conflict Early Warning (CEWARN) program. The analysis and mapping is aimed at enhancing informed and coordinated interventions for conflict prevention and reduction, and may form the basis for a new community safety and conflict management project in the Mandera triangle.
In 2014, Ethiopia overtook Kenya as the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, sheltering more than 600,000 refugees, the majority of whom are from South Sudan following the breakout of violence in mid-December 2013.

South Sudanese are now the largest refugee population group in Ethiopia, with around 250,000 individuals, followed closely by Somali, with over 245,850 individuals, Eritreans, with over 106,859 individuals, Sudanese, with over 5,410 individuals, and the remaining refugees from several other countries, including Kenya, Djibouti, DR Congo, Yemen, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda. Refugees are mainly accommodated in camps throughout the country. The Government has allocated land for the 18 existing camps, including in Dollo Ado, Shire, Gambella and Assosa, and for new camps to be opened as the majority of existing camps have reached their maximum capacity.

Ethiopia has a long history of receiving asylum seekers displaced by droughts, conflicts, political conflicts and civil wars in neighboring countries, including Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. The country is also known for mixed migration flows and has continued to be the primary country of origin for economic migrants as well as a transit country for Eritreans, Somalis and other nationalities seeking new opportunities using the north-western and eastern migrant routes. Despite this, the Government of Ethiopia has maintained an open-door-policy and has continuously allowed humanitarian access and protection to those seeking refuge on its territory.

More than 80% of the population in Ethiopia live in rural areas and rely on rain-fed agriculture for their main source of livelihoods. The vulnerability of people is frequently exacerbated by natural and man-made hazards, including drought, flooding, disease outbreaks, and inter-communal conflict and refugee influxes from neighboring states. Additionally, humanitarian access to some parts of the country and persons affected by crisis remains difficult due to insecurity and limited access authorized by the government.

**STRATEGY AND APPROACH**

**Strategic approach**

In 2014, DRC Ethiopia programme interventions were focused on provision of WASH and shelter, promotion of livelihood activities, host community school construction, community driven programming and protection activities. DRC operations in Ethiopia are based in Gambella region, the Southern Somali region and in Addis.

The influx of South Sudanese into Ethiopia resulted in a key focus on an emergency intervention in Gambella region. The initial focus of the intervention was on WASH programming which included emergency water supply, establishment of water points, construction of emergency latrines, hand washing facilities, hygiene promotion activities, and distribution of emergency non-food item (NFI) kits. In addition, DRC Ethiopia implemented the construction of grinding mills in Kule, Tierkedi and Leitchour camps since July 2014 as part of a food security and protection project.

In 2014, DRC expanded its operations to support individuals, state and non-state actors to manage the mixed migration flows in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. DRC’s current Mixed Migration Programme in Ethiopia is part of a comprehensive regional
approach that addresses acute and long-term protection needs. The Mixed Migration unit focuses on informing potential onward migrants about risks of migration and the potential of abuse during their journey, and working to lower the ambition of returned migrants to migrate onward or migrate again.

Lastly, DRC opened a field office in Filtu, Liben Zone, to provide emergency and long-term safe water support to this drought affected area in Ethiopia’s Somali Region.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

During 2014, DRC Ethiopia played a critical role in the South Sudanese influx where over 200,000 South Sudanese were assisted through various emergency interventions which included: emergency water supply, provision of latrines and shelters, school construction, livelihood interventions and various protection programmes such as child protection and SGBV prevention and awareness among the refugee community.

DRC Ethiopia’s long-term strategy in Gambella allowed for cross-sector innovation and collaboration for the benefit of refugees in the camps and transit centres. DRC Ethiopia was able to scale up in its integrated approach and combine WASH and protection activities. By the end of 2014 DRC Ethiopia was providing assistance across various sectors in Gambella; WASH, protection, livelihoods/food security, and shelter to the refugees from South Sudan.

DRC Ethiopia delivered 326 million liters of clean water, constructed 725 latrines and 182 hand washing stations. In addition, over 16,800 beneficiaries were reached with key messages on hygiene promotion and 3000 hygiene NFI’s were distributed to refugees.

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMING

DRC Ethiopia built four grinding mills in Tierkidi camp and five others in Kule camp in Gambella region. The grinding mills are managed by a Grinding Mill Management Committee (GMMC) composed of five refugee women who oversee the running and maintenance of the mills in the various camps. The grinding mills have enabled the refugee women to reduce the protection risks associated with having to travel long distances out of refugee camps for the purposes of grinding their sorghum and maize in neighbouring town.

In Dolo Ado, 100 households from the host community of Bur Amino camp benefited from a small scale irrigation livelihood project. The farmers engaged in this project were trained on basic irrigation technologies, agronomic practices and nursery management. In addition, five farmers’ cooperatives each composed of 20 members were established as part of this irrigation project.

In Gambella region, DRC Ethiopia began piloting a Youth Vocational training on business skills development, construction and electric installation for the refugee youth in Tierkidi camp and students from Itang host community. The vocational training offered is for a period of 10-12 weeks and seeks to build the resilience of refugee youth and to build their self-reliance in the context of displacement, as well prepare them for eventual return to their country of origin.

PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

Protection activities on community-based legal awareness on prevention and response to SGBV were facilitated in Kule and Tierkedi camps in Gambella region. Community workers from the two camps were trained on SGBV prevention response and awareness. Discussions on SGBV prevention and legal awareness were held with groups of refugee youth in both camps. DRC Ethiopia seeks to enhance its protection programming in 2015 in the various areas of operation in Ethiopia.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

DRC Ethiopia undertook a number of community driven development (CDD) projects in Dolo Ado and Jijiga.

In Jijiga, DRC Ethiopia completed 15 CDD community projects which targeted the refugees and the host communities including: seven schools, four water harvesting birkas, four human health posts and two animal health posts that were completed with the contribution of the communities both in kind and in cash ranging from 20% to 30% of the total project costs. All CDD projects were closely coordinated with the local government and have been officially handed over to the communities and local government in Somali Regional State.

In the host communities of the Dolo Ado Camps DRC implemented four CDD projects in 2014; including two

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4 Birkas are cistern-like structures that collect water during dry season.
ABE schools (Alternatives Basic Education) providing education opportunities for children with less access to other schooling; a Health Post and a community store to stock agriculture produces.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS IN 2015**

The key program interventions in 2015 for DRC Ethiopia will include: integrated emergency response (WASH, Shelter, Protection); livelihoods development, both in integrated emergency response (IER), and in mixed migration programming which will feed into strengthening camp and local community economies; community driven development; and youth empowerment in the context of IER and mixed migration.

Response to the South Sudan Refugee influx will remain a key focus for DRC Ethiopia as 50,000 more refugees are expected in Gambella region by early 2015 if the conflict in South Sudan does not stabilize or end. DRC Ethiopia has positioned itself as a first responder to emergencies in conjunction with host communities and will continue to offer services where possible in response to acute crises.

DRC Ethiopia plans to enhance its mixed migration programming by providing livelihood support for migrant returnees including life skill and vocational skill training. In addition, the program has started to integrate its mixed migration programming with a refugee response in the Northern part of Ethiopia that will focus on the protection of Eritrean refugees in camps.
**ETHIOPIA CASE STUDY**

**DELIVERY OF SAFE AND CLEAN WATER FOR SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES DURING FLOODING IN LEITCHUOR CAMP**

The break out of violence in South Sudan in mid-December 2013 resulted in more than 1,200,000 South Sudanese crossing the border into neighbouring Ethiopia in search of refuge from the raging conflict and political instability. Following the influx, various refugee camps were established throughout Gambella region.

Leitchuor camp was one of the first refugee camps set up by the Government of Ethiopia in the western part of Gambella region. After their arrival, the South Sudanese refugees were faced with significant flooding following the start of the rainy season in 2014. Most of the areas in the camps remained submerged for many months, creating additional challenges for access to safe and clean water for the refugees as well as implementation of various hygiene promotion activities. DRC Ethiopia took a lead role in delivering WASH activities within Leitchuor camp which included establishment of water points, construction of emergency latrines, installation of hand washing facilities and hygiene promotion activities.

“We’ve delivered tons and tons of water since the beginning of the influx to Gambella – 190 million liters alone in 2014. The water comes from boreholes and then we either truck the water to established water points in the camp, or we have a direct pipeline pumping water from the bore holes to the water points. With this effort we were able to scale up to eventually deliver 1.5 million liters of clean, fresh water every day to almost 100,000 people in Leitchuor, Tierkidi refugee camps, Burubey reception centre, Pamdong and Matar transit site,” said Stanley Njau, DRC WASH Manager, who has been coordinating DRC Ethiopia’s response to the call for potable water.

The rainy season called for the urgent restructuring of Leitchuor camp to ensure the safety and living conditions of the refugees. Almost 30,000 refugees were forced to move from their tents or tukuls (traditional huts) and away from some of the established water points. The heavy flooding also made it impossible to transport water via trucks. DRC Ethiopia had the foresight and funding from UNHCR and OCHA to build and complete the underground pipeworks before the start of the rainy season, helping to avoid disaster for the refugees and host community in regard to clean and safe water.

“When we saw how the camp in Leitchuor was established before the rainy season, we immediately thought that this could be a potential problem. So we decided install a pipeline system which has enabled water delivery to inaccessible and flooded parts of the camp. Additionally, we managed to establish new water points with pumps and piping in the nearby village, where many of the refugees fled to. Without this effort they wouldn’t have access to clean water, so I can definitely say that this operation saved lives,” said Stanley Njau.

Nyabo Gach is one of the refugees that had to move because of flooding. She arrived in Leitchuor in February, 2013, with her six children and her sister’s three children. Both her husband and her sister were killed in the fighting in South Sudan. They had to walk 17 days on foot to come to Leitchuor, foregoing food and drink for days on end and depending on the kindness and assistance of roaming pastoralists.

“When the rainy season began, we had to move. It is very important for us that there are water tanks here in the village. Water is life – so it is essential for us to have access to the water. Therefore we are very happy that we also have a water point here,” says Nyabo Gach.

DRC Ethiopia in partnership with other humanitarian agencies will continue to lobby the Government of Ethiopia to relocate the refugees living in Leitchuor camp so that they don’t have to face the same challenges in 2015 when the rainy season starts.

By the end of 2014, DRC Ethiopia was able to deliver approximately 1.5 million liters of water to Leitchuor, Tierkidi refugee camps, Burubey reception centre, Pamdong and Matar transit site every day, providing essential clean water to almost 100,000 South Sudanese refugees hosted in Gambella region.
DRC/DDG YEMEN

DRC and DDG’s operations in Yemen are aimed at contributing to the stabilization of fragile areas of Yemen by enhancing community safety and improving the quality of lives through programming on livelihoods and self-reliance initiatives among conflict-affected populations. DRC started its operations in Yemen in 2008, initially to support Somalis and other asylum seekers as well as migrants arriving on the shores from Somalia, Somaliland and Djibouti.

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political and insecurity conditions in Yemen continued to deteriorate throughout 2014. In January, the 565-member National Dialogue Commission (NDC) concluded with the decision to transform Yemen into a six entity Yemeni Federal State. An implementation plan for the NDC’s recommendations was also agreed on, including an extension of the political transition period, new constitution, basic laws to support federal states, and parliamentary and presidential elections for 2015.

The Houthis, a minority Zaydi Shiite population in northern Yemen (primarily from Sa’ada), opposed the six federal state scenario arguing that it would lead to disproportionate control of wealth in the South. Later in the year, the Houthis took advantage of unrest in the country largely because of the government’s reversal of fuel subsidies, and took control of Sana’a. As a result, a Peace and National Partnership Agreement was signed on 21 September, 2014 which renewed the NDC implementation outcomes as well as confirmed a new Prime Minister and technocratic government.

DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

Yemen continued to host high numbers of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and mixed migrants. An estimated 250,000 refugees were registered in Yemen as of the end of 2014 and a further 91,000 mixed migrants were recorded as having landed on the Yemeni coasts.

Conditions for new arrival migrants crossing the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden remained particularly critical and an increase of violations and abuses of their rights was witnessed. Criminal gangs involved in smuggling and/or trafficking activities remained active on the Yemeni coasts and reports from new arrivals indicated a high prevalence of abduction, torture, and extortion. More than 17,000 migrants were abducted upon landing on the Red Sea coasts, including an estimated 2,137 women. It was documented that gangs of smugglers/traffickers wait for the migrants to land on the coast, in order to abduct and transport them to locations (“torture camps”) hidden mainly in mountainous regions of Ta’iz governorate.

Moreover, there were heightened numbers of casualties at sea in 2014 for mixed migrants because of the extremely poor conditions of the boats on which they were travelling; 245 migrants reportedly died at sea this year compared to 179 who drowned over the last three years.

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased in 2014 to over 330,000 despite having reduced in 2013 because of returns to Abyan governorate in southern Yemen. The increase in number of IDPs in 2014 was largely because of ongoing conflicts in northern Yemen, where clashes with the Houthis extended outside of the Sa’ada governorate. In addition, insecure conditions tied to clashes among government forces and military/tribal groups, including Ansar al-Sharia (an AQAP affiliate), and the Southern Separatist Movement continued to displace people, particularly in Abyan and Shabwah governorates.

5 242,351 from Somalia, 5,828 from Ethiopia, 3,401 from Iraq, 1,225 from Eritrea, and 1,608 from other countries.
DRC/DDG YEMEN STRATEGIC APPROACH AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

In 2014, DRC Yemen’s strategy focused on supporting safe and sustainable returns to Abyan; protection of refugees in Yemen and enabling durable returns when possible; mitigating severe protection risks that migrants face; enhancing the capacity of government and civil society to manage displacement more effectively and building resilience and coping mechanisms within government, civil society and communities.

For DDG Yemen, the program strategies focused on community driven recovery safety (CDRS); Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Conflict Management Education (CME). Majority of DDG activities in Yemen are jointly implemented with DRC.

PROTECTION OF REFUGEES

DRC Yemen partnered with UNHCR to strengthen the screening procedures at reception points by developing a new screening form for asylum seekers and migrants. The form was developed to enhance the identification process of asylum seekers and economic migrants. Following the implementation of the new form, DRC Yemen was able to register 35,421 Somali refugees and non-Somali asylum seekers. In addition, a decrease in the number of asylum seekers registered was recorded in the second part of the year, especially in Ahwar and Mayfa’a registration centres as a result of improved screening of mixed migrants. In Bab El Mandab, the new screening procedures allowed the DRC team to identify and assist asylum seekers encountered along the Red Sea coast.

MITIGATING SEVERE PROTECTION RISKS THAT MIGRANTS FACE

DRC provided all encountered cases of migrants with assistance in 2014. This included the provision of 7,260 welcome kits containing essentials such as a pair of sandals, a wrap, torch and batteries, water bottle, ½ kilogram of dates, a bed sheet, and a t-shirt provided in Bab El Mandab. In addition, the DRC team in Basateen Mixed Migration Centre (MMIC) distributed NFIs (including welcome kits, blankets, mattresses, clothes and shoes) to 1,138 mixed migrants. DRC staff also counselled mixed migrants on their rights including the right to seek asylum in Yemen and be protected under both international and Yemeni laws that govern the rights of refugees and migrants. Furthermore, DRC counselled the migrants and advised against contacting and seeking the services of illicit human traffickers who can endanger their lives. They were also cautioned and made aware of criminal gangs who roam the Yemeni countryside in search of migrants to abduct and forcefully hold them for ransom and extortion.

Injured or sick migrants as well as unaccompanied minors were immediately referred to hospitals for medical assistance. Such interventions by DRC Yemen have saved lives of migrants who have been severely beaten by human smugglers in the process of extorting additional money.

CHILD PROTECTION

DRC Yemen partnered with civil society organizations and local communities to establish community-based Child Protection Committees (CPCs). As part of our Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave child rights violations. 1,410 CPC members were trained on how to conduct monitoring as well as referrals for services for those children in their communities most at-risk of child protection needs. By the end of 2014, there was a notable increase in numbers of violations against children (491 incidences) reported in comparison to 2013 (425 incidences) owing to the improved documentation of rights violations by the CPCs and a general awareness among Yemeni communities.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RECOVERY AND SAFETY (CDRS)

DRC and DDG implemented a Community Driven Recovery and Safety (CDRS) project targeting 18 rural communities in Khanfar and Tuban districts of Abyan and Lahj governorates respectively. Throughout the year, the 18 communities actively participated through “community entry” sessions that involved 231 community leaders followed with “3 day awareness raising” activity at each community attended by daily average of 118 attendees. During these sessions, 1,495 persons in 11 communities were trained on conflict management education.

In addition, 374 community members participated in the identification of 15 community recovery and safety
Building on these priorities, eight community projects were developed and endorsed by wider communities and respective local government authorities (LGAs). The projects included rehabilitation of a school in Alkudam, construction of water supply line in AlMeshghafa, extension of water supply system in Halima as well as in Kod AlZaghbari. The community projects improved accessibility and safety to basic services infrastructures for the target communities and by the end of 2014, six of the eight identified community projects were nearly complete and the remaining two projects on construction of classrooms in Meiklan and Saken Wa’ais were due to start in 2015.

**MINE RISK EDUCATION**

DDG Yemen’s mine risk education was able to reach 30,204 beneficiaries, the majority of whom are children in seven districts in Abyan and Shabwa regions. The results from the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism database which DRC Yemen administers indicate that there was a reduction of child casualties in the MRE targeted districts from five in 2013 to two in 2014.

**DRC/DDG STRATEGIC FOCUS IN 2015**

DRC/DDG Yemen anticipates that the basic needs of the population in Yemen will continue to be unmet – particularly given the backdrop of increased insecurity and political uncertainty at the end of 2014. Towards this end, DRC/DDG Yemen will improve integrated emergency response to identified needs of conflict affected displaced populations so that it is more rapid and efficient. An Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan will be implemented and a protection focal point will be established to ensure protection mainstreaming in our emergency responses.

DRC Yemen will also improve access to food security/livelihoods for vulnerable communities affected by forced displacement by expanding our food security/livelihoods programming in both southern and northern Yemen.

In response to the rising cases of irregular migration, DRC Yemen will develop and test a programme approach that discourages ill-informed and dangerous migration within and through Yemen, and mitigates the severe protection risks faced by the migrant population.

DDG will seek to integrate its Conflict Management Education, ADR and conflict sensitivity components within DRC’s protection, migration and livelihoods projects.

DRC/DDG Yemen expects to continue its work with local civil society organisations and community-based committees in monitoring and reporting on rights violations – particularly for children – and how to respond to those rights violations. DRC will continue to work within the various networks such as the Protection Framework Working Group and the Mixed Migration Taskforce so that protection of displaced populations remains in the forefront of humanitarian and early recovery interventions in Yemen.
YEMEN CASE STUDY

DRC RESILIENCE TRAINING HELPS TO RESTORE WATER ACCESS TO A VILLAGE IN YEMEN

Mohamed lives in Saken village, located in western Romila district in Abyan governorate in southern Yemen. Saken village is in one of the poorest areas in Abyan governorate which has limited infrastructure, social amenities and hosts a number of internally displaced persons. The district also experiences frequent clashes between the government army and militias affiliated to Al-Qaeda and also between the Houthis and Al-Qaeda militias.

In 2014, the only water pipe that provided water to all community members in Mohamed’s village was broken by unknown persons – leading to a serious water shortage and increased tensions among the villagers as well as neighbouring communities over who broke the water pipe. Some families were forced to send their young sons and daughters to fetch water from remote wells that were far off from the village, putting them at greater risk of kidnapping and getting lost. In most instances, the available water fetched from the wells was contaminated and this led to an outbreak of diarrhea and cholera in the village especially among the children. The situation became much worse because the village and neighbouring villages do not have a health facility.

DRC Yemen implemented a series of trainings under the OCHE funded project on “Enhancing Durable Solutions and Resilience.” The training included some members of the Saken village leaders who were trained among on durable solutions, resilience and conflict management specifically on “negotiation, mediation and arbitration.” The village leaders learned how to resolve community conflicts through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms and how to create sustainable solutions for their challenges. The use of ADR was well received by the village leaders especially because their district does not have well-established legal systems and there is a total absence of law enforcement agencies.

After the training, the Saken community leaders decided to create a magistrate group with representation of community members from neighbouring communities - the Saken village population is from one tribe but is surrounded by various tribal communities. The magistrate group was able to meet and agree on a plan of how to buy a new water pipe to replace the broken one. This enabled the Saken community as well as their neighbours to access clean and safe water after the pipe was fixed.

"We are now very happy that through the DRC training, the community members were able to solve their immediate problem of water. We are also happy that they were able to solve this issue practically and smoothly without having to fight over who broke the water pipe," said Mohamed.

DRC Yemen is glad to note that after the rehabilitation of the water pipe, the Water and Sanitation Authority in the Abyan governorate promised to continue to support the Saken village community and surrounding villages to ensure a continued supply of clean and safe water to the communities.
The Great Lakes Programme (GLP) is a regional programme implemented in partnership with civil society organisations in five countries of the Great Lakes region: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRCongo), Kenya, Uganda and Central African Republic (CAR).

Since its establishment in January 2010, the Great Lakes Programme (GLP) has continued to support various civil society organisations (CSOs) to hold governments accountable to the commitments made for protecting displaced people in Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRCongo), Kenya and Uganda. This support to national CSOs has been in the form of availing technical and financial support to the respective partner CSOs to assist them in documenting and analysing specific displacement and conflict issues with the aim of translating these analysis into practical advocacy goals.

In 2014, GLP focused on strengthening its partnerships in Burundi, DRCongo and Kenya, where its partners were encouraged and facilitated to work in synergy by conducting joint capacity building workshops and exploring opportunities for promoting joint learning.

In line with the GLP’s objective of promoting joint learning among partners on displacement issues, the GLP partners: Action pour la Paix et le Développement Endogènes (ADEPAE), Solidarité des Volontaires pour l’Humanité (SVH) and Rema Ministries, undertook a joint study to provide a critical analysis of local integration as a durable solution. The data was collected in Burundi and DRCongo in July and August 2014 and uses concrete examples to analyse which factors facilitate local integration or make it more difficult. The final report formulates recommendations to improve local integration and will be published during the first quarter of 2015. This study is a follow up of the research that the partners published in 2013 titled Voices from Exile, in which a key conclusion noted was that although local integration appeared as the best durable solution for a number of refugees, this option is not so often offered by the governments and UNHCR, who view return as the main option.

In Kenya, GLP’s partner Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) published a study titled Is My Claim Meritorious? The report examines the Congolese experience of the refugee status determination process in Kenya. The report makes a case to consider the eastern Congolese asylum seekers under prima facie status in line with Kenya’s Refugee Act 2006 and was warmly welcomed by all stakeholders when launched in May 2014.

The programme through its partner RCK continued to be actively involved in the advocacy and lobbying process for the review of the Refugee Act, 2006 and the development of a draft National Asylum Policy. RCK through the financial and technical support from the GLP was able to lead the DRA-led taskforce on review of the Refugee Act, 2006 in various advocacy initiatives including holding numerous workshops with various legislators; developing legislative proposal to amend the Refugee Act, 2006 and developing the content of the draft Asylum Policy on Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

In DRCongo, partners ADEPAE and SVH organised workshops on peaceful cohabitation between returnees, refugees and residents, as well as gave legal support to land conflict cases with a 91% success rate. In Burundi, Rema Ministries was also involved in the mediation of land conflict between returnees and residents and contributed to reaching an agreement of land-sharing in Nyabigina, in which

GREAT LAKES PROGRAMME
a plot of land will be shared between the secondary occupant and the returnee who originally owned the land and both parties would receive title deeds. Furthermore, Rema Ministries supported the process of the revision of Court Nationale des Terres et autres Biens (CNTB), in charge of arbitrating conflicts between returnees and residents over properties) Law and the drafting of the Special Land Court. Those projects greatly contributed to increased dialogue and understanding between communities in displacement and return areas in 2014.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR 2015**

In 2015, the GLP intends to continue supporting its four core partners while developing new partnerships with CSOs in Uganda. The activities in Burundi, DRCongo and Uganda will have a strong focus on the link between housing, land and property (HLP) and local integration as well as voluntary return of refugees. In Kenya, partner RCK will have a strong research agenda looking into durable solutions for IDPs and the contribution of urban refugees to the economy. The GLP together with RCK will also remain active in the lobbying process of review of the Refugee Act, 2006 and development of the National Asylum Policy on Refugees and Asylum Seekers by continuing to be a member of the DRA-led legal and policy taskforce.

The GLP is also assessing possibilities of extending its network of CSOs to other countries of the Horn of Africa, especially Somalia. In late 2014, the GLP commissioned a study to analyse the potential of working with CSOs in Somaliland, Puntland and South Central. The findings are encouraging and picture a slowly emerging civil society in Somalia that could be the voice of the displaced and engage concomitantly with traditional structures and decision-makers. The Somalia New Deal Compact and recent political developments make it all the more timely and strategic for DRC to develop its partnerships with CSOs.
The secretariat was formed in 2011 with the overall objective to support agencies, institutions and fora in the Horn of Africa and Yemen to improve the management of protection and assistance to people in mixed migration flows with this region and across the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea in Yemen.

The past year was marked by some dramatic mixed migration events in the region that defined the protection concerns of the sector and RMMS’s direction in trying to ‘join forces to support the sector’. The year started with the continued mass expulsion of Ethiopian, Somalis and Yemeni from Saudi Arabia that started in November 2013 and lasted well into 2014. Most of those expelled were Yemeni (over 550,000) and Ethiopian (163,000) and resulted in the low figures crossing the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in the first few months of the year. The numbers picked up later in the year as people returned to Yemen to try to enter Saudi Arabia again. By the end of the year the total number of Ethiopian and Somalis who had made the irregular crossing were over 90,000, close to the levels seen in 2011 and 2012. The total number of deaths at sea also reached record levels with 245 people drowning in boats that sank off the coast of Yemen. RMMS Coordinator contributed to a major IOM study on Fatal Journeys that raised significant media attention on the issue of protection at sea.

Another significant event during the year was the surge of Eritreans leaving their homeland. Many migrated into Ethiopia to seek refuge but most joined with Ethiopian and Somali (and Somaliland) migrants travelling through Sudan, into Libya or Egypt and from there crossed the Mediterranean. The international press was full of migrant tragedies as the number of those attempting the crossing surged and the numbers of deaths at sea was higher than any recorded year. As noted above, even in the Gulf of Aden the numbers of deaths at sea were many times more than those recorded in 2013.

Finally, the scale of abuse of migrants and in particular kidnapping, extortion and probable trafficking has to be mentioned as a major concern. In Yemen up to 80% of all monthly arrivals are captured and held violently for ransom by criminal gangs and this is a trend that is being noted happening more and more in Sudan, Egypt and Libya.

STRATEGIC APPROACH AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

RMMS strategy and approach for 2014 continued to focus on generating data, information and analysis on mixed migration for the sector in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region. The strategy adopted continued to be the generation of monthly mixed migration summaries, literature and press reviews, research and feature-writing as well as hosting bi-monthly teleconferences with various actors within the sector. Apart from these outputs, the noteworthy activities during the year included:

RMMS hosted two ‘Mixed Migration Roundtables’ in Nairobi and Addis Ababa, bringing together close to 30 key stakeholders at each event. These dialogues were held according to the Chatham House rule and stimulated engaging discussion on regional migration issues. RMMS hopes to replicate these events in future given that migration remains a hot topic amongst policy makers, governments and donors in the region.

Early in the year, RMMS financed and teamed up with key members of the Mixed Migration Task Force of Kenya to provide training to media practitioners. Almost 30 Kenyan journalists were trained on migration, refugees and trafficking with the objective of building
their capacity and knowledge on these issues so as to improve their reporting on people on the move in an increasingly anti-migrant context.

RMMS launched an innovative mechanism for tracking and collating mixed migration movement in a fast changing and virtually data-free context. The mechanism titled 4Mi initiative aims to provide more concrete and authoritative information concerning mixed migration flows and monitor trends of migrants within the region. It utilises a low cost multi-country network of monitors to report on migrant activities in remote locations along the migration routes. By the end of 2014, over 15 monitors were in place and regular streams of rich information was flowing into 4Mi through smartphone technology and specialized applications.

Through our partnership with the International Detention Coalition (IDC), RMMS led the Kenya campaign in calling for the end of detention of migrant children in the Horn of Africa. The campaign was mainly on social media and was designed to alert as many people, agencies and media houses of the scale of the problem in the region and it is part of a year-long campaign with different events throughout 2015.

In absence of any other forum for regular meetings and advocacy, RMMS has been a founding member of the North Africa and Horn of Africa Mixed Migration Task Force. IOM took a lead in creating this group that had its first meetings during 2014 and RMMS has been working closely with them to advise on how best the support cell of NOAH can operate, given that the mandate of the support cell is virtually identical to that of the RMMS in the Horn of Africa.

Towards the end of the year, RMMS participated in the UNHCR-organised High Commissioner’s Dialogue which in view of the unprecedented number of Mediterranean drownings focused on Rescue at Sea. RMMS and DRC were represented in various sessions and sat on three panels. RMMS also presented on regional mixed migration trends at IOM’s Regional Committee on Mixed Migration, the IGAD Regional Consultative Process (on Migration/Asylum) and at the Khartoum Meeting on Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons.

RMMS RESEARCHES

RMMS continued in 2014 to lead the sector in the region with research and joint learning. We continued to develop new research as part of the ‘explaining people on the move’ series as well as the launch of new Discussion Papers:

The Letter of the Law - regular and irregular migration in Saudi Arabia in a context of rapid change (April 2014)

Going West - contemporary mixed migration trends from the Horn of Africa to Libya & Europe (June 2014)

Blinded by Hope - Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Ethiopian migrants (June 2014)

Abused & Abducted - the plight of female migrants from the Horn of Africa in Yemen (October 2014)

Discussion Paper One: What If? Scenarios of implemented and enhanced migration legislation and policies in the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

All RMMS publications are distributed at regional meetings and conferences in hard copy and enjoy frequent use on-line at the RMMS website (www.regionalmms.org). The research series ‘explaining people on the move’ now has eights titles. Our website continues to be the go-to site for people wanting further information on mixed migration. RMMS also has a Facebook page and twitter handle that is gaining new followers every week.

STRATEGIC FOCUS IN 2015

As part of its strategic focus for 2015, RMMS will be engaging with civil society groups and local NGOs in the region to develop their capacity to work on mixed migration issues. This complements proposed research on the benefits of migration as a development tool and ways that development actors can be engaged to achieve outcomes of the global migration and development agenda. Given the inter-connectedness between mixed migration issues in the Horn of Africa and Yemen and other regions, notably the Middle East and North Africa, RMMS will work this year to improve linkages with relevant Danish Refugee Council offices and other stakeholders in key locations on issues of mutual interest.
The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) emerged from extensive consultations among INGOs on durable solutions and officially commenced its work in March 2014. The overall objective of ReDSS is to maintain a focused momentum around the Tripartite Agreement on the voluntary repatriation of Somalis and NGO engagement with durable solutions for displaced and displacement affected communities in the Horn of Africa.

The secretariat acts as a catalyst and agent provocateur to stimulate forward thinking and policy development on durable solutions. It assists NGOs in setting joint programmatic principles and strategies, continue advocacy work, develop guidance on mechanism for cross boarder programming and take this approach for leverage with donors and stakeholders towards unlocking situations of protracted displacement. ReDSS is managed through an advisory group comprising of DRC, IRC, NRC, World Vision, ACTED, INTERSOS, Mercy Corps, RCK, CARE International and OXFAM. DRC and IRC form the steering committee of the secretariat. ReDSS is a member of the Solutions Alliance – a global initiative that seeks to advance a partnership oriented approach for addressing protracted displacement situations and preventing new situations from becoming protracted.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK

In the second year of the Tripartite Agreement, there was increased demand for support towards the creation of conditions which allow for the safe and dignified return and reintegration of Somali displaced populations. In support of this, ReDSS developed a joint Durable Solutions Framework that would adapted the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons to the Somali IDP and refugee context, utilizing the criteria and indicators to identify a quantifiable approach to measuring whether a durable solution has been achieved.

The framework attempts to advance the discussion on durable solutions by reflecting on current available data and assessing data against indicators, in order to indicate when a durable solution can be understood to have been ‘achieved’ in a context of physical, material and legal safety. The tool uses existing sources to assess ‘achievement’ and identifies specific strategies for advancing durable solutions. The Solutions framework is being developed in consultation with the members of the Solutions Alliance, including UNHCR, UNDP and the World Bank, so as to develop the framework and ensure it integrates a comprehensive development perspective owing to the diverse membership of the Alliance.

REDSS RESEARCHES

In line with its core functions on advancing research on durable solutions and with the financial support of DRC, the Secretariat commissioned a desk review study in October 2014 titled “A New Deal for Somalia’s Displaced?” This study takes stock of potential opportunities for promoting and anchoring durable solutions for displaced persons in the Somalia New Deal Compact, incorporating displacement in Somalia’s state building goals. The study also highlighted risks involved in lack of proper consideration of the displaced in the peace and state building process. The study provides recommendations to actors engaged in the New Deal process, including the Somali Government, development actors and the donor community, on how to address displacement and durable solutions in strategies and agreements as an essential element to effective transitional, stabilization, peace and resilience building efforts. The report was launched in Copenhagen during a side event at the High Level Partnership Forum hosted by the Solutions Alliance and DRC.

Following the report, the Solutions Alliance is working with key actors to adapt the solutions framework and ensure displacement will be incorporated into the Somali government’s state building goals. ReDSS, UNHCR, UNDP, the World Bank and the Somali Federal Government are working together to develop the framework to identify outcomes and aligned activities necessary to advance durable solutions in Somalia.

ReDSS commissioned another study titled “Devolution in Kenya: A Key to Durable Solutions?” This study sought to analyze the impact of devolution on refugee affairs in North Eastern and Western regions of Kenya and the potential opportunities this has opened for longer-term solutions for refugees that can contribute to building their self-reliance and local economic integration. The study once finalized will provide a manual on devolution
architecture and implications on refugee management and would provide a range of recommendations for humanitarian and development actors to collaborate more consistently on finding leverage with the County government development plans in order to promote increased economic opportunities for refugees.

2015 STRATEGIC FOCUS

In line with its research agenda, ReDSS will commission a study that will explore how transitional and durable solutions can be taken into consideration while formulating response plans right from the onset of displacement by analyzing how operational and strategic decision making can impact future prospects for solutions based on the South Sudanese caseload in South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

ReDSS also aims to roll out country specific joint periodic forums in Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen and Djibouti that will bring together a variety of agencies and key stakeholders engaged with displacement including civil societies and donors. ReDSS will support the convergence of these forums as strategic platforms for discussions on current trends and dynamics of displacements including gaps and challenges, information sharing, joint learning and advocacy towards finding solutions for the displaced affected communities.

ReDSS will continue to represent civil societies within the Solutions Alliance Somalia which will be launched in early 2015. The Alliance which comprises of varied actors from the Federal Government of Somalia, donors, development and humanitarian actors, will seek to provide a common platform for developing and advancing solutions-oriented approaches to ending protracted displacement of the millions of Somalis displaced across the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

ReDSS will develop a toolkit on durable solutions in order to raise awareness and build the capacity of policy makers, donors and civil society on durable solutions.
2015 STRATEGIC FOCUS, PRIORITIES AND PLANS

DRC/ DDG looks forward to tackling 2015 during which we will emphasize three major ‘clusters’ of programme themes:

> Rapid and integrated Emergency Responses
> Promotion of Transitional and Durable Solutions
> Community Driven Responses to Fragility at local level

RAPID AND INTEGRATED EMERGENCY RESPONSES

DRC/ DDG anticipates a continued fragile humanitarian landscape in most countries within the Horn of Africa and Yemen. This anticipation is informed by three significant situations which include the continued crisis in South Sudan and its regional implications; the continued instability in Somalia with ensuing humanitarian deadlocks and the rapidly escalating political crisis, conflict and food insecurity in Yemen. In response to this and with due concern to the humanitarian imperative, DRC/ DDG remains prepared to respond promptly and effectively to emerging humanitarian situations. DRC/ DDG will also remain strongly dedicated to saving lives and alleviate suffering for displaced communities. A key issue of concern for DRC/ DDG will be to have a robust and rapid response capacity throughout the Horn of Africa and Yemen. As a result of this DRC/ DDG already maintains a strong internal compliance indicator of having updated response plans for all major locations.

TRANSITIONAL AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

In 2015, DRC/ DDG will continue to promote and provoke discussions around furthering durable solutions for displaced communities and where this is not feasible promote appropriate and relevant transitional solutions. Primarily, operational responses will focus on situations where DRC/ DDG can facilitate self-reliance, access to basic services and livelihood opportunities for the displaced or returnees in close collaboration with the local structures and hosting communities.

DRC/ DDG hope to be able to support these efforts within the framework of current policies and development initiatives such as the devolution structure in Kenya and the New Deal process in Somalia, but will also remain engaged with all the current contexts of displacement in Djibouti, Ethiopia and in Somalia including Puntland and Somaliland supporting both IDPs and refugees. From the perspective of durable solutions, the South Sudanese situation remains of interest and DRC/ DDG will seek to engage various state and non-state actors to vet and explore the possibility of engaging in facilitating solutions at the onset of displacement.

DRC/ DDG will continue to support and host the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) as well as render support to the Solutions Alliance with the objective of marshalling various actors towards ending displacement together. DRC/ DDG sees a great potential in the Solutions Alliance, as it presents Governments, donors and humanitarian actors with an opportunity for a radical paradigm shift of managing and unlocking protracted displacements by championing efforts to identify comprehensive and innovative approaches to address displacement as well as propose strategies to preventing new displacements.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSES

Addressing locally rooted fragility will remain a strong component of DRC/ DDG’s work in Somalia, Yemen and parts of Kenya. DRC/ DDG aims at reducing recurrent patterns of conflict and displacement and prevent relapse of coping mechanisms in terms of livelihoods and self-protection for communities affected by conflict. This requires consistent work on local community based governance, including community safety and conflict management, and DRC/ DDG will continuously pursue these goals in collaboration with key partners and donors.

Accountability will remain a key principle for DRC/ DDG during 2015 and the organization will work on mainstreaming of the Core Humanitarian Standards as the newly internationally broad-backed accountability measures that at all times govern and steer our work with beneficiaries, governments, partners and donors.
FUNDING AND FACTS

DRC/DDG HORN OF AFRICA & YEMEN - ACTUAL INCOME BY DONOR 2014

[Image of a pie chart showing various donor contributions: USAID, DFID, ECHO, UNICEF, and others. Each contribution is represented by a different color and size, indicating the percentage of the total income.]
DRC-DDG HORN OF AFRICA & YEMEN - BUDGET ALLOCATIONS BY SCENARIOS

**2014**
- Acute Crisis: 46.87%
- Displacement: 18.33%
- Durable Solutions: 34.80%

**2013**
- Acute Crisis: 20.95%
- Displacement: 31.27%
- Durable Solutions: 47.78%

**SCENARIOS:**
- Acute Crisis
- Displacement
- Durable Solutions

DRC-DDG HORN OF AFRICA & YEMEN - BUDGET ALLOCATIONS BY COUNTRY

**2014**
- Yemen: 64.60%
- Ethiopia: 13.38%
- Kenya: 1.70%
- Somalia: 20.32%

**2013**
- Yemen: 62.07%
- Ethiopia: 14.14%
- Kenya: 8.22%
- Somalia: 15.57%

**COUNTRIES:**
- Yemen
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Somalia
## DRC/DDG Engagement in International Policy and Advocacy Forums in 2014

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<td>DRC FDAY REGIONAL</td>
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<td>Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat</td>
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<td>Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat</td>
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