

# DOLOW

## URBAN PROFILE

Working Paper and Spatial Analysis for  
Urban Planning Consultations and  
Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises



NOVEMBER 2018



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Cover:  
Children playing outside the school in Kabasa IDP settlements © Abdirahman Farah Barkadle.

Dolow Urban Profile  
Working Paper and Spatial Analyses for Urban Planning Consultations and Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises - November 2018

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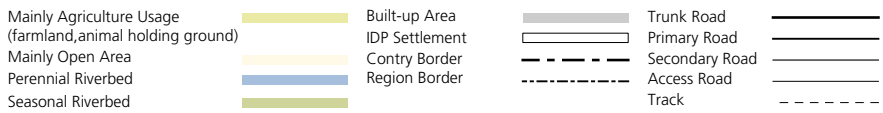
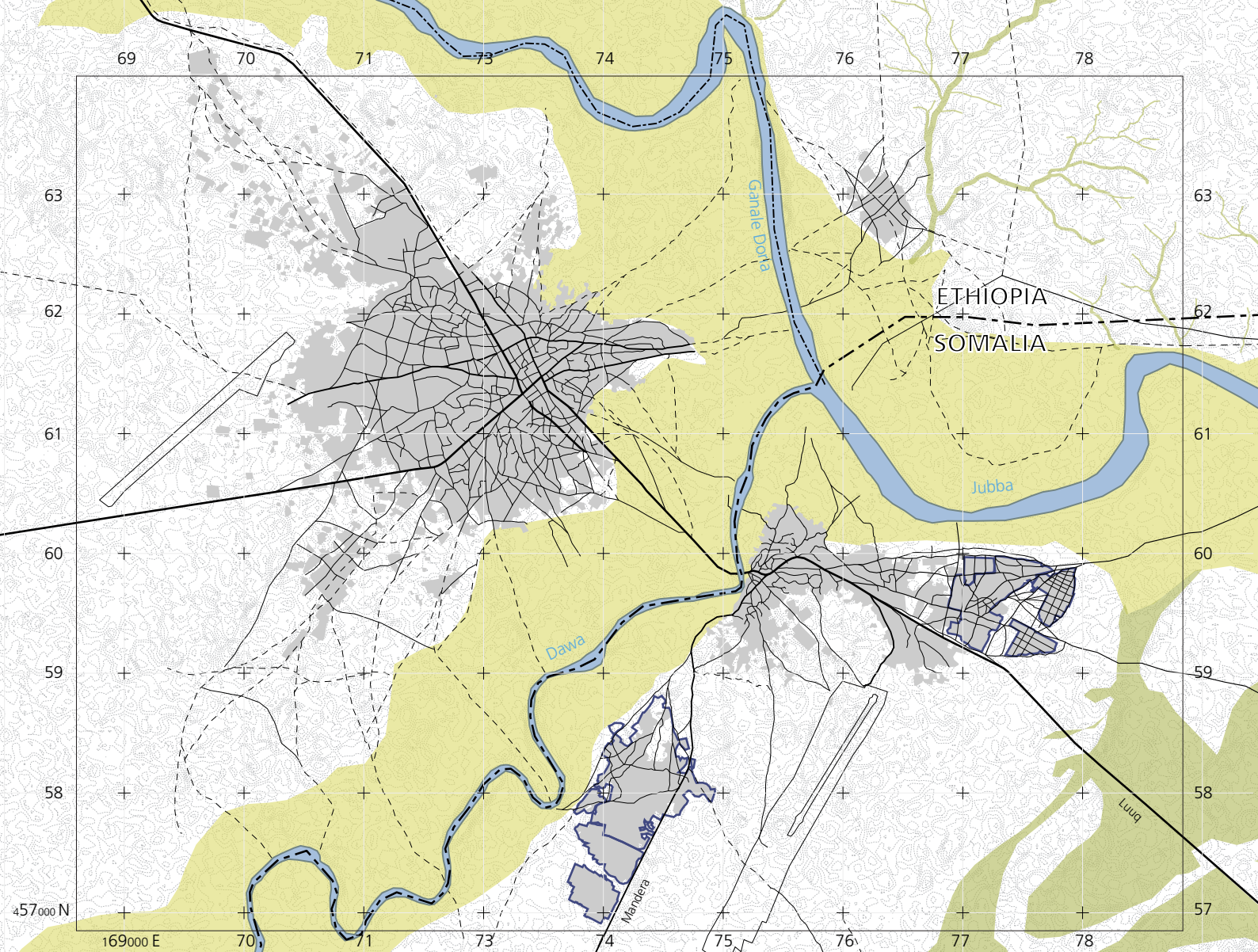


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## INTRODUCTION



The Jubba River during the Deyr season in 2017

This working paper summarizes main aspects of an urban profile of Dolow from the spatial perspective. This analysis considers the development potentials and constraints of Dolow within a time frame of five to ten years.

Reference is made to other studies and data updates undertaken by UN agencies and other local and international stakeholders. However, given the current security situation in Dolow, there is no comprehensive study that captures in detail the situation of the town and its inhabitants.

Dolow's context displaces a great dynamism, where its stability and economic potential given its strategic location are matched by vulnerability to environmental threats and its attraction to IDPs. The development of Dolow therefore can change quite quickly as it also depends on the overall economic, social and environmental trends in the country, and the bordering countries: Kenya and Ethiopia. The paper attempts to capture the main settlement topics and link them to the demands of the various communities living in town (including returnees, IDPs and the host community).

Based on the current Community Action Planning Process in Dolow's urban villages and reflecting on local, state and national strategy papers and plans, the paper outlines proposals for town planning and transformations with the integration and upgrading of the many IPD settlements in a way that all residents benefit from the improved living conditions, better access to urban services and job opportunities.

It is hoped that this working paper contributes to the necessary public discussion on Dolow's future development and facilitates decision making by state and local authorities, in the interest of all.

This process is supported and funded under the Midnimo Project jointly implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).



An aerial view of Kabasa IDP settlement, South-East of the town

The Midnimo (Unity) Project has been developed to support the Attainment of Durable Solutions in Areas Impacted by Displacement and Returns in Jubaland and South West States. It stems from a newly established UN Peacebuilding Programme and aligns itself with broader peacebuilding and stabilization objectives championed by the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs and Regional Authorities in Jubaland and South West States.

The project is anchored on the following government frameworks:

- Wadajir Framework
- National Development Plan Somalia 2017-2019
- Peace Building Priority Plan
- Durable Solutions Initiative

The programme is intended to enhance local leadership capacities to facilitate the sustainable return, recovery, social integration and peaceful co-existence of displacement affected, returnees, other migrant groups and host communities.

It looks at solutions to enable some of the displaced people to return back to their villages, but also takes into account the creation of new homes in a safer environment with new opportunities to return to a normal life with jobs, education for children and health facilities for all.

In doing so, the project contributes in a new way to support the high number of IDPs in the rapidly growing cities of Somalia with a view to also serve the hosting communities.

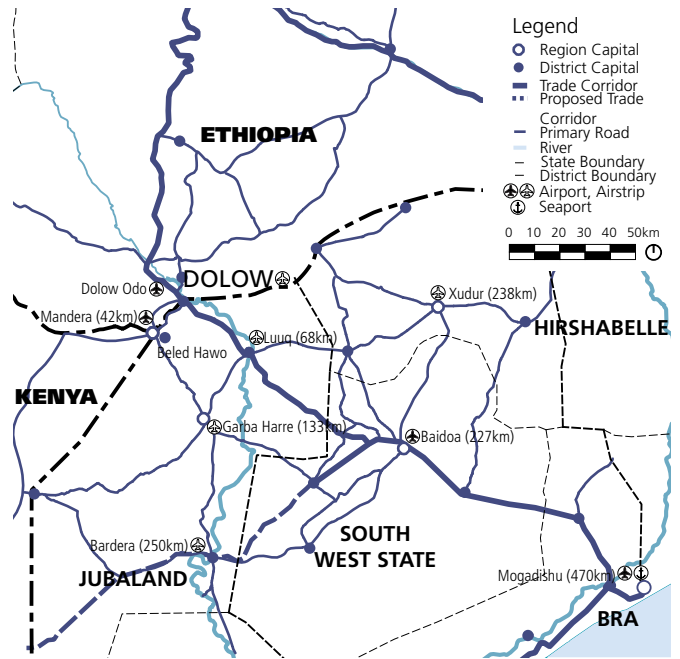
# DOLOW TOWN INFORMATION

## LOCATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Dolow is the capital of homonymous district within Gedo region in the newly formed Jubaland administration. Gedo region comprises of 6 districts; Garba Harre (administrative capital), Bardera, Luuq, Dolow, Ceel Waaq and Beled Hawo. The region shares its borders with four Somali regions; Bay, Bakool and Middle Jubba and Lower Jubba. It is also bordered by Ethiopia and Kenya to the north and west respectively.

Dolow town is located approximately 470km northwest of Mogadishu. It lies about 70 km northwest of Luuq and 42 km North of the twosome Manderla - Belet Hawo, located at the Kenya-Somalia border. It sits on the banks of river Dawa and is where the Juba river starts flowing into Somalia taking its course South-East to Burdubo. The town shares international borders with Dolo Odo, a town in the west of the Ethiopian Somali Region.

To the north, on the Ethiopian side, the main settlements are constituted by the refugee camps of Buramino, Helawein, Kobe and Melkadida, which host more than 200,000 Somali refugees.<sup>1</sup>



Dolow's Regional Context

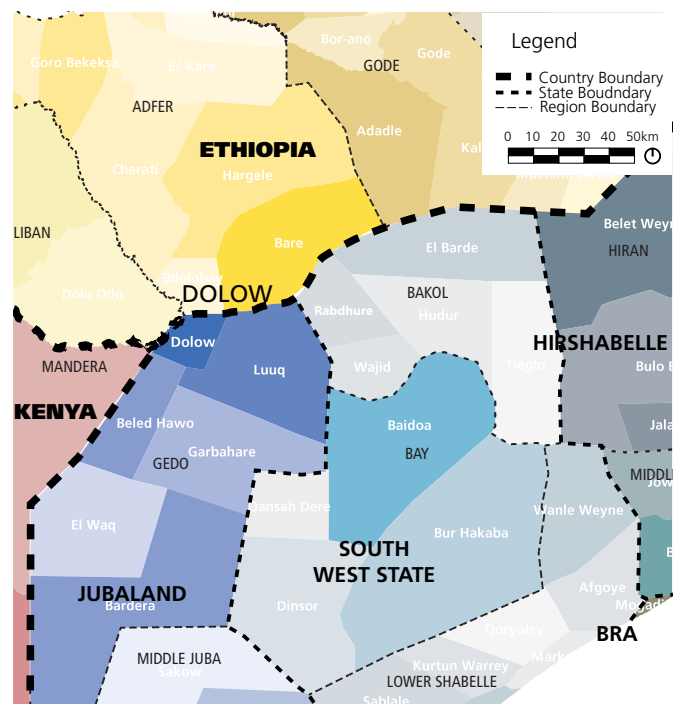
## GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dolow is an administrative unit under the newly created state of the Federal Government, Jubaland State of Somalia which consists of the pre-war regions of Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba. The state is headed by the President, elected by the Delegates Conference, and is composed of the Jubaland Central Government and Regional and District Administrations.

The government's role is outlined in the state's Interim Charter which after the Shari'a, is the supreme law of the land. The Charter provides a framework of governance and institutionalization of key services with consideration for traditional systems by making a provision (article 32) for the Council of Traditional Elders who act as government advisors and arbitrators of communal disputes.<sup>2</sup>

Administratively, Dolow town comprises of four urban villages:

- Halgan;
- Horseed;
- Elasha;
- Wadajir.



Administrative boundaries of Dolow's region

## HISTORY

Dolow was one of the markets on the trade route that stretched from Bardera through Luuq to Ginir in Ethiopia.

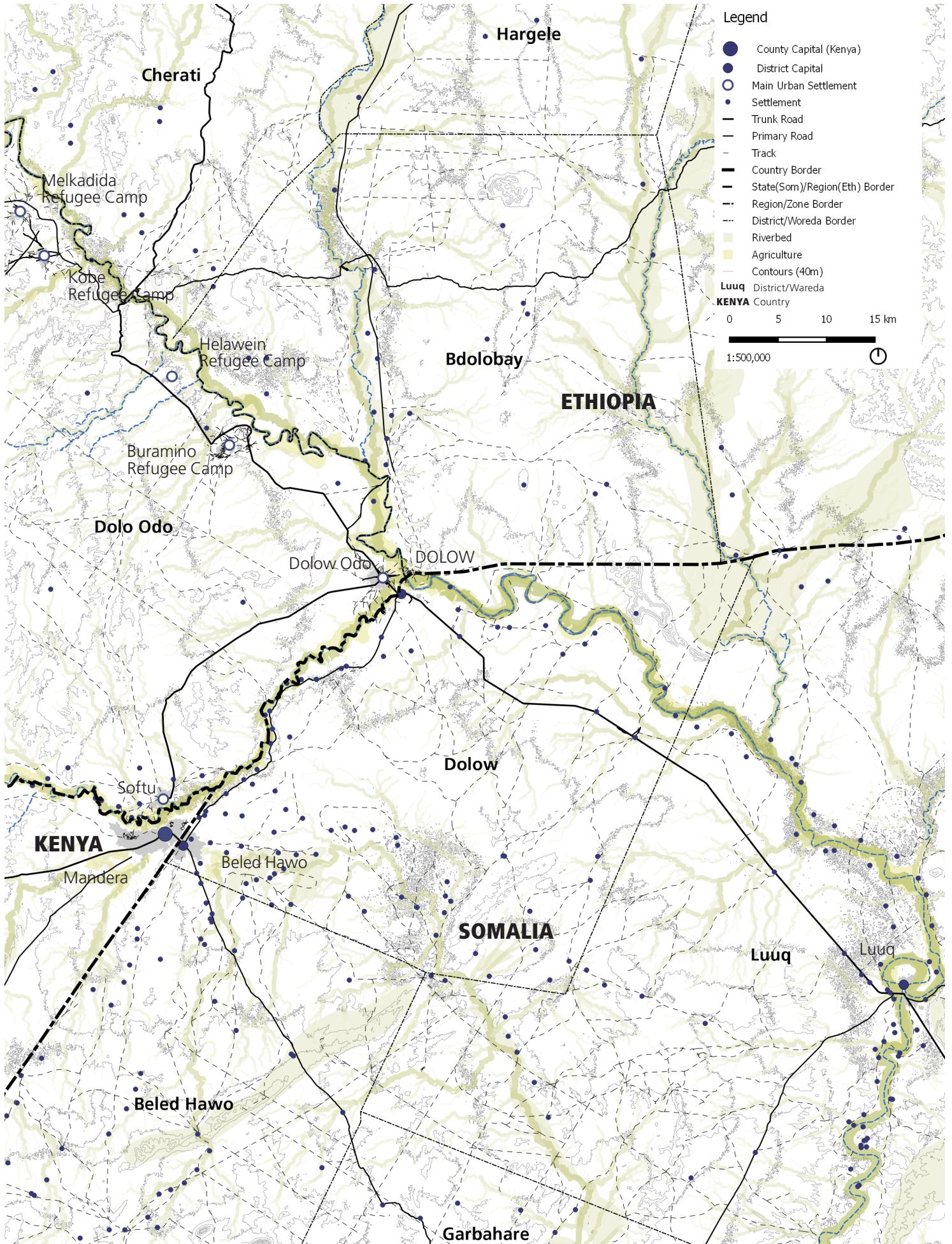
During the colonial period (1890-1960), towards the west of river Juba, the southern area of Gedo region was under British control.

The prewar period saw Dolow, characteristic of towns lying on disputed borders, suffer from strained relations between Ethiopia and Somalia, making its residents displaced multiple times and incurring property and loved ones' losses.

In the early 1990s', the town further suffered the predicament of rival militia and invasions by the Ethiopian army against extremism in Somalia.

After the fall of the Barre regime, the population of Gedo grew reaching almost one million, as many people moved to the border towns in an attempt to flee into the neighboring countries in search of refuge.

1. UNHCR Operational Portal - Refugee Situation in Ethiopia (last update 30 April 2018) (<https://data2.unhcr.org>)  
 2. Draft Interim Charter of the State Government of Jubaland, March 2013



Dolow and its hinterland

# URBAN GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHICS

## PEOPLE AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Gedo region is the second largest region of the country. As of 2014 it however only comprised 4% of the national population. Its population estimated at 508,000, consisting of 35% rural, 29% nomadic, 21% urban and 15% IDPs.

The region population continues to grow drastically due to natural factors as well as in-migration from rural areas. There is also an incessant influx of returnees and IDPs owing to Dolow's stable secure environment. Gedo hosts over 70,000 IDPs, making it the region with fourth largest number of IDPs nationally after Banadir, Galgaduud and Lower Shabelle.

Dolow district, as Gedo region, has an extremely high rural and nomadic population and one of the lowest urban populations. However, when the population figures from the 2014 UNFPA<sup>3</sup> and 2005 UNDP<sup>4</sup> estimates are compared, the town's population increased substantially over this period.

As per the districts administration records, the town currently has a population of 153,000. This is inclusive of IDPs and returnees.<sup>5</sup>

However, there are no updated population figures available. More recent data captured by the Demographic and Health Survey of UNFPA are supposed to be released by the second half of 2018, which should shed more light on the latest trends.

### POPULATION ESTIMATION OF GEDO REGION - 2014

<b>Urban Population</b>	<b>109,142</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
Male pop.	56,261	51.5%
Female pop.	52,881	48.5%
Households:	16,881	
Household size:	6.5 (national average: 6.4)	
<b>Rural Population</b>	<b>177,742</b>	<b>35.0%</b>
Male pop.	87,295	49.1%
Female pop.	90,447	50.1%
Households:	30,522	
Household size:	5.8 (national average: 5.8)	
<b>Nomadic Population</b>	<b>144,793</b>	<b>28.5%</b>
Male pop.	69,083	47.7%
Female pop.	75,710	52.3%
Households:	28,507	
Household size:	5.1 (national average: 6.5)	
<b>IDP:</b>	<b>76,728</b>	<b>15.5%</b>
Male pop.	37,261	48.6%
Female pop.	39,467	51.4%
Households:	23,001	
Household size:	3.3 (national average: 3.7)	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>508,405</b>	

3. UNFPA Population Estimation Survey of Somalia (PESS) 2014  
 4. UNDP, draft Somalia population report 2005  
 5. Dolow district administration data records; February 2018

## URBAN GROWTH

The system of rivers (Genale, Dawa, and Juba) divide town of Dolow, on the South, from its Ethiopian counterpart Dolow Odo, on the North. A smaller settlement, Dolobaye, has grown recently on the east of the Genale.

The growth of both towns is determined by the waterbodies, as a buffer area of agricultural fields has been kept between the built-up area and the rivers. The Ethiopian town, consistently bigger, has expanded mainly towards North-East, along the main connection towards inner Ethiopia. The Somali Dolow grows instead around the bridge on the Dawa. Its expansion has followed mainly the road towards Luuq, around which a network of smaller roads without a clear hierarchy has developed. To the south, the airport has constituted a barrier for development. Only recently, construction has moved towards the West, in the direction of Mandera.

While Dolow Odo has constantly expanded in the last fifteen years, Dolow's growth has increased exponentially with the IDP influx, two large IDP camps/settlements. One, called Kabasa, located along the road to Luuq, between the road and the Jubba river and the other, Qansaxlay, along the road to Mandera, with most shelters lying between the river Dawa and the road. The sites started as spontaneous, but with more humanitarian interventions, some sectors in the sites have been planned and services provided. Following this, there has been the coming up of unplanned settlements in the area between the town and the sites.

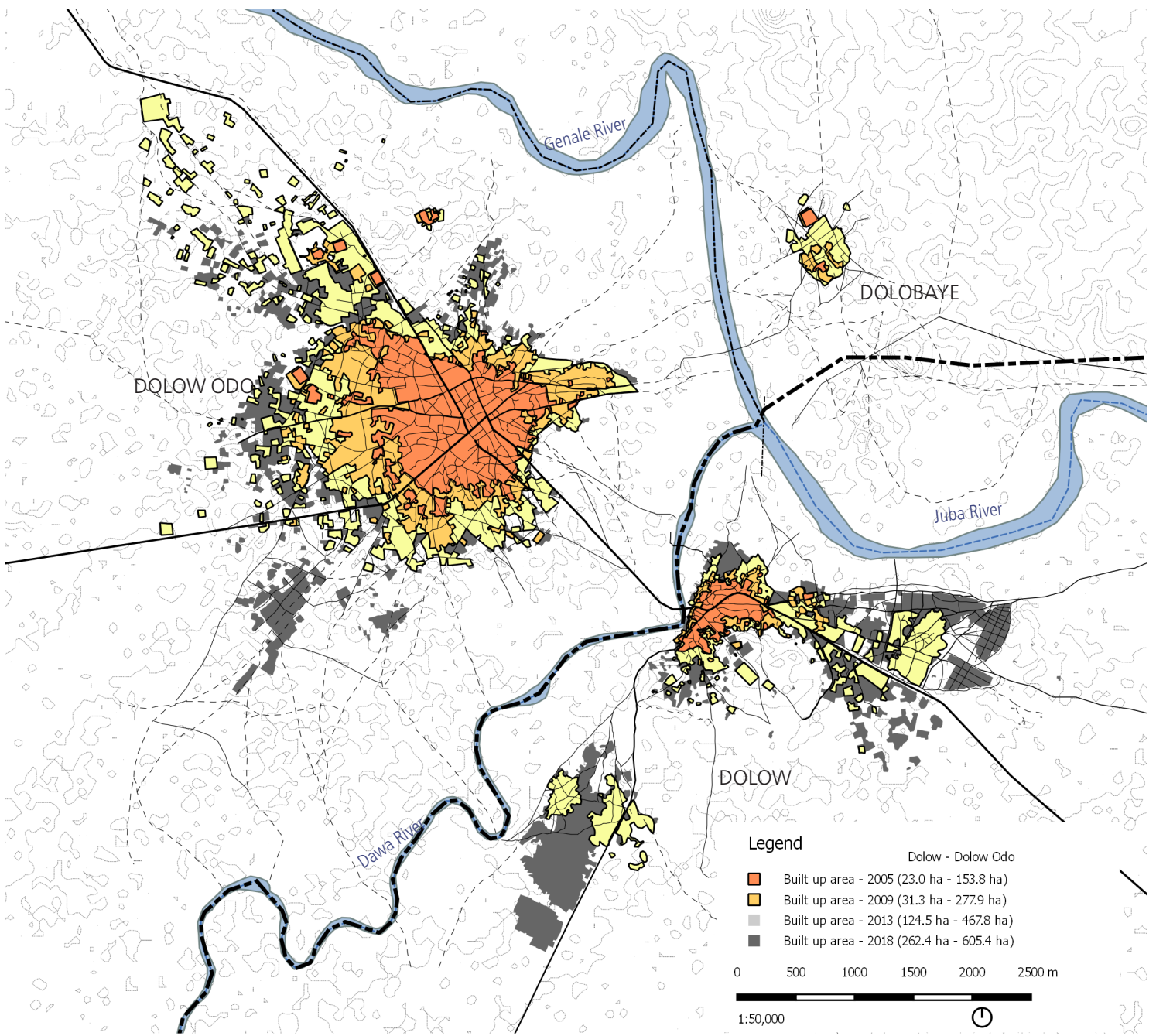
While resettlement plans are being implemented by the CCCM cluster for the two sites (see pg.14) no actions are in place to regulate and manage the way new construction are taking place, posing threats of increased urban fragmentation, illegal occupation, land disputes and difficulties to provide basic services and infrastructure.

### POPULATION ESTIMATION OF DOLOW DISTRICT - 2014 - 2005

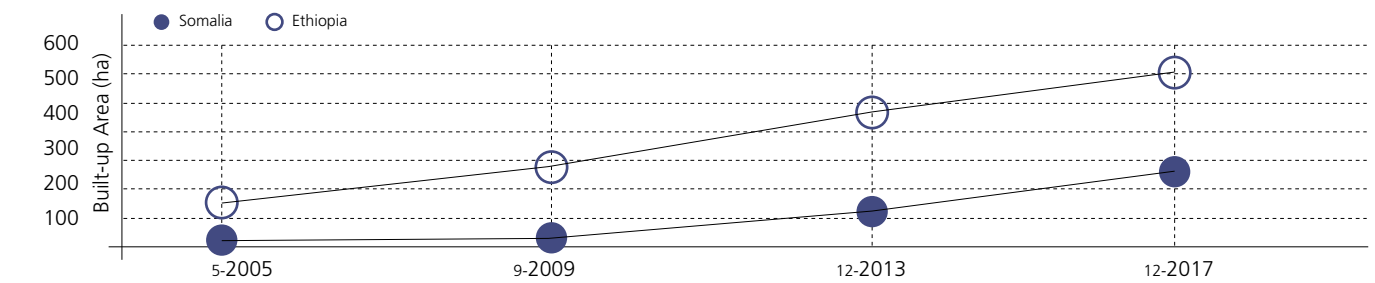
<b>Urban Population</b>	<b>7,559</b>	<b>18.3%</b>
	<b>5,674</b>	
<b>Rural &amp; Nomadic Population</b>	<b>25,908</b>	<b>62.8%</b>
	<b>20,821</b>	
<b>IDP:</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>18.9%</b>
	<b>n.a.</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>41,245</b>	
	<b>26,495</b>	

Absolute growth:	<b>14,750</b>
Growth 2005-2014:	<b>56%</b>
Annual average growth 2005-2014:	<b>5.0%</b>

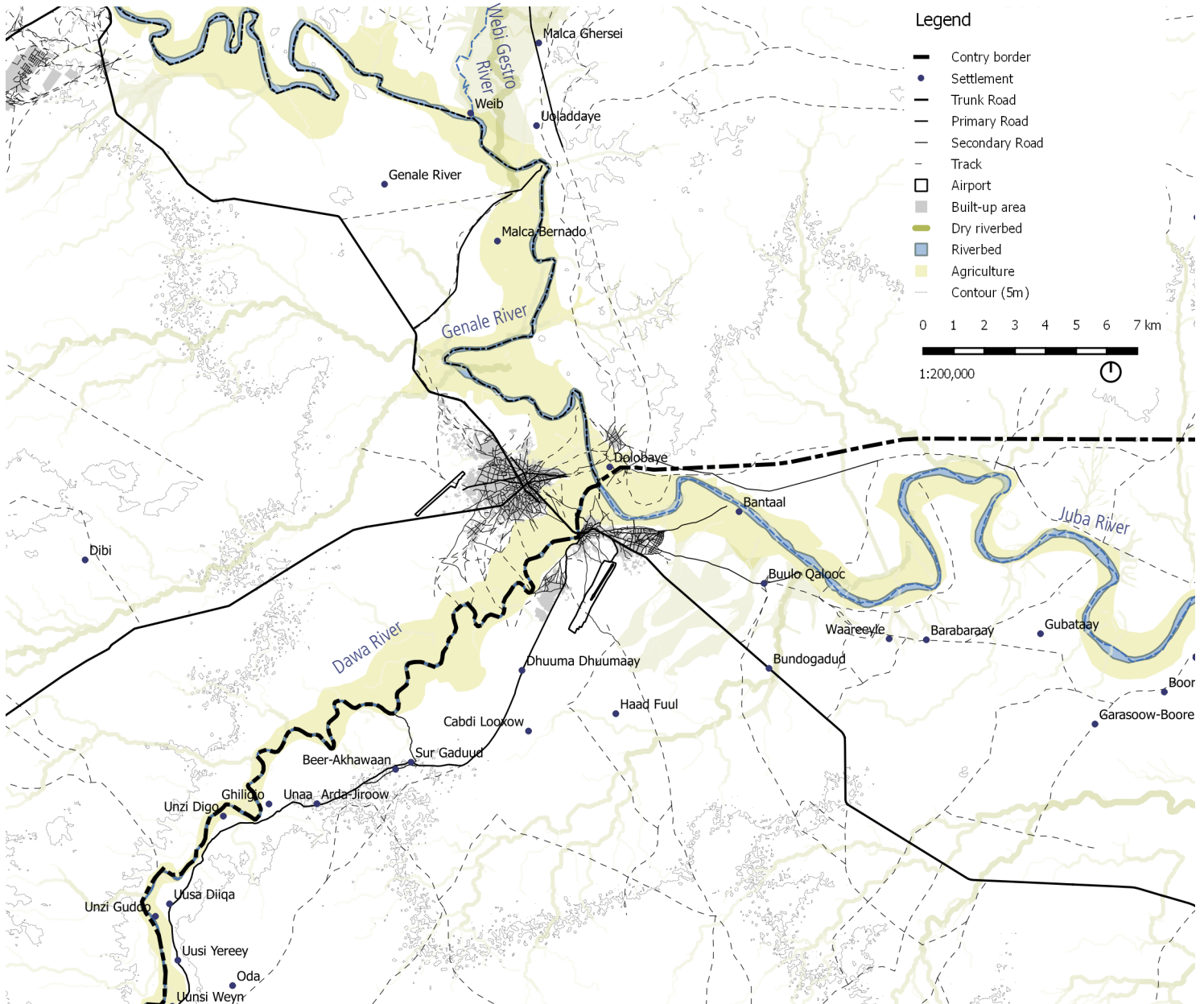




Urban growth



# LAND USE PATTERNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS



River flow in the region has two peaks, in April and May and October and November. They coincide with the peaks for the Gu and Dayr rainy seasons. The months of January to March, the so called *Qorrehed* (Winter) season, are characterised by very low flows, and the river can hardly support irrigation even though it does not dry up completely.

The region's land is generally characterized by fertile soils which have promoted agriculture since the pre-war times. Farming is however restricted mainly to the riverine zone extending a few hundreds meters on each side of water bed. The crop fields are oriented perpendicular to the river and comprise of tree crops, cereals and other herbaceous crops. Natural vegetation comprised mainly of shrubs is also common here. Further inland on the plains and in the northern zone, pastoralism is practiced where sheep, goats, camels and cattle are reared. The agro-pastoral zone extends from east to west.

It is clear that the location of the settlements is according to the morphology of this area: the river is lower than the surrounding plains and it has a very narrow alluvial plain that is not suitable for settling. Thus, most of the villages are built at some distance from the alluvial plain.

The town of Dolow, grown on the banks of the Dawa where it flows to meet the Juba, follows the same logic. The built up area approaches the water only in correspondence to the bridge, otherwise maintaining a buffer area. However, as reported in some recent assessment during the recent Gu rains, parts of the town can be subject to flooding, with river Jubba and Dawa inclined to burst its banks due to shallow depth of the river.<sup>6,7</sup>

As in most of Gedo Region, many of the strategic water points in Dolow district are located outside the district capital.<sup>8</sup> The town relies more on the river for water supply.

6. WASH cluster, Doolow Flash-Flood Emergency WASH Rapid Assessment, April 2018  
 7. UNITAR, Flooding Situation in Doolow, May 2018  
 8. SWALIM, Atlas of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Somalia, 2010

# URBAN AND RURAL ECONOMY - DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



Agricultura fields along the Juba River in the South of Dolow



Main street in Dolow



Street vendors in Dolow

## LIVELIHOOD AND PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

Gedo communities largely rely on livestock rearing and farming. Lemon/lime farming is the prevalent along the banks of Jubba and Dawa rivers. Other crops being farmed in the town outskirts include fodder grass, courtesy of training from FAO and subsistence maize farming. The farmers mainly employ IDPs labour. Individual land owners usually come together in farming company of approx. 7-10, consolidating goods for exporting. Products are exported mainly to the UAE through Mogadishu and Mombasa, Kenya

Part of the residents of Dolow town depend on small scale entrepreneurial businesses such as tailoring and running restaurants and shops to sustain their daily lives. The youth also practice fishing, at a small scale and in sporting activities.

Vulnerable members of the community, including poor HC members, IDPs, RRs and PWD rely on assistance given by humanitarian agencies, hawking, begging and casual labor in construction as well as being house helps. The presence and operation of the humanitarian organizations also significantly contribute to the economy of the town.

The town has two main markets: Dolow market located within the town center and Qansalay Community market in the Qansalay IDP settlement.<sup>9</sup>

IOM CCCM has constructed semi-permanent markets in the two camps each with a capacity of 40 vendors.

## BORDER ECONOMY

Within the country, Dolow is part of the Tri-District commerce activity region with Luuq and Buulo Hawo. Luuq has sizeable agricultural production and Buulo Hawo provides the commercial gateway to Mogadishu and Kenya's northern region where large manufactured goods are traded. Furthermore, the business community in the town actively engage in the importation trade.

There are different goods traded across the border of Ethiopia from other regions in the country. Cross-border trade, and the consequent taxes applied to goods' movement, though unregulated, generate revenue for the town, helping sustain the town's economy. At the same time, trade benefits extend to the young population, with many employed for menial labor loading and offloading goods from trucks.

The main exchanges can be summed up as the following:

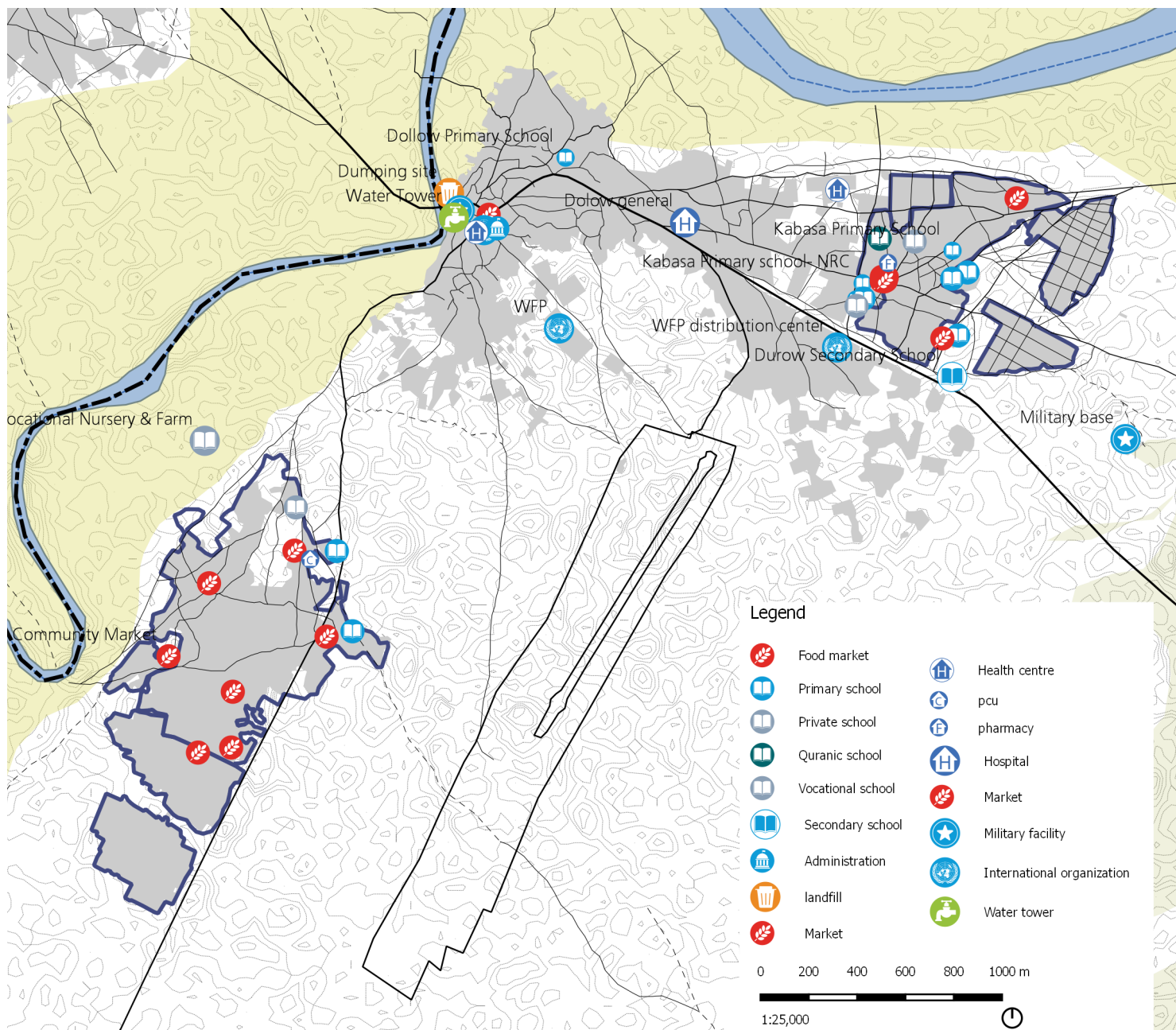
Mogadishu-Dolow- Ethiopia: sugar, rice, cosmetics and dairy products.

Ethiopia- Somalia: construction material e.g. cement, coffee beans and khat and, skilled labor: barbers and house helps (maids).

Kenya – Somalia: potatoes, khat, tea leaves, fruits and vegetables. The cross-border trade between Kenya and Somalia through Dolow is however less prominent as Belet Hawa is directly linked with Mandera and thus closer to Kenya.

9. REACH, Doolow NFI and Shelter Market Assessment, March 2018

## BASIC URBAN SERVICES



## SECURITY

Dolow enjoys security that does not exist in the major areas of South Central Somalia. Its close proximity to Ethiopia has made it a regional priority, where the Ethiopian military even before joining AMISOM played a key role in ensuring and keeping peace in the town.

The district administration put much effort and responsibility in maintaining the security. The police is the major security provider in the district with help from local community.

However, the police force present in Dolow are underresourced lacking proper training and other facilities. Nevertheless, people still trust the police with no security concerns or widespread outbreaks of crime and violence reported in recent times.

The town has a court that employs shari'a law and serves the entire district. The court is considered the main security

and justice providers, with support from the religious and traditional leaders, and the community itself.

The close-knit relations within the communities extends to the IDP sites where the community leadership structures are very strong and functional; supporting site planning and the handling of new arrivals.

Currently, people move freely across the border for employment and trading purposes. The security forces usually can identify and distinguish, from yearlong experience, locals and strangers. When a new person is spotted, it is searched and asked for documentation. Returnees and IDPs are required to have an identification document. In instances where one lacks identification documents, the person is interrogated about their origin and movement up until their arrival at the border and necessary action taken there afterwards.

## WATER AND SANITATION

Two rivers run through the town and region's vicinity, yet there is no clean water.

Within the town, there is no public infrastructure providing clean running water. Many of the residents have directly relied on the rivers, that cater for both domestic consumption and agriculture and livestock production.

The water quality is however questionable and the residents, especially in periods of drought or floods, have suffered waterborne diseases such as AWD.

The district relies on various water sources including: boreholes, burkads, kiosks, protected wells w/o hand pump, tanks with taps and trucking distribution. In Dolow, the water supply is a well (30-50mtrs deep) not far from the banks of river Dawa, currently not operational as its pump broke. Other sources are burkads, kiosks and truck distribution.

Most of the water is treated at the distribution point, mainly through chlorination. The water sources are largely owned and administered by private individuals and companies.<sup>10</sup>

It is reported that 75% of the trucked water in the region comes from Dolow and 25% from Mandera, Kenya.<sup>11</sup>

## TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION

The town has poorly developed infrastructure. The roads that connect to the districts within Gedo region are poorly maintained with no tarmac and some are unpassable due to AS threats and roadblocks. Albeit the risk, local public transportation and cargo hauling services are provided by local private individuals and companies, operating between the major towns.

There are two main intra-regional roads linking the town to other towns in the region and beyond:  
Dolow- Luuq, approximately 72km  
Dolow - Baled Xawa, approximately 45km

The only bridge connecting the two banks, crossing the Dawa River, is manned by the Ethiopian Defence Force and Jubbaland Security Forces. It is a steel bridge constructed during the colonial times by the Italians. Its condition has deteriorated over time and the movements are limited to human traffic and donkey carts. This forces many traders to offload their goods from the trucks, load them on donkey carts and offload across the border. Sometimes trucks/ trailers are granted access to the other side especially during night time when there is less human traffic. Tax is charged by both governments, though there are no set rates.

Dolow has a functional airstrip, which is managed and protected by the local authorities. The airport provides services to different airlines including the UN chartered flights.

The main mode of transport within the town is the use of donkeys: carrying goods and water, and rickshaws. Saloon cars more common for longer distances- e.g. connecting to the IDP sites - however rickshaws also provide this service.

The main telecommunication networks in Somali are available in Dolow town (Telesom, National Link and Hoormud) which provide both GSM and internet connectivity.



Unprotected waterwell in Qansaxlay



Water tower in town



The bridge over the Dawa River

10. REACH, Water Price Monitoring - Regional Factsheet: Gedo, Somalia, April 2018  
11. Ibid

## EDUCATION

The district has one primary school, Kabasa Primary school and a couple of madrasa, emergency primary schools and Alternative Basic Education (ABE) programmes. One such programme is offered approximately 5km south of Dolow town in Kaharey village and is supported by UNICEF and HIRDA, a LNGO.<sup>12</sup> The program aims at bridging a divide by overcoming inequalities through providing basic education to those who never had a chance to attend school as children.

Dolow never had a secondary school even before the fall of the state. Often the parents sent their children to continue their secondary education in the neighboring Dolw Odo, Ethiopian and in Mandera, Kenya. Currently the district boasts of Durow Secondary school and has plans to setup a training institute and an additional primary school.<sup>13</sup>

WFP and other agencies are supporting various vocational skill training projects. One of this has brought to the creation of a nursery and farm on the bank of the Dawa River

## HEALTH

There are very few medical facilities in Dolow, that cannot provide sufficient services for the current population. Within the two major IDP camps an health center and basic Primary Care Units (PCU) are also present.

Mobile clinics within the settlements are the main health care providers

Major medical cases are referred to Dolow Odo, on the Ethiopian side, which has a fully equipped hospital with doctors including surgeons and several nurses.

## SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

The town has many mosques, which are also present within the IDPs settlements. The main one is located in the central area, in proximity to the bridge.

Existing recreational spaces include a playground behind the wvi clinic that is fully functional, the football pitch fitted with artificial grass. Kabasa primary school has a volleyball area. However, the town generally lacks suitable recreational facilities. Many playgrounds are just open spaces with makeshift infrastructure.



School in Kabasa IDP settlement



WFP vocational nursery and farm



Nutrition Centre in Kabasa

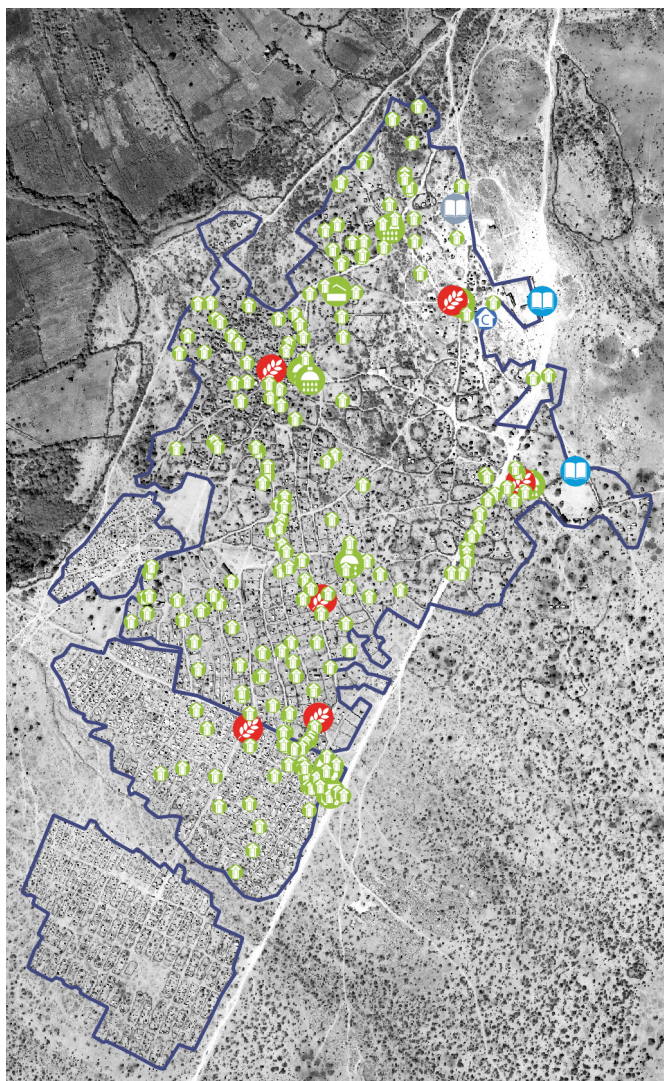


Volleyball net in one of the primary schools in Kabasa

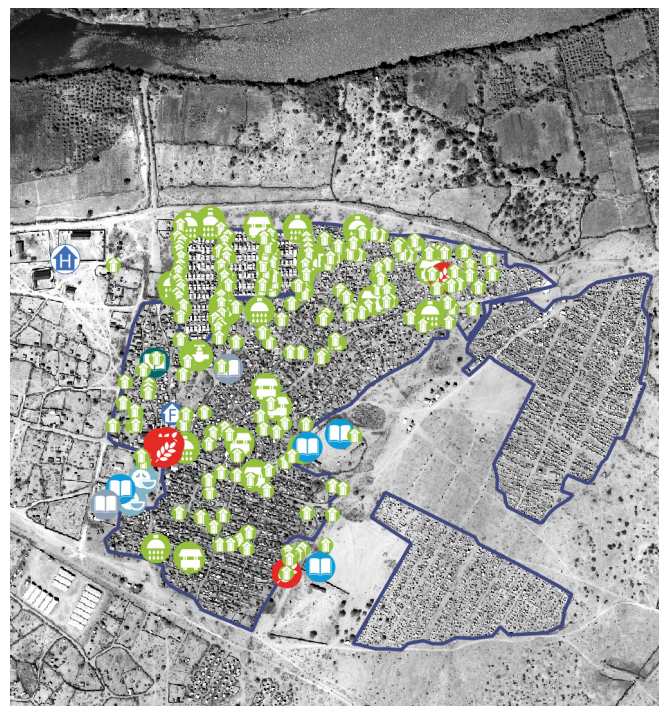
12. UNICEF Somalia, Education update, July 2017

13. Dolow Community Action Plan (CAP), 2018

## DIMENSION OF DISPLACEMENT, HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & SERVICES GAPS



Kabasa and Qansaxlay (UNOSAT, December 2017)



### Legend

	Food market		Primary school		Burkad
	Non food market		Private school		Water Kiosk
	Health Centre		Quranic school		Protected well with pump
	PCU		Vocational school		Tank tap
	Pharmacy				Trucking distribution
	Nutrition centre				Other piped
					Latrine

0 100 200 300 400 500 m

1:15,000

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Gedo region as of 2014 hosted over 70,000 displaced persons. This figure more than doubled in a period of three years. As of October 2017, it is reported that the region hosted approximately 168,000 IDPs and had a total of 310 IDP sites. 91% of the sites having been in existence for more than a year. During this period, Dolow was recorded as one of the districts receiving highest numbers of displaced due to the availability of water, food, pasture and fodder.

Most of the sites in Dolow are spontaneous in nature as people self-settled. Dolow town however has two main IDP sites: Kabasa and Qansaxlay of which some sectors have been planned and services provided by humanitarian organizations with the support of the community leaders. Both sites have existed from 2011 and have had successive waves of IDPs and humanitarian interventions.

In June 2017, the two main IDP sites in Dolow were reported to host approximately 2,000 and 1,500 households respectively. Due to the 2017 drought, there was an influx of IDPs in both sites, leading to the figures doubling over a couple of months. In October 2017, Kabasa site was closed from receiving more people as it reached capacity. Currently, Dolow town has over 50,000 displaced persons

and Kabasa and Qansaxlay host 5,500 and 2,900 households respectively.<sup>14</sup>

With rains starting at the beginning of Deyr 2017, it was recorded at Kabasa and Qansaxlay that some of the IDPs were leaving the sites and returning to their rural areas to farm. The inflow was however recorded by individuals coming in from refugee camps in Ethiopia and Belet Hawo district citing lack of food as their reason for displacement.<sup>15</sup> The above-average Gu rains that began in late February 2018 across the country and in the Ethiopian highlands resulted in the rapid and strident rise of water levels in the Juba river.

The flooding as of May 2018, caused by the above-average Gu rains, has affected about 2500HHs located in the villages of Garbolow and Dhagahay.<sup>16</sup>

The floods destroyed or damaged a great number of sanitation facilities in the two IDP main camps and left stagnant and contaminated water in some parts of the host community. It also has resulted in the crowding of settlements, destruction of crops, death of livestock and a surge of vector and water borne diseases.<sup>17</sup>

14. IOM, *Somalia Report Brief - September 2017 Cccm Mission to Doolow, Gedo Region*

15. IOM, *MTT Dolow reports 22nd Dec 2017- 15th June 2018*

16. SADO and NCA, *Flood Rapid Need Assessment Report, Gedo Region, 23 April 2018*

17. WASH cluster, *Doolow Flash-Flood Emergency WASH Rapid Assessment, April 2018*



Sanitary corridor in one of the new sectors of Kabasa



People queuing in front of the IOM CCCM Office in Quansaxlay



Market Area in Kabasa



IDP Buals and spontaneous additions for commercial activities in Kabasa

## RESETTLEMENT PLAN

The constant inflow of IDPs in town has caused the growth of the two main settlements to the points that the area occupied by them is currently bigger than the rest of the built up area in Dolow.

Some settlements constructed by other organizations and self-allocated plots put many IDPs at risk as they are in flood prone areas. Relocating these people is however an issue as there is the presence of infrastructure already in place and some shelters are of better quality.

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster led by IOM decided to profit from the very favourable position of Kabasa and Qansaxlay (the first on the main road, in continuity with the urban fabric, the latter in close proximity to the town) to propose a resettlement plan to

accommodate the displaced population.

While a few sections of the settlements were already planned shelter projects and not spontaneous occupations, the goal was not only to organize shelters and key facilities within the occupied area, but also to provide sufficient contingency space for future arrival.

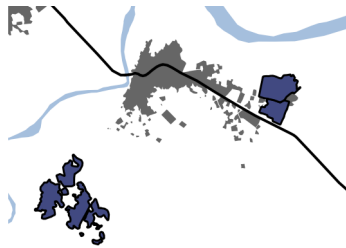
In Kabasa, each HH gets assigned a 6m x 8m plot. In Qansaxlay, each HH gets a 12m x 15m plot. No kit or assistance is provided at the time of relocation. However we're working with the Shelter/NFI cluster to bring in assistance after families have moved and have proper space now.

The entire Kabasa site planning and relocation was expected to be completed by end of May 2018, but the unexpected

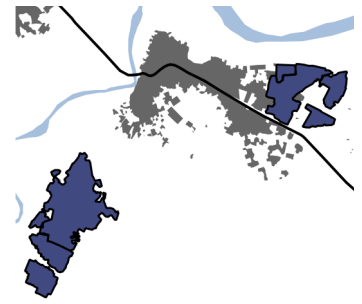




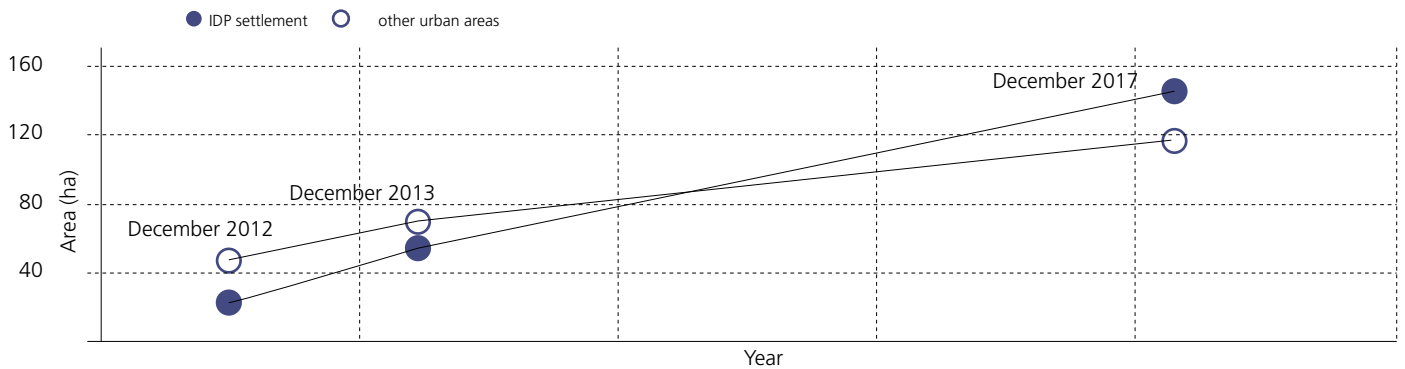
December 2012  
22.4 ha  
IDP settlement in Dolow



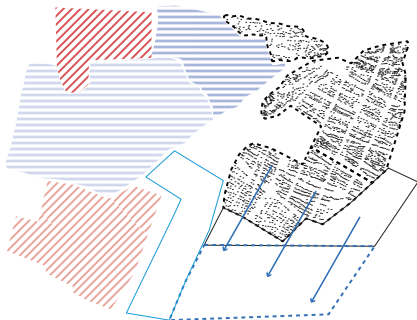
December 2013  
54.5 ha



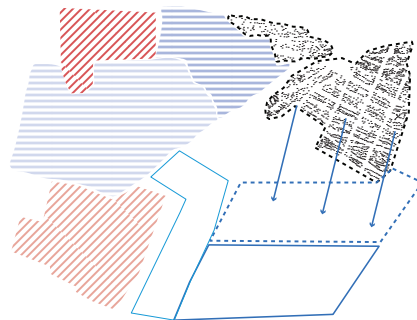
December 2017  
145.7 ha



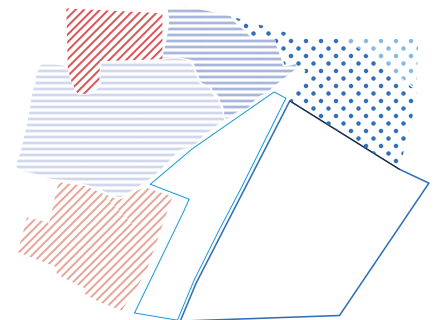
1. Phased relocation begins



2. Phased relocation continues



3. Relocation completed



flooding caused some delay. Nonetheless, the site was finalized in the summer.

The site plan for Qansaxlay, surveyed and demarcated during April, is being kept as contingency space, so no relocation will take place there, but the space is allocated for new arrivals.

The procedure followed for the creation of the Kabasa and Qansaxley settlements are:

1. Land request from government
2. Contracted consultants to do the site plans and categorize the area in phases, including contingency

3. Plots allocation 8x6m plots and communal latrines shared among 4 HHs

CCCM has a receiving center in the settlements where new arrivals and those wishing to be relocated from other areas are registered and allocated plots.

## DOLOW COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING 2018

Community consultations in all villages of Dolow town were held from 11 to 15 February 2018 at the district's main meeting hall, with support from the local IOM and UN-Habitat teams. It was prepared and facilitated by a Core Facilitation Team (CFT) consisting of 4 representatives from the government and community.

The CFT is responsible for facilitating inclusive Community Based Planning (CBP) as well as coordinating the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects highlighted in the Community Action Plan (CAP) with the support of selected Community Action Group (CAG) and the Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation (CBM&E) Committee.

The process involved 100 participants (49 male and 51 female) from different socio-economic groups including women group, persons with disability (PWD), religious leaders, IDPs, returnees, district peace and security committee, village committees, village leaders, business people and civil society organizations. Through a participatory, bottom-up planning process participant analyzed their current situation and developed a shared vision to prioritize development initiatives that facilitate social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and can fulfil their basic needs and rights, particularly access to basic social services.

As part of the intensive discussion in plenary and work-group sessions the participants formulated and agreed on their vision for Dolow:

**“By 2019, Dolow District will be enjoying peaceful coexistence between host communities, IDPs and returnees with enhanced infrastructural facilities and improved access to livelihoods, education and health services by all”**

The challenges and opportunities highlighted during the workshop were consolidated into a Community Action Plan (CAP), and specified into a set of goals:

1. Improved educational and common identity infrastructural facilities.
2. Improved health services.
3. Improved livelihoods.

For each goal, a list of strategic actions and priority development initiatives (both short-term and long-term) were identified that can be taken up by NGOs, humanitarians and other agencies to lead closer to the realization of the shared vision. Early delivery of small scale intervention projects presents an opportunity to mobilize and motivate residents, as well as to ensure that community action planning process maintains momentum.

Other projects will require further discussion, additional funding and a longer design phase. Part of this process will also help in the capacity building of the authorities to come up with solutions and projects to improve the conditions of people in the town/district.



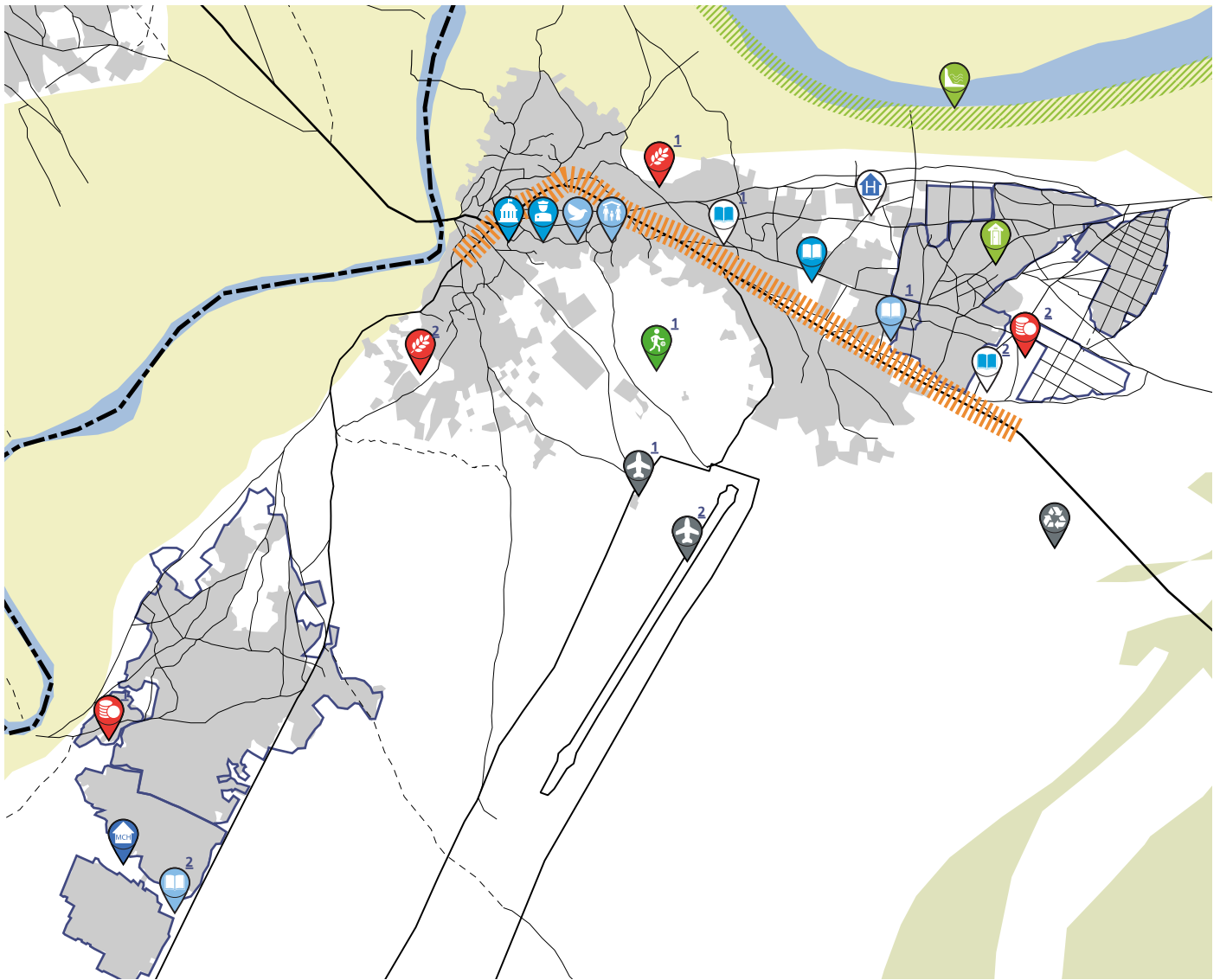
Dolow Community Action Planning













Women during a group exercise









Group exercise facilitated by IOM



**Public facilities**





- Rehabilitation of Dolow district administration and community offices 
- Fencing of Dolow police station 
- Construction of Horseed vegetable market  1
- Construction of Qansaxley IDP camp market  1
- Construction of Kabasa IDP camp main market  2
- Construction of Dolow youth playground  1
- Rehabilitation of Dolow Orientation center 
- Construction of Dolow Peace and conference center  2
- Elasha Milk shed market and vegetable market  2
- Sports and recreational centres 

**Education**




- Extention of Durow secondary school  1
- Extention of Kabasa primary school  1
- Construction of Qansaxley primary school  2
- Construction of Dolow technical traing institute 
- Construction of additional classrooms 
- Construction of Kabasa secondary school  2

\*long term projects




**Infrastructure**

- Rehabilitation of Dolow Airstrip facilities  1
- Rehabilitation of Dollow main road  2
- Rehabilitation of Dolow Airstrip runway  2
- Rehabilitation of Dolow River banks 

**Health**

- Rehabilitation of Dolow general hospital 
- Supply of medical equipment for Dolow General Hospital
- Construction of MCH at Qansaxley IDP camp 
- Construction of a health post in Halgan Village 

**WASH**

- Sanitation activities inside Kabasa IDP camp  1
- Sanitation activities inside Qansaxley IDP camp  2
- Developing and construction of Dolow Dumping site 

**Self-helping income generating projects**

- Capacitybuilding training for village leaders on good governance, ethics,accountability and leadership skills
- Life skill training for youth at risk in Dolow

## DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO AND TOWN PLANNING

### SCENARIO 1 - IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO URBAN CRISES

The size of the emergency ongoing in the region requires immediate response and quick life-saving planning decisions, with material and logistical assistance based primarily on direct service provision to affected people, and the construction of shelters within or near to urban areas.

However such an approach will prove unsustainable in the long run and could have knock-on negative impacts on urban planning and the functioning of local markets for food, water and energy. It may generate dependency and fail to tap into the potential, skills and assets of urban IDPs. Tensions may also arise between host community, returnees and displaced people, as the various groups have similar needs, are experiencing similar difficulties, but only one would be targeted for assistance.

On a spatial level, failing to connect IDP settlements and the broader city will exacerbate the fragile condition of the city, failing to face the "normal" urban challenges Dolow is encountering while aggravating the load on natural resources, infrastructure and social facilities.

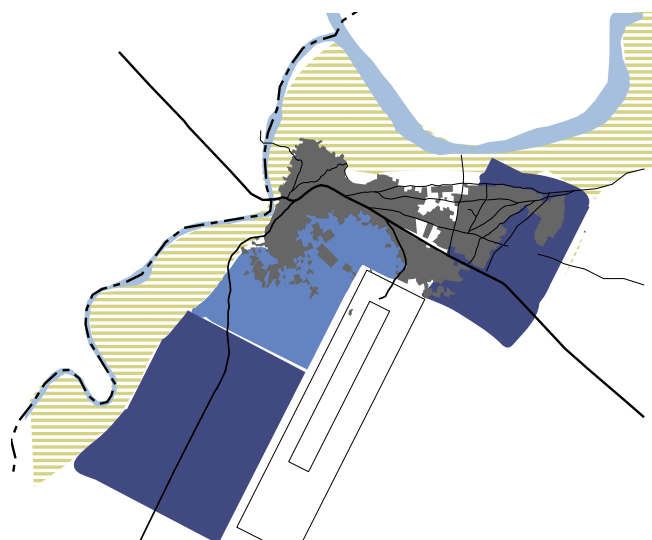


### SCENARIO 2 - LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

An area-based, multi-sector approach could help alter the scale of interventions, complementing the traditional humanitarian focus on the affected individuals with a broader lens that considers the whole population of an existing urban system and tries to meet both short-term humanitarian and longer-term development needs of urban populations and their environments.

The areas occupied by IDP settlements should be approached as integrated part of the urban environment, and planned as city extensions rather than temporary camps disconnected from the city.

The definition of a strategic framework should lay out diverse actions in a step-by-step approach: aiming to solve the most urgent problems, at first, and to start a process of urban development, in the meantime.



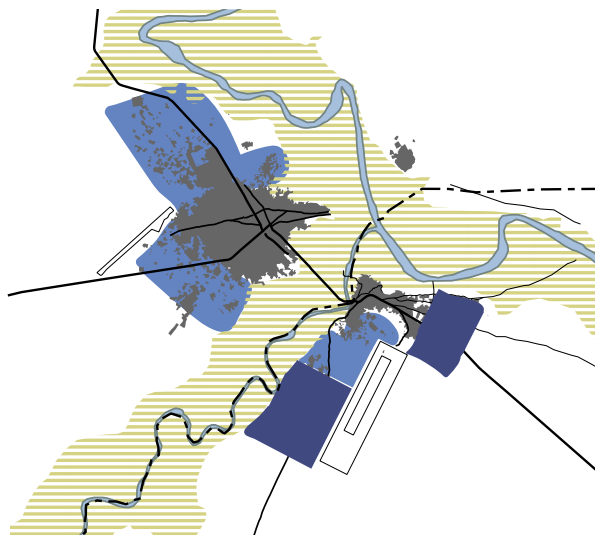
### A FORWARD LOOKING APPROACH - BORDER TOWNS DEVELOPMENT

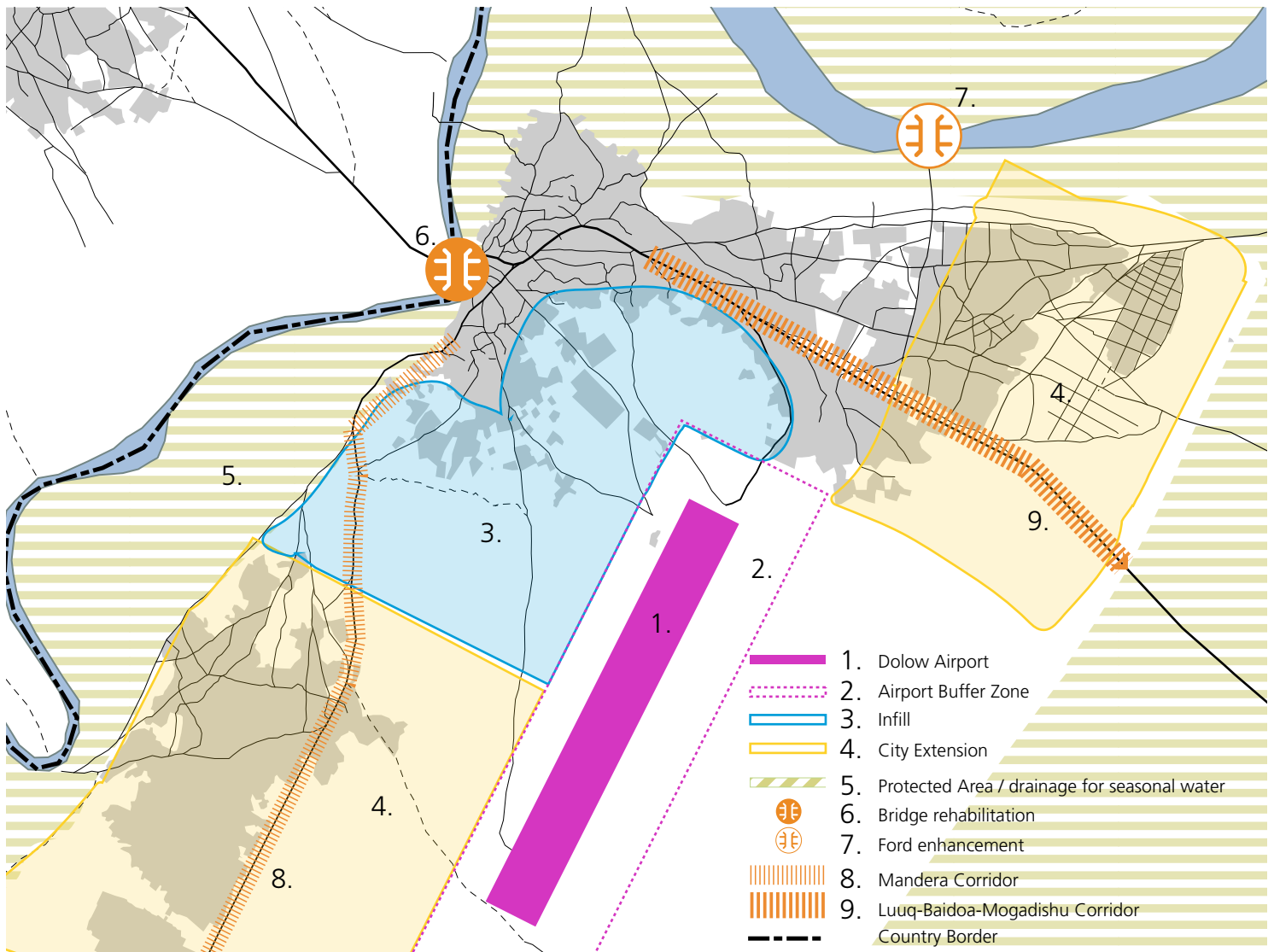
Most of the challenges of Dolow are tightly related to the complex environmental, economic and social dynamics that go beyond country borders. and call for a

In such a complex system of water bodies, water management of the rivers would prove impossible without a collaboration between Dolow and its neighbouring town, Dolow Odo, including the provision of water retention areas and the coordination in flood prevention system.

Infrastructure, especially the bridge on the Dawa, must also be perceived as a common to maintain and improve, to enhance trade between the two settlements and the respective regions and countries.

Waste management and provision of basic services are all challenges that must be faced jointly in order to avoid conflict, avoid duplications and share costs and responsibilities.





Jubbaland is aiming at establishing a legislation to administer land management and regulate urban planning. While this is under discussion, it is possible to coordinate the many actors active in the district and direct them towards a sustainable development. A committed District Council supported by technical experts can guide the town beyond the current emergency situation, taking a lead role in the management of the projects related to IDPs resettlement and frame them into account a long term prospective which takes into account the whole town and its needs. If no particular effort for urban planning is undertaken, one can expect the current development trends to continue and escalate quickly.

The development strategy proposed harnesses the resources and opportunities already present across the urban villages of Dolow and works to support, restore and improve existing urban systems. The strategy will have to be supported by a participative process to involve all the stakeholder groups active in the district in the discussion on the future of Dolow.

The rivers are the lifeline of the town, and provide a great environmental resource, but also constitute a critical element that, if not properly managed could threaten the inhabitants. It would be more advisable to establish buffer zones and water retention area to regulate floods. Development of small-scale irrigation scheme could also help in water management, as well as expanding the agricultural potential of the area. Rehabilitation and 'greening' of open spaces within the

town and the proposed new settlement area should also be planned.

The bridge over the Dawa should be rehabilitated to assure a proper connection to the Ethiopian settlement. Enhancement of the ford on the Jubba could also help in the agricultural use of the terrain on the other side of the river. The airport, a key infrastructure for the town's development, should be one of the pillars of the development strategy, and an adequate buffer zone should be preserved free from construction in order not to hamper its possible expansion and operation. Rehabilitation of the main road corridors, the one towards Luuq-Baidoa-Mogadishu and the one towards Manderia-Beled Hawo, as well as the bridge over the Dawa, should also be a priority.

The resettlements plans in Kabasa and Qansaxlay should be planned as city extensions, with an adequate connection to the existing town and provision of roads and basic services as well as key facilities. The ongoing development between the existing villages and the airport should be consolidated, building upon the existing road network and providing a seamless connection to the IDP settlements.

All these aspects of urban development should be part of a participatory planning process in the upcoming months, jointly promoted by MIDNIMO and the District Council and involving all the relevant stakeholders of the town.





**Your comments to consolidate this paper are highly appreciated. Please send us your feedback.**

Talada aad ku xoojinayso buug-yarahan aad baan u soo dhawaynaynaa. Fadlan fikirkaaga nala wadaag.

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