

SOMALIA



Building the Foundation of a Government-Led Displacement Data System in Somalia

Case Study • September 2026

This case study highlights JIPS' work in Somalia between 2024 and 2026, which has contributed to advancing how internally displaced persons (IDPs) are reflected in Somalia's National Statistical System, how national statistics on internal displacement are produced, and how progress towards durable solutions is measured. Led by the National Centre for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (NCRDS) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and funded by the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), JIPS' support has focused on two complementary areas: the development of the **Data for Solutions Toolkit** — a country-adapted compilation of guidance to improve the coherence of displacement data across government institutions and partners — and a **Capacity Building Framework**, rolled out in 2026 to support the adoption of international standards on data for solutions across Somalia's institutions.

Somalia is one of the world's largest and most protracted internal displacement situations. An estimated 3.3 million¹ people are internally displaced as of 2025, triggered by armed conflict, insecurity, drought and floods, and increasingly moving from rural areas into urban settlements. This is an estimate from humanitarian data sources in the absence of a figure from the government. A persistent challenge is that different sources, using different methods, produce different displacement figures. The majority of the country's IDPs now live in urban centres, where displacement intersects with rapid, poorly planned urbanisation.

Displacement in Somalia is a challenge that shapes national development, governance and service delivery. It compounds pre-existing drivers of fragility – gender inequality, climatic shocks, clan and identity-based marginalisation – while IDPs face limited access to basic services, education, employment, legal protection and tenure security. Because most land on which IDPs settle is privately held, and in the absence of clear rules protecting informal settlers, the risk of eviction remains high, discouraging investment in housing and limiting access to credit. Against this backdrop, advancing durable solutions for IDPs has become a national priority.

A national agenda for solutions to internal displacement under government leadership

Somalia has been building the institutional architecture for solutions for more than a decade. It ratified the [Kampala Convention](#) in 2019 – the world’s only regional legally binding instrument on internal displacement, which places on States the responsibility to assess IDPs’ needs and to maintain an updated register of IDPs. The same year, a Durable Solutions Secretariat was

established, which brought together 14 government institutions. The National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs and the [National Durable Solutions Strategy](#) (NDSS, 2020–2024), set out the country’s comprehensive approach to acknowledge internal displacement as a policy priority.

In September 2024, the Prime Minister launched the [National Solutions Pathways Action Plan \(2024–2029\)](#) – a framework to support one million IDPs to advance towards solutions, developed through a six-months, grassroots consultation process with authorities, partners and displaced communities. The Action Plan operationalises the NDSS and is anchored in the Social and Human Capital pillar of the [National Transformation Plan \(2025–2029\)](#), embedding displacement squarely within national development planning. In February 2025, the Federal Government established the [National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions \(NCRDS\)](#), mandated to coordinate its implementation.

This trajectory closely reflects the ambition of the UN Secretary-General’s [Action Agenda on Internal Displacement \(2022\)](#), calling for nationally owned, development-oriented responses and which places data at the centre, through two dedicated commitments on improving data systems and coordination for solutions.

Critically, the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan treats data as a pathway in its own right. Of its six pathways – government leadership; access to basic services; employment and livelihoods; legal documentation, housing, land and property; climate change and resilience; and **data for solutions** – Pathway 6, recognises that without a coherent evidence base, the targeting, monitoring and accountability required to move one million people towards solutions are simply not possible.



The data landscape to support the national agenda for solutions

Similarly to investing into a strong policy foundation, the government, with support of UN institutions, have been developing data-driven evidence on internal displacement.

The [Durable Solutions Progress \(DSP\) Survey](#) – the country’s first government-led solutions assessment – is now the main vehicle for tracking IDPs’ progress towards solutions. Led by NCRDS and supported by IOM, its first round in 2024 produced representative household data for IDPs and host communities in eight major urban centres, covering some 60 per cent of the country’s IDP caseload; the second round extended coverage to around 75 per cent, and a third round is now underway in collaboration with the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS). For the first time, 34 indicators from the NDSS M&E framework were produced. The survey also underpins the government’s DSP Index, a composite measure drawing on 29 indicators across five IASC criteria and 14 IRIS sub-criteria, reported at neighbourhood (derisnimo) level for IDPs and at city level for host communities.

Alongside, other institutions contribute to data on IDPs. SNBS leads the national statistical programme, including the upcoming Round 3 of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2026, the Integrated Household Budget Survey and the Labour Force Survey – the instruments through which IDPs can ultimately be made visible in official statistics and in SDG reporting. Operational and humanitarian actors generate a further layer of evidence, from REACH’s Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments and CCCM camp lists to UNHCR’s Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network and the Saameynta programme’s localised data on land tenure and services. And a new generation of administrative systems is emerging: the National Identification Number (NIN) being rolled out by the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), the biometric IDP registry piloted by the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), the Unified Social Register, and sectoral management information systems in health and education.

JIPS’ engagement in Somalia: Profiling and official statistics

2015–2016 | Profiling in Mogadishu

A [collaborative profiling exercise](#) generated a shared baseline on urban displacement in the capital, which later informed the [National Durable Solutions Strategy](#) (2020–2024).

2021–2023 | Development of the IDP Statistics Sectoral Plan

At the request of SNBS and on behalf of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Stateless-ness Statistics ([EGRISS](#)), JIPS supported the development of a stand-alone [IDP Statistics Sectoral Plan](#), finalised in February 2023. The process included an information mapping of potential IDP data sources across state and international actors, a [multi-stakeholder technical meeting](#) in Nairobi in August 2022, and presentation of the plan at the High-Level National Durable Solutions Conference in Mogadishu in February 2023. Its priorities were carried into Somalia’s second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics ([NSDS II, 2024–2029](#)), and the technical working group on migration statistics was expanded to cover displacement. Despite a young national statistical system, Somalia thereby became a [pioneering country example for EGRISS](#) of how the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics ([IRIS](#)) can shape national statistical planning.

JIPS went on to support a [joint workshop with UNDP](#), the Federal Government and ReDSS in October 2023 on a common approach to displacement data, and provided technical support to the [Galmudug intentions survey](#) in 2024.

2024–2026 | Harmonization of displacement data and production of official IDP statistics

Under the [IDSF](#)-funded joint programme [Asaaska Fikir](#), and on behalf of UNDP and in coordination with IOM, JIPS led the development of two instruments requested by the government: the [Data for Solutions Toolkit](#) and the Capacity Building Framework. Working under the leadership of [NCRDS](#), JIPS combined remote technical support with missions to Mogadishu, and conducted 27 consultations with government, UN and NGO data actors across federal and Federal Member State levels. The scope of the toolkit was validated at a national Durable Solutions Technical Working Group workshop in October 2024. Subsequently, JIPS led the development of its six components, which were refined with IDSF partners through 2025 and early 2026. The toolkit is available at the NCRDS's [website](#). The first training under the Capacity Building Framework was delivered in Mogadishu in June 2026, co-hosted with NCRDS and UNDP. In September 2026, JIPS in partnership with UNDP, facilitated a study-tour for delegates of the Government of Somalia to visit Statistics Norway in Oslo.

The IDSF: Catalytic funding to support IDPs in Somalia

The [Internal Displacement Solutions Fund](#) (IDSF) was created to promote national leadership on solutions – supporting national solutions strategies embedded in wider development and SDG plans, joint assessments and analysis, and government capacity to shape investments and measure progress, while providing seed funding and testing innovative “solutions measures” with catalytic potential.

In Somalia, the IDSF finances the UN joint programme [Asaaska Fikir](#) (“Basis of Thought”), bringing together IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, UNCDF, and the Resident Coordinator’s Office in support of the Federal Government. Its first outcome strengthened government coordination – most visibly through co-funding the design, costing and launch of the Solutions Pathways Action Plan itself. Its second outcome targets the data foundations: improved data, tools and normative frameworks, and strengthened government capacity to coordinate solutions data.

A national Data for Solutions Toolkit, built through a participatory process

Despite the high investment on policies and data-driven evidence on internal displacement in Somalia, a main persisting challenge of the data system is that the various data sources were not designed to speak to one another. Methodologies vary, interoperability is limited, and much of the data is still produced by international actors for short-term, sector-specific purposes rather than for national planning. Mandates overlap and federal frameworks often remain concentrated in Mogadishu, with limited traction in Federal Member States.

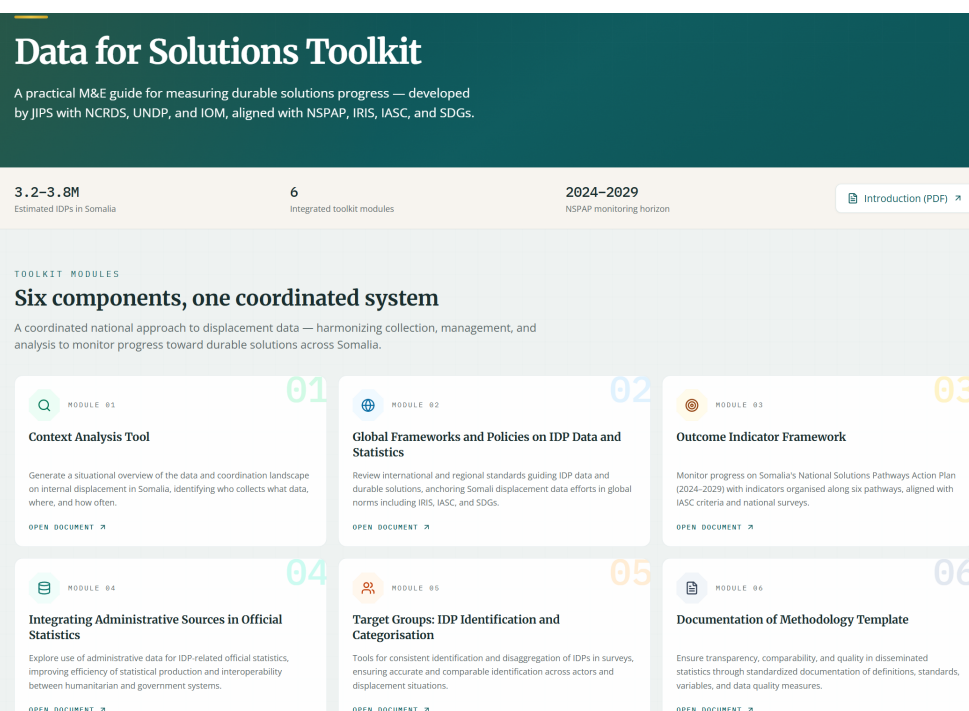
Most fundamentally, there is no operational-wide definition of an IDP, nor a common method for identifying IDPs in data collection. The consequence is that data on the same population cannot easily be compared, aggregated or aligned to the Action Plan. As a contribution to overcome this challenge, JIPS led the development of the [Data for Solutions Toolkit](#), a government-owned, nationally endorsed set of country-adapted instruments that can be used by any government agency or partner collecting data and producing statistics on IDPs in Somalia.

The Data for Solutions Toolkit promotes the use of existing data and outlines strategies and methods to make the data comparable and usable for national planning.

“... the Somalia Data Toolkit for Durable Solutions, a key milestone in our collective effort to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and monitoring of the progress of internally displaced persons (IDPs) toward achieving durable solutions.”

Zahra Abdi, Director General, National Centre for Rural Development and Durable Solutions, foreword to the Data for Solutions Toolkit (October 2025)

The toolkit was developed through a deliberately participatory process. In 2024, JIPS conducted 27 consultations with government, UN and NGO data actors, and the scope of the toolkit was validated at an IDSF-supported national Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) workshop in October 2024. Consultations with federal and Federal Member State institutions continued through 2025, with content reviewed by NCRDS, IOM and UNDP before publication.



Data for Solutions Toolkit

A practical M&E guide for measuring durable solutions progress — developed by JIPS with NCRDS, UNDP, and IOM, aligned with NSPAP, IRIS, IASC, and SDGs.

3.2–3.8M
Estimated IDPs in Somalia

6
Integrated toolkit modules

2024–2029
NSPAP monitoring horizon

[Introduction \(PDF\)](#)

Six components, one coordinated system

A coordinated national approach to displacement data — harmonizing collection, management, and analysis to monitor progress toward durable solutions across Somalia.

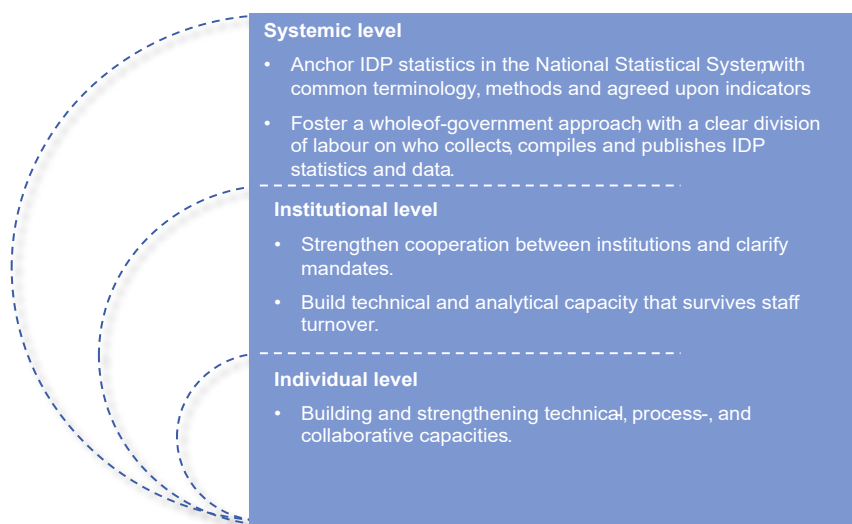
- 01 Context Analysis Tool**
Generate a situational overview of the data and coordination landscape on internal displacement in Somalia, identifying who collects what data, where, and how often.
[OPEN DOCUMENT](#)
- 02 Global Frameworks and Policies on IDP Data and Statistics**
Review international and regional standards guiding IDP data and durable solutions, anchoring Somali displacement data efforts in global norms including IRIS, IASC, and SDGs.
[OPEN DOCUMENT](#)
- 03 Outcome Indicator Framework**
Monitor progress on Somalia's National Solutions Pathways Action Plan (2024–2029) with indicators organised along six pathways, aligned with IASC criteria and national surveys.
[OPEN DOCUMENT](#)
- 04 Integrating Administrative Sources in Official Statistics**
Explore use of administrative data for IDP-related official statistics, improving efficiency of statistical production and interoperability between humanitarian and government systems.
[OPEN DOCUMENT](#)
- 05 Target Groups: IDP Identification and Categorisation**
Tools for consistent identification and disaggregation of IDPs in surveys, ensuring accurate and comparable identification across actors and displacement situations.
[OPEN DOCUMENT](#)
- 06 Documentation of Methodology Template**
Ensure transparency, comparability, and quality in disseminated statistics through standardized documentation of definitions, standards, variables, and data quality measures.
[OPEN DOCUMENT](#)

Taken together, the components respond to the coherence problem directly: common concepts, a common indicator set tied to the Action Plan, a common approach to identifying who is an IDP, and a common way of documenting how the data were produced.

From guidance to capacity: capacity building framework and training events

The second strand of JIPS' support addressed building capacities on data for solutions for the government and relevant UN agencies.

JIPS developed a **Capacity Building Framework** for the government as part of the IDSF in 2024–2025 on the basis of a policy review and extensive stakeholder consultations. It sets out outcomes at three levels. At the systemic level, it aims to anchor IDP statistics within the National Statistical System through common terminology and methods to foster a whole-of-government approach with a clear division of labour on who collects, compiles and publishes displacement data and statistics. At the **institutional** level, it targets cooperation between institutions, clarity of mandates, and technical and analytical capacity that survives staff turnover. At the **individual** level, it applies the PCT model from JIPS' Collaborative Leadership Programme – Process, Collaboration and Technical capacities to strengthen and build staff capacities on handling IDP data.



Three principles guide it: division of labour, so that institutions are trained according to their mandate; pragmatism, with the toolkit serving as the repository of training content; and sustainability, with governance sitting under the Durable Solutions Technical Working Groups at national and subnational level, and with NCRDS, SNBS and NCRI acting as “champions” trained to train others.

Implementation and way forward

A two-day training event

Delivery of the toolkit and Capacity Building Framework began on 16–17 June 2026 with a two-day training event in Mogadishu, “Visible & Counted: Strengthening Somalia’s Data Foundations for Durable Solutions”, organised by UNDP and JIPS and co-hosted by NCRDS. It brought together 44 participants from federal institutions and selected partners, and was opened jointly by NCRDS, SNBS and UNDP. Four sessions took participants from principle to practice: an introduction to International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and the toolkit, including how the Outcome Indicator Framework will be used to monitor the Action Plan; a panel on IDP identification, with contributions from SNBS on its approach for the upcoming MICS, IOM

on the approach used in the DSP, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on the Unified Social Register and Common Registration Form, and NCRI on the National Baseline Survey and Digital Public Infrastructure; a session on administrative data, in which participants applied the UN National Quality Assurance Framework to Somali systems and SNBS demonstrated its production of migration statistics from administrative sources; and a closing discussion on next steps.

The discussions confirmed that IDP identification remains the principal obstacle to comparable statistics. Participants noted that different surveys and organisations apply different identification methods. Some use self-identification by the respondents themselves, others use location of where the interview is taking place (e.g. in IDP camps), others again apply the IRIS-aligned criteria-based method. In addition, other challenges included that a term such as “forced to flee” is interpreted differently across contexts; that repeated displacement, which is common in Somalia, complicates classification; that IDPs living among host communities are harder to identify than those in camps; and that government and humanitarian actors often collect similar data in systems that do not interoperate. At the same time, the work on administrative data pointed to a more encouraging conclusion: the application of the UN National Quality Assurance Framework to Somali systems, together with SNBS’ production of migration statistics from administrative sources, demonstrated that the country already holds sources suitable for statistical use.

A study tour to Stats Norway

A peer-to-peer learning visit to [Statistics Norway](#) with high-level officials from NCRDS, SNBS and relevant line ministries with direct responsibility for producing displacement and population statistics was conducted the first week of September 2026 as part of the roll out of the capacity building framework. Hosted by Statistics Norway in cooperation with JIPS and UNDP, funded under the second phase of the IDSF, it exposed the delegation to Norway’s register-based model of statistical production, focusing on the critical factors, such as data sharing, trust, legal agreements and collaboration on data quality, that contribute to building a successful statistical system over time. The delegation returned home with new ideas on the importance of creating champions of data, building trust amongst data stakeholders, avoid duplication in data collection, regular meetings amongst top management across agencies, and, not least, create a whole-of-government long-term vision built on openness and collaboration. To start building that long-term vision, the delegation identified three priority areas for immediate action: coordination of approaches to IDP identification across systems; coordinate registration of the population, including IDPs, across all systems based on the National Identification Number (NIN); and further develop a statistical program for IDP data under the umbrella of the National Statistical System.



Way forward

The government of Somalia, together with UN partners and JIPS, will continue to advance the data for solutions agenda. NCRDS will lead coordination and maintain the toolkit and its analyses together with SNBS; Data for Solutions Working Groups will serve as a platform for coordination, discussion and dissemination; and partners will align their data collection and reporting with the toolkit. The toolkit will be featured in a dedicated session of the National Durable Solutions Technical Working Group and on the agenda of the annual Government-to-Government Learning Event. It will also inform two major national data exercises: a third round of the DSP, and the forthcoming 2026 MICS, which offers the first opportunity to identify IDPs in a national survey.

JIPS and UNDP will continue to work closely together, building on the complementary strengths demonstrated through this collaboration. JIPS brings specialized expertise in displacement statistics, IDP identification and international statistical standards, while UNDP brings a long-term country presence and established partnerships across government. UNDP works closely with the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) on initiatives including the [SDG Goal Tracker](#), the [Voluntary National Review](#) and the [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#). Its broader engagement across government provides important entry points to strengthen register-based administrative data systems, improve interoperability, and enhance coordination with the National Statistical System. Together, these complementary strengths provide a strong foundation for advancing official IDP statistics while contributing to the broader strengthening of Somalia's National Statistical System.

Building on this momentum, the next phase of work will focus on addressing current challenges in Somalia's IDP data landscape. Priorities include developing a common methodology for IDP identification across national and subnational surveys, strengthening governance and coordination for IDP statistics within the National Statistical System, and building sustainable national capacity to produce, manage and use IDP data in Somalia.

Acknowledgement

This case study, developed by JIPS with contribution from UNDP Somalia, highlights the broader and longer-term benefits of JIPS' support to Somalia in 2024–2026 in advancing durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Under the leadership of the National Centre for Rural Development and Durable Solutions, and with support from UNDP, IOM and other partners, a national Data for Solutions Toolkit and an accompanying Capacity Building Framework were developed and are now being rolled out. While the toolkit is an achievement in itself, its value lies in the systemic change it enables: a coherent, government-led displacement data system capable of tracking progress towards solutions for one million IDPs under the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan (2024–2029).

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