COVID-19 and IDP settlements

What is DECONGESTION?

Decongestion is one of the main measures to mitigate the spread of pandemic COVID19 in IDP settlements in Somalia and consists of reducing the human density of the settlements in order to maintain social distance and reduce the transmission of the virus. In addition, the high density of IDP settlements causes:

Risk of overcrowding.
Risk of respiratory diseases and other communicable diseases.
Risk of transmission of other communicable diseases. 

Community engagement is key in order to ensure successful decongestion.

How do we DECONGEST?

The plan for the decongestion of a settlement will depend on availability of both suitable land and funding. Community engagement is key in order to ensure successful decongestion.

Checking land availability

How much land is needed? 

Calculation of current and expected density. Check amount of land needed and number of people that should be moved to reach that density. 

Look for vacant land 

Land should be adapted to the site.

If there is no vacant land, small reconfiguration activities within the site should be considered. 

Check land has clear ownership, free from claims / disputes 

Assessment: engagement with communities and landowner + official confirmation from local authority.

Encouraging written agreement. 

Avoid natural hazards and contaminated areas

Avoid flood prone areas, next to steep slopes, or have been contaminated by chemicals or pollutants.

How to measure congestion level?

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Road network and open spaces

Every part of the settlement should be accessible either by main roads (5m wide) or minor roads (3m). Roads should be straight, perpendicular to each other and should have proper drainage and light.

Open spaces should be left to be developed into public spaces or services by the communities. 

Latrines

At least 1 per 20 person, divided between women and men and accessible for people with disabilities.

At a distance of no more than 50m and no less than 5m from any shelter.

Every part of the settlement should be accessible either by main roads (6m wide) or minor roads (3m). Roads should be straight, perpendicular to each other and should have proper drainage and light. 

Open spaces should be left to be developed into public spaces or services by the communities. 

Water / hand-washing points

At least 1 per 20 person 

Waterpoints at a distance of no more than 500m and no less than 5m from any shelter.

At a distance of no more than 50m and no less than 5m from any shelter.

At least 1 per 20 person, divided between women and men and accessible for people with disabilities.

At a distance of no more than 50m and no less than 5m from any shelter.

Solid waste collection

Garbage Collection Points at a distance of 30m from any shelter and waterpoints, directly reachable from the main road to facilitate collection.

Community services

Social facilities should be located near to major paths or nodes and connected to open spaces.

Community awareness and accountability

Ensure community participation and establish feedback and information management mechanisms 

Utilize safety audit tools, written plans and mechanisms to ensure that reconfigured sites include infrastructure that mitigates Gender Based Violence risks. 

Community awareness and consultations

Community awareness in COVID19 risk and decongestion and upgrading needs. Individual households and community consultation through Focus Group Discussions involving group leaders and minority groups.

Settlement Upgrading Plan (SUP)

SUP development based on infrastructure mapping and community consultations. 

SUP presentation, discussion and endorsement by community and stakeholders.

Selection of households to be relocated to the new site considering clusters of shelters, family relations, community dynamics and place of origin.

Piloting a first rearranged cluster to sensitize community in the benefit of the decongestion. 

Emergency Shelter Kit and technical advice can be provided to support shelters reconstruction following SUP guidelines.

Infrastructural mapping and re-arrangement needs

Mapping and re-arrangement needs should be based on land available, land use, clusters of shelters, and distance to services.

SUP presentation, discussion and endorsement by community and stakeholders.