

# **DRAFT REPORT**

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**End Line Evaluation of “Leveraging the Strength of Women in Peace Building and Promoting Gender Sensitivity in the National Programme on Disengaged Combatants”**

**IOM-Somalia**

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## ACRONYMS

<b>AS</b>	Al-Shabaab
<b>AMISOM</b>	Africa Mission in Somalia
<b>CBOs</b>	Community-based Organizations
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DDR</b>	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
<b>DRP</b>	Defectors Rehabilitation Programme
<b>FGS</b>	Federal Government of Somalia
<b>HHQ</b>	Household Questionnaire
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced persons
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informants interview
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NISA</b>	National Intelligence and Security Agency
<b>UNPBF</b>	United Nations Peace-building Fund

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This final evaluation sought to collect end line information on overall program achievements and results, the observed levels of recruitment and defection from al-Shabaab and perceptions on female defectors in target communities; and experiences of women formerly associated with al-Shabaab returning to their communities along social and economic lines. Further, the end line covers project relevance and lessons learned throughout the project implementation. In total, 196 respondents across, the beneficiary group (98) and non-beneficiary group (98) were interviewed. The mean age of the respondents was 35. The study also reviewed relevant literature and used semi-structured key informant interview guides for 15 respondents drawn from the community, women CSOs and women leaders and government stakeholders.

### **Key Findings**

#### **Program Relevance**

The project's key objectives were particularly anchored in and were in line with the National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaging Combatants in Somalia, and the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) that serves as a coordination framework for implementing the Somalia National Development Plan (NDP). Being the first project of its kind specifically targeting women formerly associated with al-Shabaab, the program is credited with its unique relevance. In addition, IOM's capacity building to DRP and local NGOs on effective programme implementation was seen as a very relevant component of the programme, in light of the low capacity of local institutions. The design of the program was also informed by the priority needs of the DDR sector and the program was mandated by the United Nations Support Office for Somalia (UNSOM) and a national launch of the program was conducted in Mogadishu where all regional governments and implementing partners participated – therefore the program design was deemed inclusive.

#### **Program Achievements & Results**

Reintegration: Key to the success of the program was the effective reintegration of women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. By November 2019, 150 women were trained on various skills and had completed reintegration activities. Therefore, the project made satisfactory progress towards attaining most of its outcomes - the vast majority (93%) of these women reported feeling safer in the community, while 38% were less stressed, 35% healthier, and 31% were optimistic, hopeful and motivated. These positive feelings point to their improved general wellbeing and perception about their new life. In addition, the majority (95%) of the beneficiary group felt that in the last six months, other community members treated them better and that they interact more with others now.

Livelihoods & psychosocial support: All the project beneficiaries participating in the project benefited from skills trainings and mentorship on entrepreneurship, cooperatives and financial literacy to operationalize the vocational trainings received, in addition to the monthly stipends for

six months and assistance in accessing psychosocial support through religious counseling. When asked about the most important aspects they benefitted from the project, monthly stipend and business startup grants (91%) was the most mentioned support they received - vocational skills trainings at 71% and religious counseling at 54% followed this.

*Awareness on al-Shabaab Recruitment & Defection:* Analysis shows that majority (77%) of those interviewed indicated that they were aware of or heard of people joining al-Shabaab in their district, with a greater proportion (87%) being the beneficiary group - majority (96%) of the respondents from Mogadishu and 90% from Baidoa and Kismayo (45%). The level of awareness at end line is quite distinct from the results of the baseline where about 61% of respondents were aware as compared to the baseline, which stands at 77% - a notable improvement in awareness on al-Shabaab recruitment. 87% from the beneficiary group and 77% from the non-beneficiary group indicated an overall decrease in recruitment. The results thus indicate that the community are not only more aware of AS recruitment/activities around them, they also noticed the decrease of such recruitment/activities. While there isn't a causal linkage between the two results, it shows a lot more potential in engaging the communities to prevent and counter AS recruitment.

*Access to basic social services:* Respondents' opinions on access to services that met their needs after they defected and returned to their communities were sought in the study - 43% of the survey participants thought that persons who left al-Shabaab have the same access to local authorities as the rest of the communities, with 62% of them (the 43%) being the project beneficiaries and 23% being the project non – beneficiaries. **However, 17% of the respondents did not know - majority (30%) of them being the non-beneficiary group.** Similarly, 93% of the beneficiary group enjoyed the same level of security and protection as the local population as compared to the beneficiary group (90%) during the baseline survey. Overall access to basic social services has been reported to have slightly improved in comparison with the baseline. For example, access to health/medical services has improved by 2% (from 85% to 87%), education by 4% (from 86% to 90%), and Shelter improved by 4% (from 83% to 87%), despite only three months between the two assessments. Furthermore, survey data shows that over a half (60%) of the beneficiary group enrolled their children in school in the last six months, which is indicative of their enhanced access to social services at the project locations. This was also confirmed by women CSO representatives in Baidoa and Mogadishu who expressed the increased confidence amongst these women, which enabled them to participate and benefit from locally available services such as schools and health facilities.

*Perception on Female Al-Shabaab Defectors:* Analysis shows that majority of the respondents thought that persons who left al-Shabaab are in the same living conditions as the rest of the communities - this is mentioned by 70% from the beneficiary group and 69% from the non-beneficiary group. Furthermore, while majority (average 86%) said they would welcome the people disengaged from AS, very few of them (average 46%) would welcome them as a neighbor. It is worth noting that only 28% of the non-beneficiaries would found living next to a former

member of AS acceptable. Acceptance among beneficiaries, who may share same experience/past with AS, is also low (46% as compare to the generic welcoming attitude at 94%). This means while the community welcome people defecting/leaving AS, they are not very open to interaction at the personal level.

When asked if they thought a person who left al-Shabaab should be given the same employment opportunities as the rest of the communities, 88% of all the respondents agreed, with majority (91%) of them being from the beneficiary group as compared to the non-beneficiary group (86%). Overall, 88% of the non-beneficiary (host community) respondents interviewed approved of al-Shabaab defectors children going to school with their children, which signals to the reduced low stigma levels of persons related to women formerly associated with al-Shabaab.

### **Impact**

*Vocational skills training & business grants:* Despite its short-term nature, the evaluation noted that majority of the project activities have a good potential in impacting the lives of the beneficiaries and local communities across the three project locations in the long term. Analysis shows that majority (63%) of the beneficiaries used the grants received in setting up businesses, with a greater proportion (82%) of them being the beneficiaries from Baidoa District - 47% of the beneficiaries used the grant in setting up retail businesses with the greatest proportion 84% of them being the beneficiaries from Mogadishu District, while 31% use the grant for basic needs and 27% for inputs for casual labor.

*Capacity Development:* IOM's decision to implement the pilot phase in collaboration with the FGS' DRP meant that IOM had to strengthen their capacities. DRP officials felt IOM program staff had played a supportive role through continuous consultations and providing useful inputs throughout program implementation. In particular, the program provided gender-programming trainings to staff of the DRP that also deployed one gender focal point to each of three districts, who were part of the project implementation team. Furthermore, the involvement of DRP in program coordination provided hands-on experience for the institution's staff. The capacity building component of the project also provided training to all the three implementing partners' technical staff on areas of project administration, project management, monitoring and evaluation etc.

*Program Sustainable Results:* The project made important contributions to enhance reintegration of women formerly associated with al-Shabaab, hence the successful reception and reintegration of 150 women and their household members. The improving situation of these women, as shown by the findings of the evaluation, gives the various stakeholders, partners and national and regional authorities more confidence to move ahead with similar initiatives. Furthermore, the capacity building component which targeted both the implementing partners and DRP would go a long way in furthering the capability of these institutions, especially on DDR. Similarly, the vocational skills training and numeracy and literacy skills that targeted all the women beneficiaries will forever remain with the participants.

Lessons Learned: Partnership with key stakeholders such as the special government agencies was very important in sensitive programs such as this project. Likewise, the local connections and rapport the implementing partners had with local communities remained valuable in program implementation. Detailed lessons learnt from the UNPBF project would be shared by IOM project team with the donor and DRP in due course.



## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Somalia's protracted conflict has adversely impacted on state institutions, human capital and the overall development of the country. Successive droughts and floods caused population displacement, which in turn elicit competition over access to water, pastures and arable land resulting in conflict thereby affecting stability. Furthermore, efforts to revive a strong central government have become conflict triggers, as different clans fight for increased representation and resources while marginalized clans shift their alliances when they perceive there is an advantage to doing so. These phenomena have also increased support for al-Shabaab (AS) among the population, and therefore, this militant group is in part a by-product of the grievances of marginalized clans. A lack of opportunities for earning a decent living also makes the population vulnerable to seeking enrichment and status through criminal activity, including militia groups, and payments from radical anti-government groups.<sup>1</sup>

The country's general instability has led to high levels of poverty, social exclusion, weak institutions, governance systems, absence of law and order, poor access to basic services, high unemployment and insecurity largely driven by militancy. UN estimates suggest that about 70% of Somalia's population is under 30 years of age and unemployment stands at 54% for persons between 15-64 years and as high as 67% for youth aged 14-29 years. The high levels of youth unemployment have increased their vulnerability to risky and criminal behaviors as the search for livelihoods is the main driver for joining al-Shabaab and other extremist groups.<sup>2</sup>

Since 2013, IOM has supported the Federal Government of Somalia in developing and implementing the National Programme on the Treatment and Handling of Disengaging Combatants and Youth at Risk. The National Programme for Handling Disengaged Combatants in Somalia, which was endorsed at the Somalia Conference in London, May 2013, aimed to establish a comprehensive process for low-risk ex-combatants/fighters from al-Shabaab to reintegrate into communities and become productive citizens. Widespread disengagement has occurred throughout the country and it is estimated that there are presently 2,000 disengaged combatants. However, an unknown number of ex-combatants/fighters fear registering with the authorities or their communities due to safety concerns and/or a lack of knowledge about the availability of services. As al-Shabaab members increasingly become disengaged and seek alternatives to armed conflict, a comprehensive and transparent DDR process such as this program is critical in order to counter re-engagement in criminal violence.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration – IOM Compendium of Projects 2010–2017

<sup>2</sup> UNDP Human Development Report, 2014

<sup>3</sup> Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration – IOM Compendium of Projects 2010–2017

## **1.2 Project Overview**

The “National Program for Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants”, coordinated by the Defectors Rehabilitation Program (DRP), Ministry of Internal Security has five components: outreach, reception, screening, rehabilitation and reintegration. Currently, the National Programme runs Rehabilitation centres for adult male low-risk disengaged combatants in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo.

In close coordination with the DRP at the Federal and/or Regional levels and IOM, the project aims at providing household support to a minimum of 50 female disengaged combatants and their dependents (50 households) in each of the following areas, Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu. The support involves a NFI (Non-Food Items) kit consisted of household items based on need assessments, monthly stipend with an average of \$60 per month/household, \$20 monthly transportation allowance based on class attendance, religious and psychosocial counseling, medical referral for acute illness, basic education, business start-up grants of \$750 etc. The project further provided community outreach and community-based activities, media campaigns; skills and livelihood training for the entire 150 identified women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. The project offers 3-4 day classes per week, including courses on the selected vocations, basic/interim/advanced literacy and numeracy (based on test results), business development, civic and religious education.

## **1.3 Purpose and Scope of the End-line**

The study focused on collecting end line information for indicators stipulated in the project results matrix and accordingly documents overall program achievements and results, the observed levels of recruitment and defection from al-Shabaab in target communities; target community perceptions on female defectors; and experiences of female defectors returning to their communities along social and economic lines. Further, the end line covers project relevance, impacts and lessons learned throughout the project implementation.

## METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Approach

The study adopted a mixed-method design of both qualitative and quantitative techniques in data collection. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used as complementary, since each approach provides more value when used in a mixed-method design, providing information and conclusions that are more coherent, reliable, and useful than those from single-method studies. The qualitative approach focused more on "how" and "why" types of questions, while the quantitative approach focused on "how much/many" questions.<sup>4</sup>

The study employed a perception survey with project beneficiaries and local community members, and key informant interviews (KIIs) with project staff and other stakeholders. Due to the sensitivity of the subject and safety of the respondents, no focus group discussions were conducted, as many of the respondents would not be comfortable discussing the subject openly. The study specifically used household questionnaires (HHQ), interview guides for KIIs, and desk review.

### 2.2 Sampling Procedures

A disproportionate and systematic sampling method was used to ensure equity in household distribution and representation in the final sample. A total sample of 196 households was targeted and interviewed across the three locations i.e. Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa, based on the sample calculation formula below: -

$n_o$	$\frac{(Z^2pq)}{e^2}$	.....(Step 1)
$n_1$	$1 + \frac{(n_o - 1)}{N}$	.....(Step 2)

**Where**  
 $n_o$  = sample size;  $n_1$  = sample size for target population;  $N$  = target population per Indicator;  $z$  = confidence level (95% - 1.96);  $p$  and  $q$  = probabilities of success and failure respectively ( $p = 0.7$ ;  $q (1-p) = 0.5$ )  $e$  = desired level of precision at 0.7.

The survey targeted, both project beneficiaries and local community members - the sample was hence divided amongst the project beneficiaries and the community members (control group).

**Table 1: Sample size distribution for baseline survey**

Location	Beneficiary	Non Beneficiary	Total
<b>Mogadishu</b>	33	33	66
<b>Kismayo</b>	32	33	65
<b>Baidoa</b>	33	32	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>196</b>

<sup>4</sup> James Bell Associates. 2009. Evaluation Brief: Common Evaluation Myths and Misconceptions. Arlington, VA: Author.

### 2.2.1 Selection Criteria for Survey Respondents

**Beneficiaries:** Simple random sampling method was used where 33 beneficiaries were randomly selected from the 50 beneficiaries' list in each of the three locations. After the selection, the implementing partners mobilized those selected beneficiaries at their offices for interview. Interviews were conducted with the highest standard of confidentiality and selected respondents were interviewed in private rooms by the survey enumerators alone that were all female.

**Non-beneficiaries:** For the non-beneficiary respondents non-random sampling method was used to select them, as using random sampling was deemed very risky for the enumerators. Researchcare ensured that the non-beneficiaries had similar characteristics and background as the project beneficiaries in order to facilitate genuine comparison. Therefore, the non-beneficiaries targeted fulfilled the following characteristics:

- Respondents were all females who were either head of the household or member of the household;
- Respondents were aged 18-50 years;
- Respondents were not skilled professionals and did not earn formal salaries;
- Respondents did not have education level above primary school; and
- Respondents did not live in permanent (brick/block Building) houses.

## 2.3 Data Collection Process

The study used mobile-based data collection system (ONA) for the household survey and data was collected using mobile devices; and transmitted to secure Online Cloud Servers on a daily basis. The data collection team were exclusively composed of experienced female enumerators. After training the enumerators, the household questionnaire was pretested to a sample of households with similar characteristics of the target households - the assessment team selected two non-beneficiaries and two beneficiaries in each location for a pre-test. The pre-testing helped enumerators understand the tool better, and offered an opportunity to clarify and review ambiguous, repeated or out of place questions. In addition to the survey questionnaires, data were collected through key informant interview, desk review and field observation.

### 2.3.1 Key Informants

The study engaged knowledgeable key informants drawn from a diverse set of representatives with different backgrounds to be able to triangulate and enrich the data collected, and to inform the evaluation indicators. The study used semi-structured key informant interview guides, customized for each group of key informants. Separate key informant interview guides were developed for community members, project beneficiaries' representatives, women CSOs, women leaders and government stakeholders. The study team identified and interviewed a total of 15 key informants as shown in table 2.

**Table 2: Number of key informants interviewed**

<b>Key informant respondents</b>	<b>No of KIIs</b>
Defectors Rehabilitation Program (DRP) Senior Officer - Mogadishu	1
Defectors Rehabilitation Program (DRP), Project level	3
Representatives of Women CSOs (1 per project location)	3
Service Providers ( 1 representative from each Women NGO)	3
CSO social workers who are staff of the women CSOs	3
IOM staff, Project level	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

### **2.3.2 Review of Literature**

A comprehensive desk review of all available literature was conducted; this covered studies on recruitment and defection process from al-Shabaab; challenges and opportunities for programming, sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of women formerly associated with AS.

### **2.4 Ethical Consideration**

Ethical considerations were integral to the whole process of data collection (Household survey and KIIs) and data management during the assignment. Firstly, the research team sought consent of all the participants; and no person was compelled to participate in the survey, nor would they be influenced to remain if they wanted to leave. Researchcare Africa also provided clear statement of purpose of the household survey and KIIs. Further, the assessment team explained the intended purpose of the assessment to all those who participated in the baseline evaluation and that the information collected would only be used for intended purpose and that it would not be disseminated to any other place. The assessment team also upheld the principle of Do No Harm, and ensured the cultural sensitivity and beliefs in the area were respected during interviews. The quantitative data collected using secured online servers will be deleted from the online servers after the exercise.

### **2.5 Data Analysis & Quality Assurance**

The researchers ensured completeness of data collection from the field - the use of mobile devices made sure that all the relevant and critical questions were answered. Researchcare data manager reviewed the data on a daily basis as it was transmitted, and any inconsistent information or errors were corrected before finalizing the field data collection. Data processing and analysis was undertaken using the SPSS software and descriptive statistics computed to examine the state of each variable studied. Results from the KIIs were also triangulated with the findings from the quantitative survey questionnaire.

## FINDINGS

### 3.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents

#### *Age distribution*

Overall, 196 respondents participated in the end line survey, with 98 respondents being in the beneficiary group and 98 from the non-beneficiary group (control). The total project beneficiaries is 150; 98 were interviewed for the purpose of the assessments, hence the results hence can be seen as representing demographics of the beneficiaries and the project impact. The overall mean age of the respondents was 35, with the youngest participants in the survey being 18 years and the oldest 50 years. 38% of those who participated in the survey were aged 18 – 30, 38% aged 31 – 40 and 24% in the age bracket of 41 – 50 years.

**Table 3: Age distribution of the respondents**

Age Groups	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
18 - 30 Years	45%	32%	38%
31 - 40 Years	33%	43%	38%
41 - 50 Years	22%	25%	24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **Marital status**

Nearly a half (48%) of the respondents in the survey were married, with slightly higher proportion (57%) from the non-beneficiary group as compared to the beneficiary group (40%). The widow respondents were twice more likely to be in the beneficiary group as compared to the non-beneficiary group (31% versus 14%). However, overall 7% of the respondents were single, 21% divorced and 2% separated.

**Table 4: Marital Status of the respondents**

Marital Status	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Single	5%	8%	7%
Married	40%	57%	48%
Widow/Widower	31%	14%	22%
Divorced	22%	19%	21%
Separated	2%	2%	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **Head of the household**

Majority (84%) of the respondents were the head of their households with no discernable difference between the beneficiary group (88%) and the control group (81%). Similarly, the vast

majority of the respondents who were not the head of the household were either the spouses of the household head (68%), parent of the household head (15%) or sister of the household head (8%), with few (3%) being the parent-in-law of the household head of the respondent.

**Table 5: Are you the head of your household?**

Are you the head of your household?	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	88%	81%	84%
No	12%	19%	16%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 6: If not, how are you related to the household head?**

If not, how are you related to the household head	Beneficiary (n=12)	Non-Beneficiary (n=19)	Overall (n=31)
Spouse of household head	83%	53%	68%
Parent of household head	8%	21%	15%
Parent-in-law of household head	1%	5%	3%
Sister of household head	0%	16%	8%
Daughter of household head	8%	5%	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Duration of residence in current location

Over a half (55%) of the respondents have lived in their current locations for 1 – 5 years with majority (63%) being the beneficiary group. At the same time, 37% of the respondents have lived in their current locations for more than 5 years, with majority (48%) being the non- beneficiary group.

**Table 7: How long have you been in this place? By District**

How long have you been in this location?	Mogadishu (n=71)		Baidoa (n=58)		Kismayo (n=67)		Overall (n=196)
	Beneficiary (n=38)	Non-Beneficiary (n=33)	Beneficiary (n=28)	Non-Beneficiary (n=30)	Beneficiary (32)	Non-Beneficiary (n=35)	
Less than one year	0%	6%	18%	7%	16%	3%	8%
1-5 years	58%	55%	64%	53%	70%	34%	55%
More than 5 years	42%	39%	18%	40%	16%	63%	37%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

In addition, majority (97%) of the respondents in this survey - both for beneficiary group and non-beneficiary group - were planning to stay in their current locations of residence.

**Table 8: Do you plan to stay in this location?**

Do you plan to stay in this location?	Mogadishu (n=71)		Baidoa (n=58)		Kismayo (n=67)		Overall (n=196)
	Beneficiary (n=38)	Non-Beneficiary (n=33)	Beneficiary (n=28)	Non-Beneficiary (n=30)	Beneficiary (32)	Non-Beneficiary (n=35)	
Yes	97%	100%	100%	97%	94%	94%	97%
No	3%	0%	0%	3%	6%	6%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Level of education

Education is seen as a key asset that helps in creating employment opportunities for people. Majority (90%) of the beneficiary group have attended vocational skill training as compared with the control group (7%). The high number of vocational skills training graduates among the beneficiary group is attributable to IOM’s support, where all beneficiaries completed their training package by December 2019.

**Table 9: What is your highest level of education?**

What is your highest level of education?	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Primary	3%	27%	27%
Madarasa	3%	33%	26%
Never been to school	2%	24%	21%
Vocational skills & business development training	90%	7%	20%
Secondary	1%	8%	5%
College/university	1%	0%	1%
Other	0%	1%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 3.2 Relevance

### Alignment with country’s priority needs

As the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) continues to secure the country and realign the security sector institutions in accordance with its National Security Architecture agreement - signed by the FGS and FMSs in Mogadishu on April 2017- there is a need to also engage in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts to successfully reinsert and reintegrate persons leaving al-Shabaab. The “Leveraging the Strength of Women in Peace Building and Promoting Gender Sensitivity in the National Programme on Disengaged Combatants” project was therefore seen as a relevant intervention to the needs of the country as a whole and



communities living in Baidoa, Kismayo and Mogadishu.

In addition, the project's key objectives were particularly anchored in and in line with the National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaging Combatants in Somalia and the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF)<sup>5</sup> that serves as both a coordination framework for implementing the Somalia National Development Plan (NDP), aligned with the principles of the New Partnership for Somalia for Peace, Stability and Prosperity (NPS). The project objectives were also seen to be highly relevant as it addressed critical priorities of unemployment of vulnerable women, skills development, psychosocial support, and community outreach countering and preventing violent extremism especially for women formerly associated with al-Shabaab.

Moreover, the evaluation noted that this is the first project of its kind specifically targeting women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. Stakeholders interviewed noted that, since 2014, when DDR programs commenced in Somalia, this project is credited with its unique structure – by targeting women only - a group of persons that have traditionally been marginalized in all spheres of socio/economic aspects.

Similarly, IOM's capacity building component for its partners (DRP and local NGOs) on effective programme implementation was seen as a very relevant component of the programme, in light of the low capacity that overtime faced local institutions. All the three implementing partners in Kismayo, Mogadishu and Baidoa were trained on Finance and monitoring and evaluation manuals, which were also translated in Somali for ease of understanding. The project also enhanced DRP's capacity on gender programming through trainings.

### **Program Design**

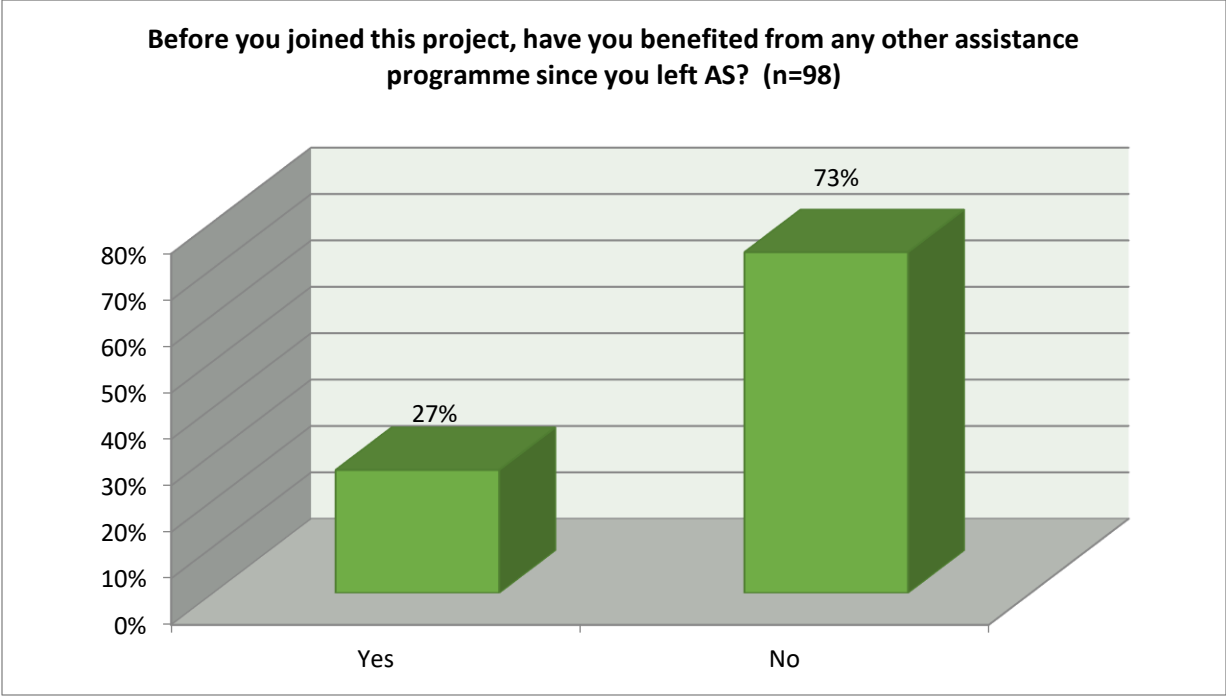
The design of the program was also informed by the priority needs of the DDR sector and the program was mandated by the United Nations Support Office for Somalia (UNSOM) and a national launch of the program was conducted in Mogadishu where all regional governments and implementing partners participated – therefore the program design was deemed inclusive. Furthermore, interviewed stakeholders indicated that the project was designed to promote sustainable reintegration of women formerly associated with al-Shabaab into mainstream Somali society. Previous DDR programs largely focused on men defectors, leaving out their female counterparts – this program was a woman-centered and all the implementing partners were women-led organizations.

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<sup>5</sup> The SDRF was established in 2014 to serve as a platform for government and development partners to provide strategic guidance and oversight for development activities in Somalia over a ten-year period.

Moreover, the primary emphasis of the project was on imparting vocational, numeracy and literacy, financial and business management training to the women beneficiaries across the three locations. The training programs were based on a market study conducted at the start of the project and included courses that were regarded as marketable in the respective locations. The survey enquired whether they benefitted from other assistance programme/s since they left AS and only 27% of the beneficiary respondents had benefitted from other assistance programme(s) before joining the project – hence the intervention was designed based on the need of the beneficiary communities. At baseline majority of the beneficiary respondents noted that some of the support they received included cash (89%), food (68%), psychosocial support (60%) among other support.

**Figure 1:** Before you joined this project, have you benefited from any other assistance programme since you left AS? (N=98)



The trainings covered practical hands-on skills development with all of them receiving basic literacy and numeracy skills that were seen relevant to them as they lacked basic education. The skills training for the women were considered crucial to facilitate their inclusion into society and enhance their reintegration and recovery processes. To this end, the project worked with local women’s organizations in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa, as many al-Shabaab recruits are believed to be coming from these regions, to provide skill-based livelihood trainings. The beneficiaries received monthly stipends of \$60 for living expenses during the project period, monthly transportation allowance of \$20 USD based on their class attendanc, and start-up grants of \$750 each upon completion of all courses for launching businesses. Skills acquired through the

project offered great opportunities to the women beneficiaries to transition into the labor market. . The project’s direct livelihoods support to the vulnerable women to enable them to meet their monthly household expenses and promote their successful and sustainable reintegration was a further step that justified the relevance of the intervention.

Besides the skills development and livelihoods support, the project provided all the 150 women beneficiaries with psychosocial support through group and individual religious counseling to overcome and manage trauma, heal from experience, and gain confidence in re-engaging with their former and new civilian networks.

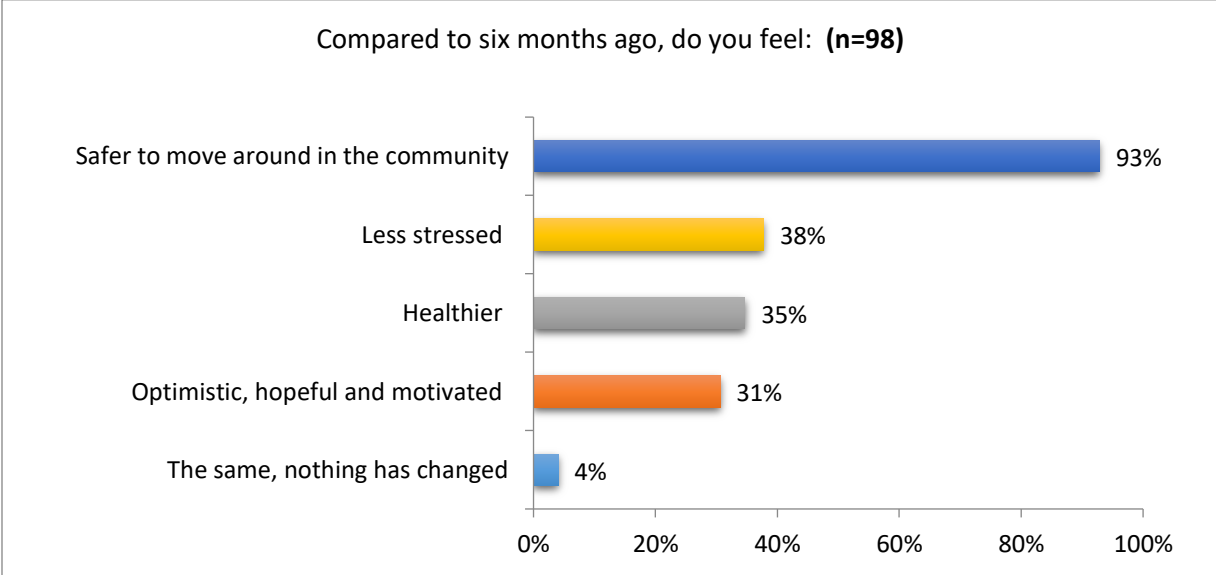
### 3.3 Program Achievements & Results

#### 3.3.1 Reintegration of women beneficiaries

Key to the success of the program was the effective reintegration of women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. The reintegration aspect of the programme aimed at facilitating these women’s re-entry into civilian, political, social and economic life.

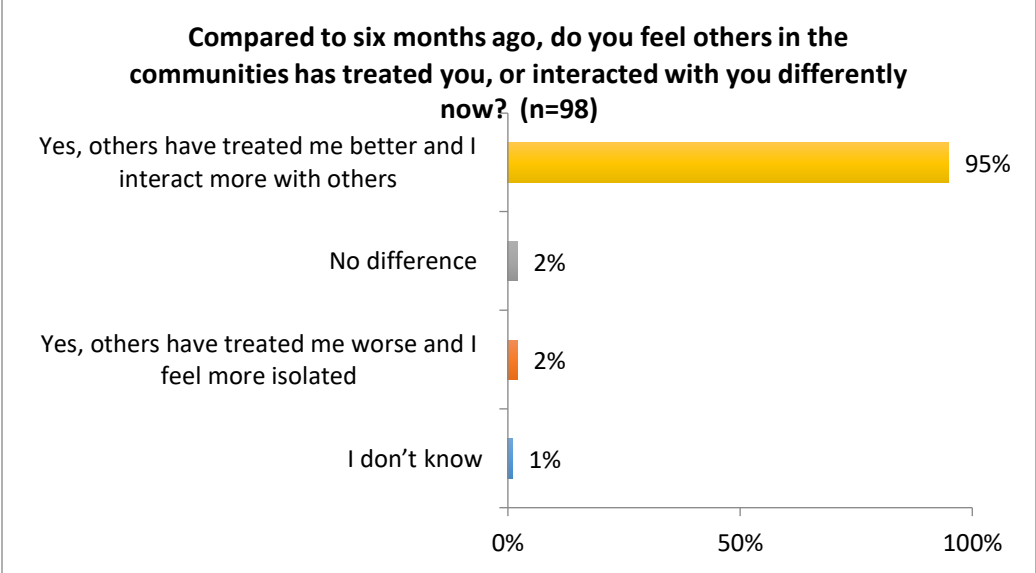
By the close of November 2019, 150 women were trained on various skills with some currently engaged in medium-term reintegration support and had completed reintegration activities. According to the survey, the vast majority (93%) of these women reported feeling safer to move around in the community, while 38% of them were less stressed, 35% reported being healthier, and 31% were optimistic, hopeful and motivated; and only 4% felt no change occurred to them. These positive feelings point to their improved general wellbeing and perception about their new life.

Figure 2: Compared to six months ago, how do you feel about the following? (N=98)



The survey also enquired about the opinions of the women beneficiaries on how the local communities treated or interacted with them, compared to six months before the assessment. Majority (95%) of the beneficiary group felt that in the last six months, other community members treated them better and that they interact more with others now. Only 2% of the beneficiary group felt no difference and 2% felt that others have treated them worse and they feel more isolated now. These further points to the low level of discrimination among women formerly associated with al-Shabaab and the high prospect for reintegration amongst these women. Key informants echoed the same views where women CSOs and elders across the three locations noted that there was increased interaction by these women with the local communities through the community outreach activities.

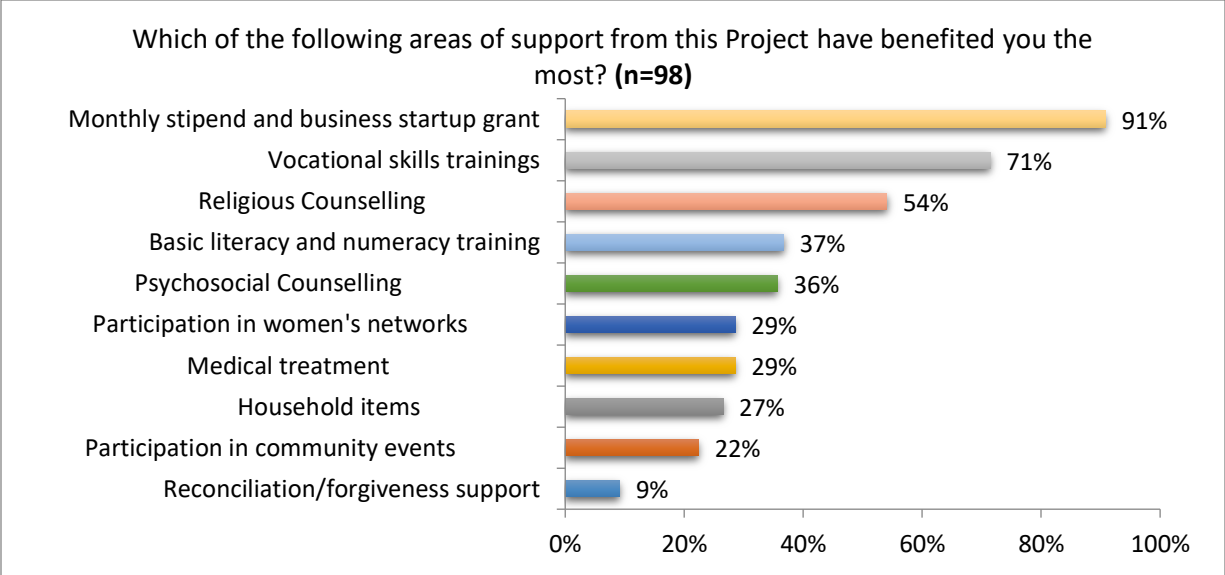
**Figure 3:** Compared to six months ago, do you feel others in the communities has treated you, or interacted with you differently now? (N=98)



**3.3.2 Livelihoods & psychosocial support**

In the survey, when asked about the most important aspects the beneficiaries have benefitted from the project, monthly stipend and business startup grants (91%) was the most mentioned support they received - vocational skills trainings at 71% and religious counseling at 54% followed this. Other areas included: basic literacy and numeracy training at 36%, psychosocial counseling at 36%, participation in women’s network at 29%, medical treatment at 29%, household items at 27%, participation in community events at 22% and reconciliation/ forgiveness support at 9%.

**Figure 4:** Which of the following areas of support from this Project have benefited you the most?



The survey further investigated the beneficiaries' opinions on the results of the monthly stipend received by each participant. When asked whether respondents thought that their households have made more money than 6 months preceding the end line evaluation, over a half (59%) of the respondents indicated that they have made more money than 6 months ago, with the greatest proportion (66%) being the beneficiary group. This shows that despite the \$60 monthly stipend not being enough to cater for the numerous needs of these vulnerable households, the money had covered most of their pressing needs and had at least been a helpful support.

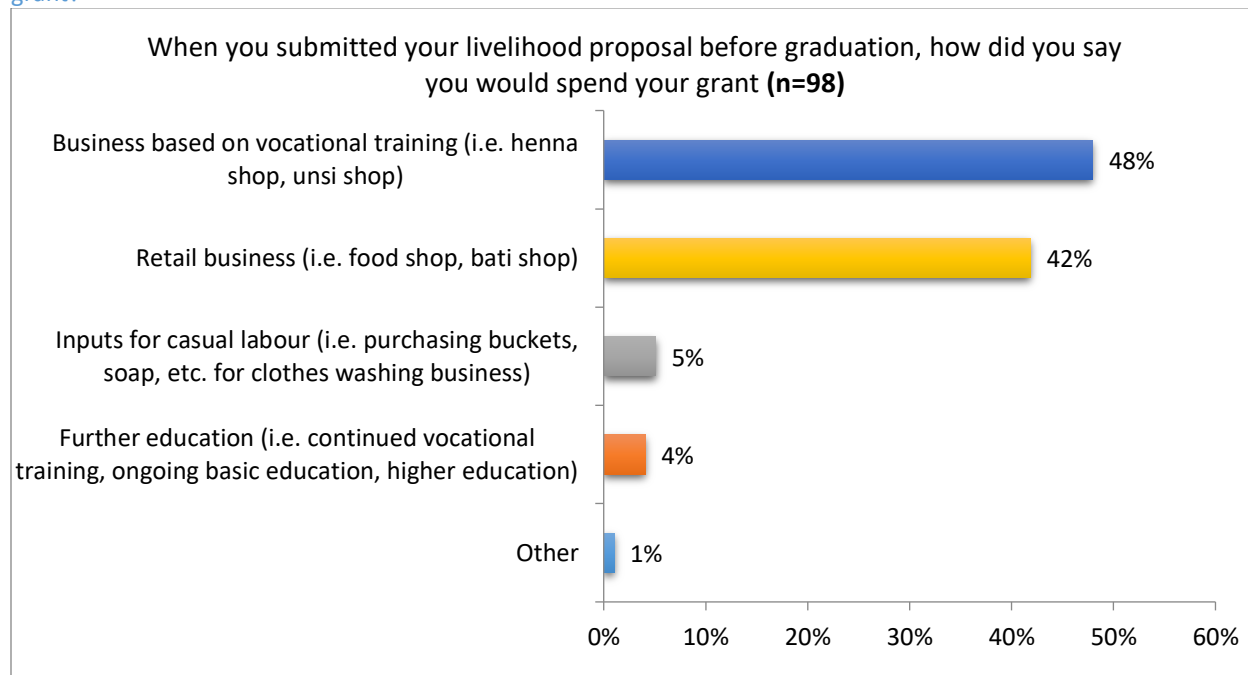
**Table 10: Do you think your household has made more money than 6 months ago?**

Do you think your household has made more money than 6 months ago?	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	66%	51%	59%
No	34%	49%	41%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Furthermore, while it is too early to determine the impact of this programming, early indications suggest that women beneficiaries are utilizing the training and techniques they received. For example, when asked about their livelihood proposal, majority (48%) of the respondents indicated they would start businesses based on the vocational training they received using the \$750 start-up grant - 42% of the respondents indicated starting retail businesses. There were also initial indications of proper utilization of the business grants as women CSO representatives and project staff reported a number of cases where women have already started their own business. In Mogadishu, for instance, a woman beneficiary who has already purchased a tricycle, popularly

known as *Tuktuk*, is already earning her income to sustain her household. Other women have also set up shops and salons in Kismayo and Baidoa.

**Figure 5:** When you submitted your livelihood proposal before graduation, how did you say you would spend your grant?



However, 5% of the respondents indicated that they would use the grant as input for casual labor which remains a key source of livelihoods across the three regions as shown by survey analysis. Professional employment and being employed by the government were the least sources of income to the respondents in this study. Key informants indicated that since the beneficiaries have just received their start-up grants it would be quite early for them to change their main source of livelihoods in this very short time. However, they expressed optimism that these women would soon venture into businesses, thanks to the skills-building as well as economic support they received from the project.

**Figure 6:** Household main source of income

What is your main source of income	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Casual labor/Unskilled wage labor	36%	51%	43%
Petty trading such as kiosk etc.	35%	4%	19%
Agriculture (including Crop sales)	6%	13%	10%
Skilled labor	9%	10%	10%
Unemployed/none	5%	8%	6%
Commercial trader	8%	0%	4%

Fishing	0%	7%	4%
Livestock (animal/animal product sales)	1%	1%	1%
Professional (i.e. teacher, medical professional)	0%	2%	1%
Other	0%	2%	1%
Government	0%	2%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Upon enquiring whether their current income would sustain their families, over a half (53%) of the respondents indicated that the income received is able to sustain them - a greater proportion (65%) of the beneficiary group indicated that the income received is able to sustain them and their families as compared to the control group (41%) - there was a significant difference between the non-beneficiary group and the beneficiary group. Compared to the baseline, there seem to be some improvements on this variable where a greater proportion (60%) of the beneficiary group noted that the income received was not able to sustain their families, while 68% of the non-beneficiary group indicated that their current income covers most of their basic needs.

**Table 11: Will this sustain you and your family**

Will this sustain you and your family?	Beneficiary (n=98)		Non-Beneficiary (n=98)		Overall (n=196)	
	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Yes	40%	65%	68%	41%	54%	53%
No	60%	17%	32%	39%	46%	28%
Somewhat it helps	-	18%	-	20%	-	19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.3.3 Awareness on al-Shabaab Recruitment & Defection

Outcome Indicator 1.2 of the project results matrix indicates that the project sought to increase the percentage of target community members indicating increased defection from al-Shabaab within the last year. Survey analysis shows that the vast majority (77%) of those interviewed indicated that they were aware of or heard of people joining al-Shabaab in their district, with a greater proportion (87%) being the beneficiary group. However, being a sensitive question, a considerable proportion (9%) of the non-beneficiary group interviewed refused to respond to the question. When the responses were disaggregated by district, majority (96%) of the respondents from Mogadishu and 90% of respondents from Baidoa were aware of or heard of people joining al-Shabaab, Kismayo was the district with the least (45%) number of respondents who were

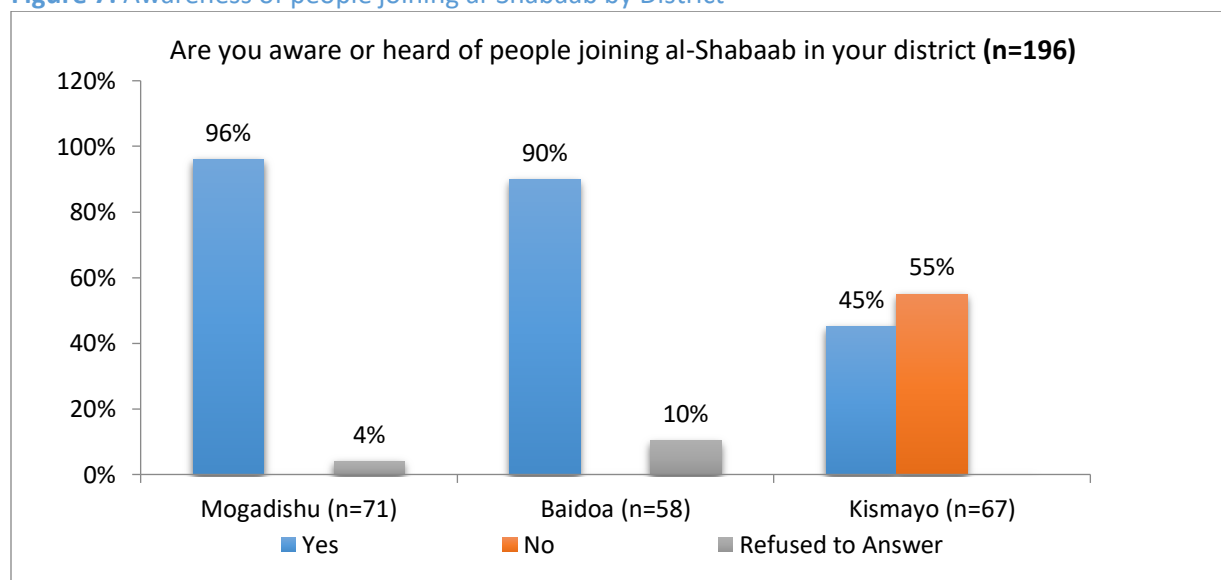
aware of people joining al-Shabaab. The level of awareness at end line is quite distinct from the results of the baseline where only about 61% of respondents were aware as compared to the baseline, which stands at 77% - a notable improvement in awareness on al-Shabaab recruitment.

**Table 12: Awareness of al-Shabaab in the District**

Are you aware or heard of people joining al-Shabaab in your district	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	87%	66%	77%
No	13%	25%	19%
Refused to Answer	0%	9%	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Among the respondents who were aware of people joining al-Shabaab, 83% indicated a decrease in the last six months, with 87% from the beneficiary group and 77% from the non-beneficiary group indicating an overall decrease. On the other hand, only 15% of the respondents indicated an increase in the last six months for people joining al-Shabaab with few (8%) of the beneficiary group and 23% of the non-beneficiaries. It is worth noting that 5% of the beneficiary group did not know whether there has been an increase or decrease in the people joining al-Shabaab.

**Figure 7: Awareness of people joining al-Shabaab by District**



**Table 13: If yes, in the last six months, do you think the people joining al-Shabaab have increased or decreased in your location**

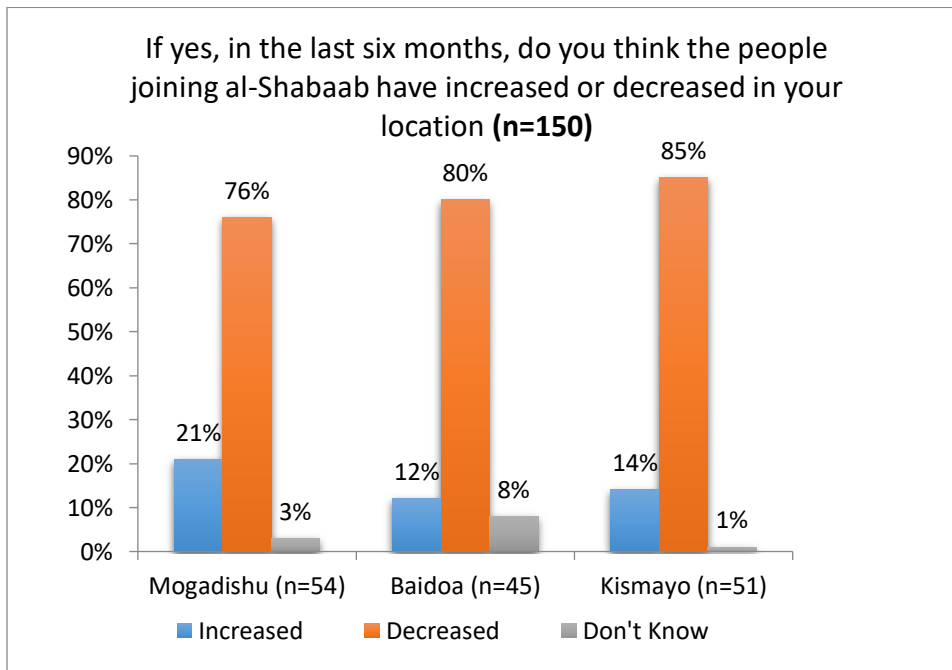
If yes, in the last six months, do you think the people joining al-Shabaab have increased or decreased in your location	Beneficiary (n=85)	Non-Beneficiary (n=65)	Overall (n=150)
Increased	8%	23%	15%



Decreased	87%	77%	83%
I Don't Know	5%	0%	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Aggregating respondents views on awareness on people joining AS by district, Kismayo recorded the highest (85%) proportion of awareness on decrease in joining al-Shabaab, followed by Baidoa (80%), with Mogadishu recording the lowest (76%).

**Figure 8: Do you think the people joining al-Shabaab have increased or decreased in your location**



Additionally, nearly three quarters (73%) of those interviewed have heard of people leaving al-Shabaab in their District. There was a discernable significant difference between the beneficiary group and the control group, with a vast majority (86%) of the beneficiary group indicating that they are aware of or heard of people leaving al-Shabaab as compared to the control group (60%).

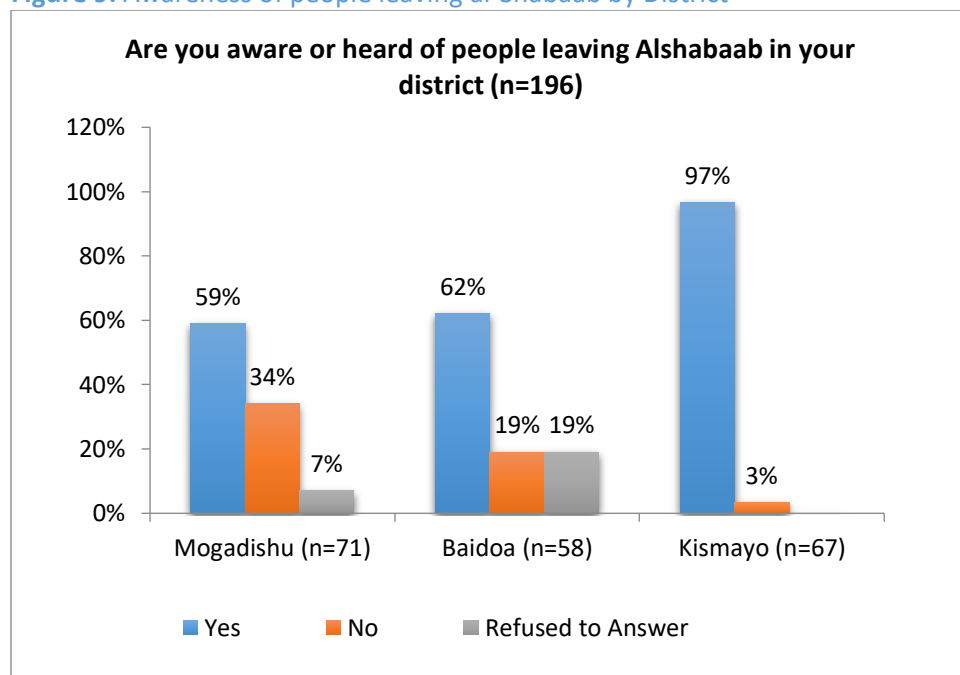
**Table 14: Are you aware of or heard of people leaving al-Shabaab in your district?**

Are you aware or heard of people leaving Alshabaab in your district	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	86%	60%	73%
No	14%	30%	22%
Refused to Answer	0%	10%	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Disaggregating the respondents' opinions by district shows that Kismayo has the highest proportion (97%) of the respondents with knowledge of people leaving al-Shabaab, followed by

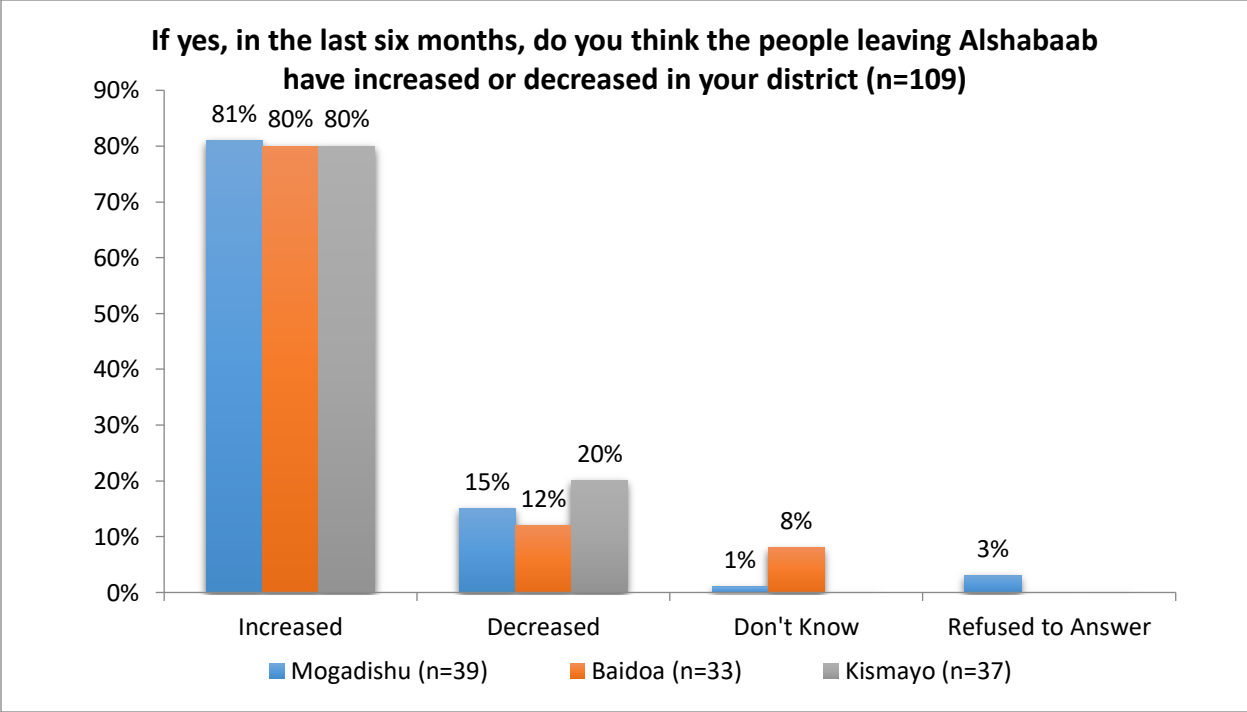
Baidoa (62%) and Mogadishu (59%). When asked if in the last six month, people leaving al-Shabaab have increased or decreased, majority (80%) of the respondents indicated an increase, with a higher proportion (82%) from the non-beneficiary group as compared to the beneficiary (80%). The increase in the number of people defecting from al-Shabaab was also reported by majority of KILs with project stakeholders who indicated that many are fleeing the group due to hard times the group is currently facing. They furthered that the increased drone attacks, renewed operations by the FGS and international partners and the pessimism by the lack of social amenities in areas controlled by the group continue to be key push factors for the new defectors.

**Figure 9: Awareness of people leaving al-Shabaab by District**



**Table 15: If yes, in the last six months, do you think the people leaving al-Shabaab have increased or decreased in your district?**

If yes, in the last six months, do you think the people leaving Alshabaab have increased or decreased in your district	Beneficiary (n=65)	Non-Beneficiary (n=44)	Overall (n=109)
Increased	80%	82%	80%
Decreased	13%	12%	13%
Don't Know	7%	3%	6%
Refused to Answer	0%	3%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



In terms of sources of information on recruitment and defection, mainstream media was the main (90%) source of information where the respondents heard about the increase/decrease in the number of people joining al-Shabaab. Directly from people and family friends was the second (29%) main source of information. Somalis being a majority illiterate and naturally an oral society, hearing from friends, relatives and neighbours remains a key source of information on al-Shabaab recruitment and defection. Interviews with most key informants across the three locations confirmed findings of the survey analysis in regards to recruitment and defection – most of them noted that there is a general decline in recruitment into the group as they continue to be unpopular due to the continuous attacks on innocent civilians and high taxation they impose on the population.

**Table 16: Where did you hear this information?**

How did you know (where did you hear this information) about the people joining Alshabaab have increased or decreased?	Beneficiary (n=85)	Non-Beneficiary (n=65)	Overall (n=150)
From the mainstream Media	90%	86%	90%
Directly from people like friends family members	29%	29%	29%
From the public meetings/discussions	14%	14%	14%
From the Government	10%	14%	10%
From Social Media	0%	29%	4%
Based on my conclusion	2%	0%	2%
Other	2%	0%	2%

### 3.3.4 Access to basic social services

The evaluation sought to gauge the respondents' opinions on access to services that met their needs after they defected and returned to their communities. In particular, the assessment focused on their access to local authorities, protection and safety/security, employment opportunities, health facilities, and schools among other social amenities.

When the interviewees were asked if they thought persons who left al-Shabaab have the same access to local authorities as the rest of the communities, 43% agreed to this assertion with majority (62%) of them being the beneficiary group. However, 17% of the respondents did not know - majority (30%) of them being the non-beneficiary group. Key informants also noted that while there is a generally low level of access to local authorities across the country due to the lack of institutional capacities including reporting and referral mechanisms, access to these institutions is not challenging. However, they indicated that some women beneficiaries might not be comfortable dealing directly with government agencies for petty issues due to fear of victimization, unless pressed by circumstances.

**Table 17:** Do you think persons who left al-Shabaab have the same access to local authorities as rest of the communities?

Do you think persons who left al-Shabaab have the same access to local authorities as rest of the communities	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	62%	23%	43%
No	34%	47%	40%
I don't Know	4%	30%	17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Regarding respondents' opinion on whether persons who left al-Shabaab face more protection concerns and risks than the rest of the communities, 70% of those interviewed indicated that persons who left the group face more protection concerns and risks than the rest of the communities, with a higher proportion (83%) being the beneficiary group. However, a considerable proportion (20%) of the respondents did not know if a person who left al-Shabaab face more protection concerns and risks than the rest of the communities, with a greater proportion (31%) being the non-beneficiary group. Surprisingly, the baseline results on the level of protection concerns for people who leave al-Shabaab is much lower than the end line - over half (53%) of those interviewed believed that persons who left al-Shabaab faced more protection concerns and risks than the rest of the communities, with a higher proportion (56%) being from the beneficiary group - this points to improvement in perception amongst the women

beneficiaries in this respect. The percentage of respondents who believe people leaving AS needs more protection increased from 56% to 70%, indicating that the community in general has recognized the challenges faced by those who left the group. This implies that the project sensitization campaign on the reintegration of former AS members has made a difference.

**Table 18: Do you think persons who left al-Shabaab face more protection concerns and risks than the rest of the communities?**

Do you think persons who left al-Shabaab face more protection concerns and risks than the rest of the communities?	Beneficiary (n=98)		Non-Beneficiary (n=98)		Overall (n=196)	
	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Yes	56%	83%	49%	58%	53%	70%
No	42%	9%	38%	11%	40%	10%
I don't Know	2%	8%	13%	31%	7%	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Likewise, 93% of the beneficiary group enjoyed the same level of security and protection as the local population, as compared to the beneficiary group (90%) during the baseline survey. However, none of the beneficiary group during the end line survey enjoyed much less security and protection than the local population as compared to the baseline survey where 6% of the beneficiary group enjoyed much less security and protection.

**Table 19: What level of security do you enjoy here?**

What level of security do you enjoy here?	Baseline	Endline
	Beneficiary (n=98)	Beneficiary (n=98)
I enjoy the same security and protection as the local population	90%	93%
I enjoy somewhat less security and protection than the local population	4%	7%
I enjoy much less security and protection than the local population	6%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

With regard to access to health facilities, there was a discernable significant difference in the access to these services among the beneficiary group during the baseline survey and end line survey. Most of the beneficiary group (67%) accessed charity/NGO-run clinic/hospital during the end line as compared to 51% during the baseline survey. Those who accessed private clinics/hospital reduced from 34% to 27% in the end line. Similarly, those who accessed government

clinic /hospital also reduced from 15% to 6%. This also signals the improved welfare amongst these women beneficiaries and their increased hope for successful reintegration.

**Table 20: Access to health/medical facilities**

How do you access Health/medical facilities in your location?	Baseline	Endline
	Beneficiary (n=98)	Beneficiary (n=98)
Private clinics/ hospital	34%	27%
Government clinic/hospital	15%	6%
Charity/NGO runs clinic/Hospital	51%	67%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The survey particularly looked into whether the beneficiary respondents felt that they had better access to medical services compared to before the project started - 89% of the beneficiary group felt that they have had better access to medical services compared to before benefitting from the project. When asked about the reason why, majority (68%) indicated that their households were accepted and knew better on where to access those services after they benefited from the project. 19% indicated that they knew where to get medical services due to the project's reintegration efforts and community outreach. 13% indicated that they were able to pay for better medical services. Interviews with KIIs also corroborated these findings as respondents argued that the women beneficiaries reintegrated well into the community, thanks to the community outreach activities that involved local leadership and religious leaders. They further noted due to the local communities' good gesture in accepting them back, they were able to walk freely in their localities and get to know about local social services and where to get them.

**Figure 10: Do you feel the neighboring households have access to better medical services compared to your households?**

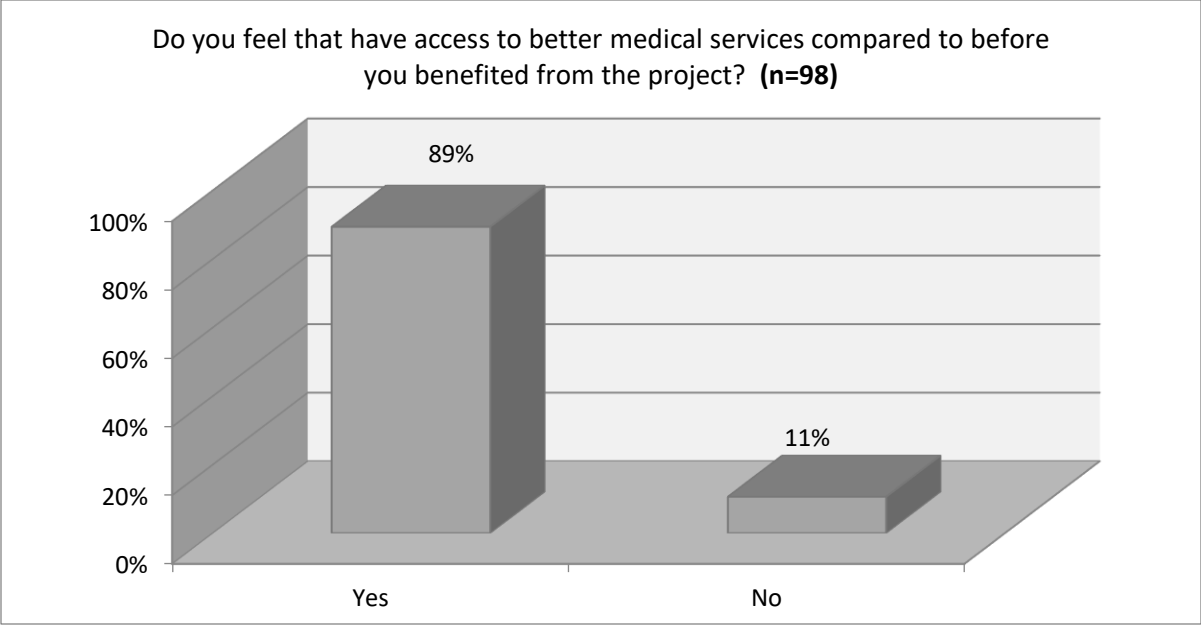
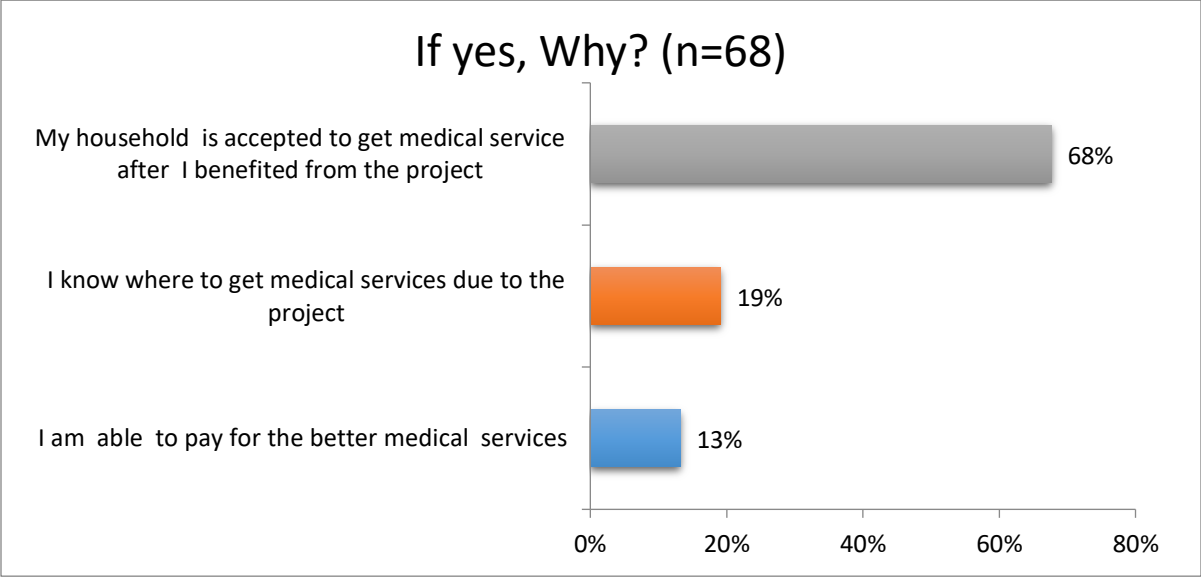


Figure 11: Reasons for better access to medical services before benefitting from the project



The survey also sought to enquire whether respondents’ children attend schools in the project locations. There was a significant difference in the children of the beneficiary group attending schools in the project locations as compared to those of the control group as far as access to schools was concerned. 26% of the children of the beneficiary group were attending schools in their current locations as compared to 49% of the children of the control group. Similarly, 22% of the beneficiary group children were not attending schools as compared to 15% of children of non-beneficiary group.

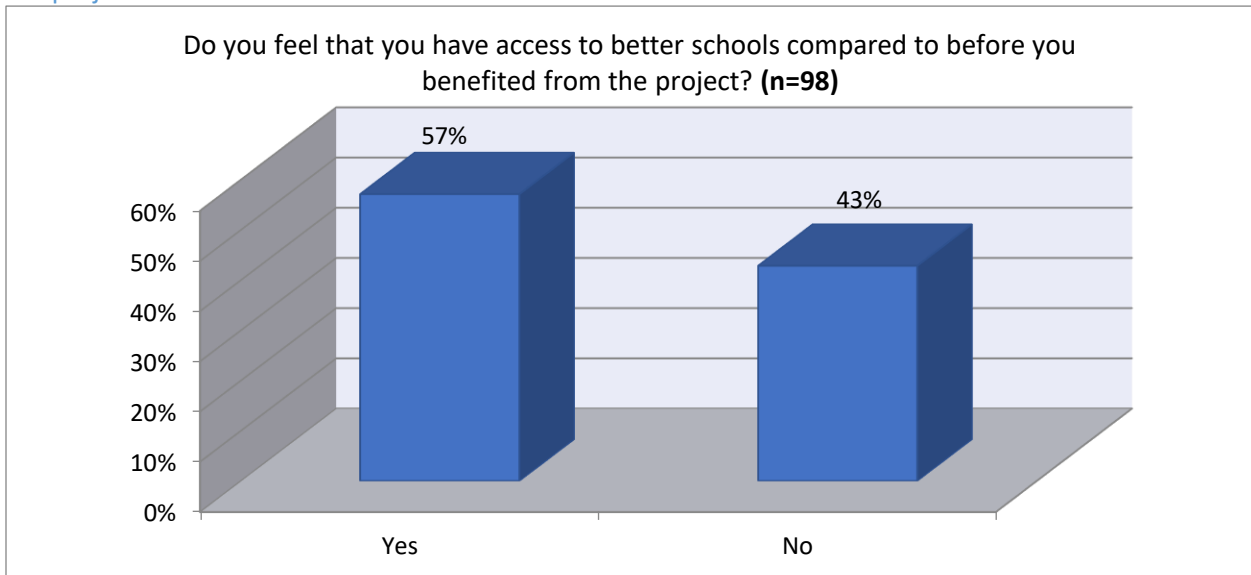
Table 21: Do your children attend school in this location?

Do your children attend school in this location?	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes, All attend	26%	49%	37%
Yes, some of them attend	52%	36%	44%
None attend	22%	15%	19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

It is important to note that one of the major (52%) reasons why the beneficiary’s children were not attending schools was that the children were underage. Cost was also another factor as mentioned by 33% of the respondents.

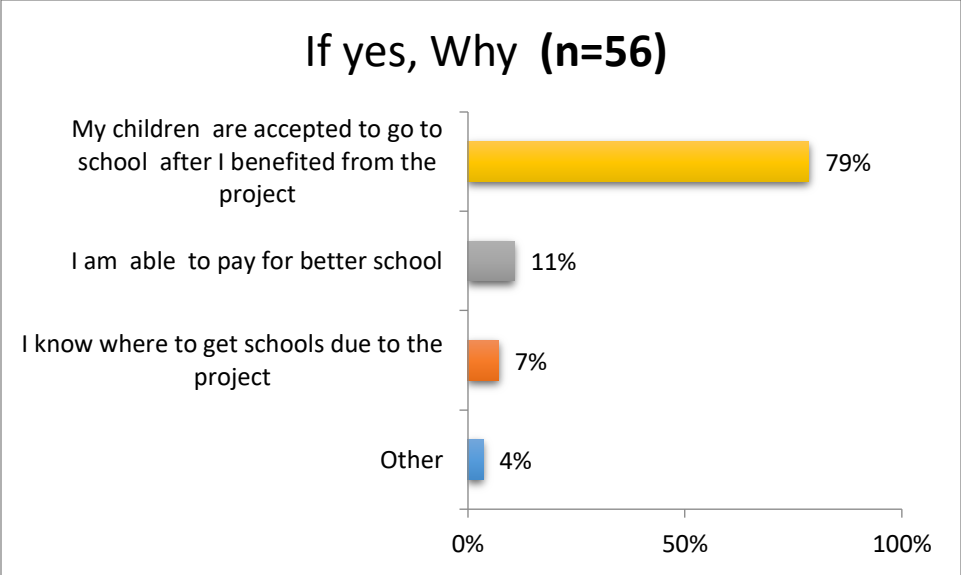
However, survey analysis shows that over a half (57%) of the beneficiary respondents felt that they have access to better schools compared to before benefitting from the project. Asked the reason why, majority (79%) of the respondents indicated that their children were accepted to go to school after the project. Also, 7% of the beneficiary group knew where to get the school due to the project and 11% of the beneficiary group was able to pay for better schools. Key informant interviews agreed with these results as they argued that since most of the women beneficiaries were from the regions they would easily mingle and interact with their neighbors, hence have their children accepted by the local communities.

**Figure 12:** Do you feel that you have access to better schools compared to before you benefited from the project?



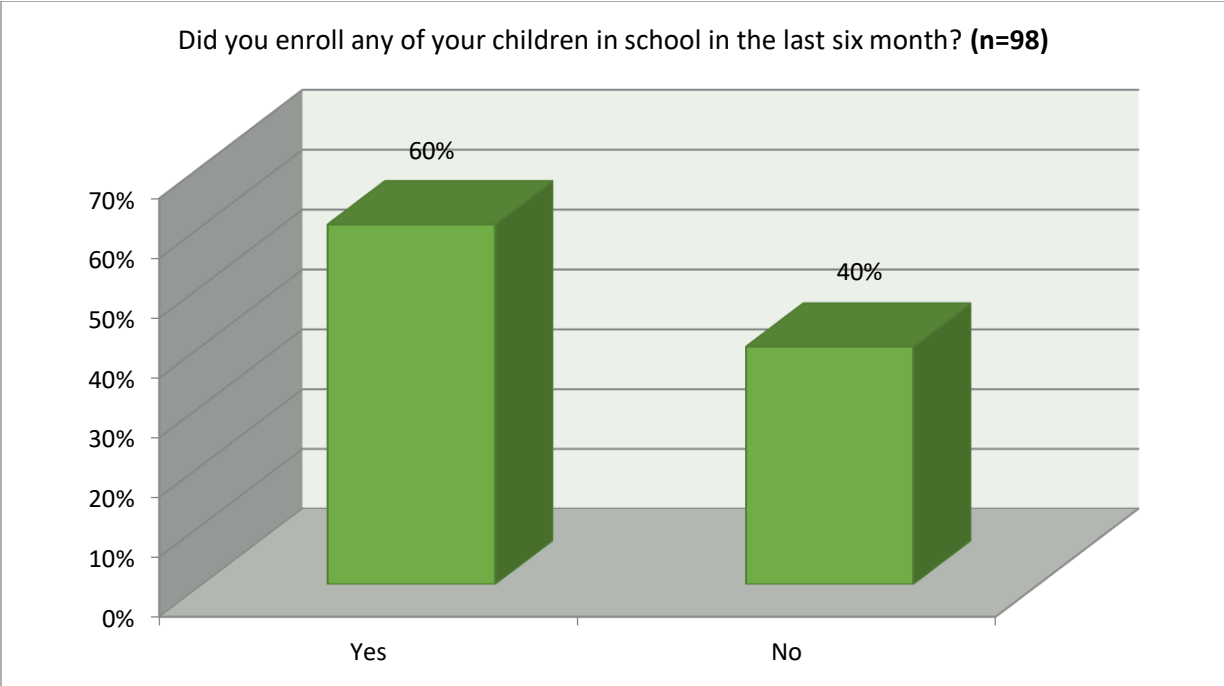
**Figure 13:** Reasons why you feel you have access to better schools





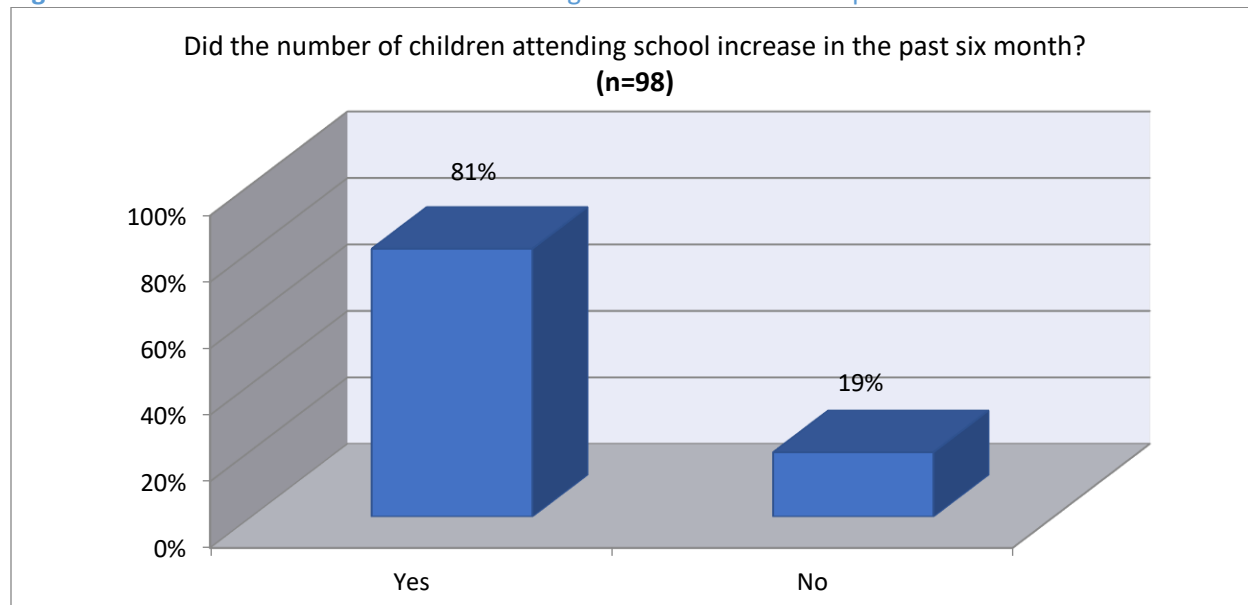
Moreover, survey data shows that over a half (60%) of the beneficiary group enrolled their children in school in the last six months, which is indicative of their enhanced access to social services at the project locations. This result was also echoed in the interviews with women CSO representatives in Baidoa and Mogadishu who expressed the increased confidence amongst these women enabled them to participate in and benefit from locally available services such as schools and health facilities.

**Figure 14:** Did you enroll any of your children in school in the last six months?



Consequently, 81% of the beneficiary respondents indicated that the number of children attending schools in the households has increased in the past six months. This translates to increased access to education, which remains a crucial social service these women missed while in their previous locations i.e. al-Shabaab-held areas.

**Figure 15: Did the number of children attending school increase in the past six months?**



Upon further enquiring on the type of school the children access, the beneficiaries' children access to private school increased by 11% in the end line (52%) as compared to the baseline survey (41%). Similarly, beneficiary children accessing Charity/NGO run schools also increase from 11% during the baseline survey to 19% during the end line survey. This points to the fact that the women supported under the project were adapting to their new areas of residences, which is a positive indication of prospect for sustainable reintegration. Moreover, despite schools in Somalia largely private and therefore relatively expensive, the increase in access to education further signifies that children of these vulnerable women have the same level of access to social amenities as those of the host communities.

**Table 22: What type of school do your children access in your location?**

What type of school do your children access in your location?	Baseline	Endline
	Beneficiary (n=98)	Beneficiary (n=98)
Private school	41%	52%
Government school	12%	9%
Charity/NGO run school	11%	19%
Other	12%	7%

No access to school	15%	7%
I have no children	9%	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Finally, overall access to basic social services has been reported to have tremendously improved since the project inception, and was slightly higher in comparison with the baseline assessment. For example, analysis shows that a greater proportion of the beneficiary respondents indicated improved access to health/medical (87%) services, education at 90%, and Shelter at 87%, as opposed to the baseline survey where improved access to health services stood at 85%, education at 86% and shelter at 83%.

**Table 23:** Has your household access to the following services changed after benefitting from the project?

Has your household access to the following services changed after benefitting from the project?	Stayed the same	Improved	Total
Health/medical	13%	87%	100%
Education	10%	90%	100%
Shelter	13%	87%	100%

### 3.3.5 Perception towards Female Al-Shabaab Defectors

Key among the objectives of the project was to develop a positive perception towards women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. Analysis shows that majority of the respondents thought that persons who left al-Shabaab are not in a worse situation than the rest of the communities - this is mentioned by the majority (70%) from the beneficiary group as well as the non-beneficiary group (69%). However, a considerable proportion (6%) of the non-beneficiary group did not know if persons who left the group are in a worse situation than the rest of the communities. Conversely, analysis from the baseline showed that majority (62%) of respondents reported that persons who left al-Shabaab are in the same situation as the rest of the communities in their current locations – an indication of an increased positive attitude towards these people.

**Table 24:** Do you think persons who left al-Shabaab are in a worse situation than the rest of the communities in this city?

Do you think Persons who left Alshabaab are in a worse situation than the rest of the communities in this city	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	30%	26%	28%

No	70%	68%	69%
I don't Know	0%	6%	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The level of reception of persons formerly associated with al-Shabaab is a key aspect of sustainable reintegration, especially in light of the suspicion and low trust people may have against them. To gauge respondents' opinion on whether they would accept people who left al-Shabaab, 86% of those interviewed reported to be able to welcome persons who left the group into their city; with this acceptance coming mostly (94%) from the beneficiary group.

**Table 25: Do you approve of Women who left Alshabaab living in your city?**

<b>Do you approve of Women who left Alshabaab living in your city</b>	<b>Beneficiary (n=98)</b>	<b>Non-Beneficiary (n=98)</b>	<b>Overall (n=196)</b>
Yes	94%	78%	86%
No	4%	9%	6%
Don't Know	2%	13%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Furthermore, in terms of whether respondents would accept women who left al-Shabaab being their neighbors, 46% of the respondents approved it. There was a discernable significant difference between the beneficiary group and non-beneficiary group as 64% of the beneficiary group approved of women who left al-Shabaab being their neighbors as compared to 28% of the control group. On the other hand, 49% of the non-beneficiary group disapproved of women who left the group being their neighbor as compared to 28% of the beneficiary group.

**Table 26: Do you approve of Women who left Alshabaab being your neighbors?**

<b>Do you approve of Women who left Alshabaab being your neighbors</b>	<b>Beneficiary (n=98)</b>	<b>Non-Beneficiary (n=98)</b>	<b>Overall (n=196)</b>
Yes	64%	28%	46%
No	28%	49%	38%
Don't Know	8%	23%	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Economic empowerment through employment opportunities for the women affected by AS is a great reintegration of this group to the society.<sup>6</sup> When asked if they thought a person who left

<sup>6</sup> UN Women Report on Virtual Discussion on Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration [https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/wps\\_onlinediscussions\\_instraw\\_2010\\_0.pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/wps_onlinediscussions_instraw_2010_0.pdf)

al-Shabaab should be given the same employment opportunities as the rest of the communities, 88% of all the respondents agreed, with majority (91%) of them being from the beneficiary group as compared to the non-beneficiary group (86%). It is also important to note that over a half (56%) of the respondents felt comfortable employing a woman who left the group, or working together with them. However, there is a significant difference between the beneficiary group and the non-beneficiary group - 71% of the beneficiary group felt comfortable employing a woman who left al-Shabaab, or working together with them as compared to 41% of the non-beneficiary group.

**Table 27:** Do you think persons who left al-Shabaab should be given the same employment opportunities as the rest of the communities?

Do you think Persons who left Alshabaab should be given the same employment opportunities as the rest of the communities	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	91%	86%	88%
No	4%	9%	7%
I don't Know	5%	5%	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 28:** Would you feel comfortable employing a woman, who left al-Shabaab, or working together with a woman who left al-Shabaab, or receiving services/goods from a woman who left al-Shabaab doing their job?

Would you feel comfortable employing a woman, who left Al-Shabaab, or working together with a woman who left Al-Shabaab, or receiving services/goods from a woman who left Al-Shabaab doing their job?	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	71%	41%	56%
No	26%	40%	33%
Don't Know	3%	19%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The survey further investigated respondents' views on whether they endorse their children schooling with those of al-Shabaab disengaged combatants. Overall, 88% of those interviewed approved of al-Shabaab defectors children going to school with their children. It is worth noting that there was no discernable significant difference between the beneficiary group and non-beneficiary group.

**Table 29:** Do you approve of Al-Shabaab defectors' children going to school with your children?

Do you approve of Al-Shabaab defectors' children going to school with your children	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
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Yes	89%	87%	88%
No	5%	10%	8%
I don't have children	6%	3%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Similarly, the survey asked respondents on whether they support women formerly associated with AS getting married to their sons. There was a discernable significant difference between the beneficiary group and control group on whether they approve of women who left al-Shabaab marrying their son. Overall, 73% of those interviewed approved it, with the beneficiary group showing the greatest proportion (87%) as compared to the non-beneficiary group (59%). It is worth noting that a considerable proportion (20%) of the non-beneficiary group did not know whether to approve of women who left Al-Shabaab marrying their sons.

**Table 30: Do you approve of a Woman who left Al-Shabaab marrying your son?**

Do you approve of a Woman who left Al-Shabaab marrying your son	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	87%	59%	73%
No	13%	21%	17%
Don't Know	0%	20%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.3.6 Community outreach and social reconciliation

In order to achieve a successful reintegration it is necessary to engage local community members to be part of the project activities and active social interaction and involvement. The project recognized local communities across Kismayo, Mogadishu and Baidoa as key players of the intervention, and hence were not seen as passive pools of support for DDR and peace-building programs, but involved participants. Our findings show that majority (65%) of the beneficiary group had participated in community outreach and social reconciliation events as compared to 43% of the non-beneficiary group.

**Table 31: Have you ever participated in community outreach and social reconciliation events in your area?**

Have you ever participated in community outreach and social reconciliation events in your area?	Beneficiary (n=98)	Non-Beneficiary (n=98)	Overall (n=196)
Yes	65%	43%	54%
No	35%	57%	46%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Upon enquiring their interaction with other participants in detail, 86% of respondents who participated in the community outreach and social reconciliation events agreed that their interaction with other participants was great; with the greatest proportion (88%) being the beneficiary group. 14% of those who participated agreed that the interaction with others was moderate.

**Table 32: How was your interaction with other participants?**

How was your interaction with other participants?	Beneficiary (n=49)	Non-Beneficiary (n=32)	Overall (n=81)
Great interaction	88%	84%	86%
Moderate interaction	12%	16%	14%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interviews with local women CSOs across the three districts highlighted that key to the reintegration of the women supported through the project was the community outreach activities. They noted that the outreach activities created a platform for women to mingle with their host community members, be able to make themselves comfortable and to feel confident and hence to develop good relationship with communities they exist within.

Among the various activities implemented, In Baidoa, the implementing partner organized a concert with 100 audiences, including 48 beneficiaries. The Bay-haw Music Band performed about the war and peace, highlighting the importance of community cohesion and peaceful coexistence.<sup>7</sup> In Kismayo, a lively drama focusing more on forgiveness and acceptance of defectors was held, which also raised awareness about the youth and women who are at risk of joining AS. The performance encouraged the participants that people in our community should not judge the defectors based on their past beliefs, but rather encourage them to change their mindsets. The drama further addressed the audience sensitizing that people should embrace peace and there should be no stigmatization of anyone in the society.<sup>8</sup>

**3.3.7 Project Results Framework**

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Endline
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<sup>7</sup> October (2019) Progress Report (Baidoa), IOM

<sup>8</sup> October (2019) Progress Report (Kismayo), IOM

<b>Outcome 1: Sustainable pathways for female defectors from Al Shabaab and women-led outreach and social reconciliation initiatives lead to increased defection from Al-Shabaab and lowered recruitment, and thereby positive security gains for target communities, by the end of 2019</b>	<b>Outcome Indicator 1.1:</b> Increase in the percentage of target community members indicating lowered recruitment among young people into Al-Shabaab within the last year.	83% of the participants in the study indicated a decrease in youth joining Al-Shabaab within last 6 months.	83% of the participants in the study indicated a decrease in youth joining Al-Shabaab within the last 6 months.
	<b>Outcome Indicator 1.2:</b> Increase in the percentage of target community members indicating increased defection from Al-Shabaab within the last year.  Baseline: To be determined at the start of the project Target 20% increase from the baseline	80% of the study participants indicated an increase in defection from Al-Shabaab within last year	80% of the study participants indicated an increase of defection from Al-Shabaab within last year
<b>Output 1: Sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of female defectors from Al-Shabaab through leveraging women-led community-based support networks</b>	1.1.1. Number of women (with or without dependents/households) supported with individualized care packages (age-disaggregated)	150 women formerly associated with al-Shabaab	150 women formerly associated with al-Shabaab
	1.1.2 % of beneficiaries reporting having access to services that met their needs after they defected and returned to their communities.	90% of the beneficiary group enjoyed the same level of security and protection as the local population. - Access to health/medical services:85%, education: 86% and shelter:83%.	- 93% of the beneficiary group enjoyed the same level of security and protection as the local population. - Improved access to health/medical services: 87%, education:90%, and shelter:87%
	1.1.3 % of beneficiaries reporting sustainable livelihoods after reintegrating back into their communities (age-disaggregated)	- 36% of beneficiaries aged 18 – 30 indicated income received is able to sustain them - 39% of beneficiaries aged 31 – 40 indicated that income received is able to sustain them - 25% of beneficiaries aged 41+ indicated that income	- 38% of beneficiaries aged 18 – 30 indicated income received is able to sustain them - 34% of beneficiaries aged 31 – 40 indicated that income received is able to sustain them - 28% of beneficiaries aged 41+ indicated that income



		received is able to sustain them	received is able to sustain them
<b>Output 2: Enhanced participation of women, including young women, in the Defector Rehabilitation Programme, and leadership role in outreach and community-based social reconciliation activities lead to inclusive peace building measures.</b>	1.2.2 Number of community members (age and gender disaggregated) that engage in communication, community outreach and social reconciliation events	- 19 female beneficiaries aged 18 – 30; 8 aged 31 – 40, and 2 aged 41+ engaged in communication, community outreach and social reconciliation events	- 20 female beneficiaries of aged 18 – 30; 16 aged 31 – 40; 13 aged 41+ engaged in communication, community outreach and social reconciliation events.
	1.2.3 % of target community members indicating positive perceptions regarding female Al-Shabaab defectors from different ages.	84% of all respondents expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.  70% of the non-beneficiary group expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.  Baidoa: 89% Mogadishu: 82% Kismayo: 80%	86% of all respondents expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.  78% of the non-beneficiary group expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.
	1.2.4 % of beneficiaries reporting that they felt socially accepted upon returning back to their communities	77% of the beneficiary group felt unaccepted upon returning back to their community.	95% of the beneficiary group felt that, in the last six months other community members treated them better and that they interact more. 2% of the beneficiary group felt no difference and 2% felt that others have treated them worse and they feel more isolated now.
<b>Output 3: Ministry of Internal Security Defector Rehabilitation Programme (DRP) capacity built to</b>	1.3.1 Women CSOs and women leaders report constructive interaction with Government stakeholders on P/CVE.	Women CSOs reported low interaction with government stakeholders	Involvement of DRP and NISA in the process enhanced constructive interaction with

implement gender responsive and inclusive interventions.			Government stakeholders
	1.3.2 Increase in knowledge of trained Government stakeholders on gender responsive policies and programmes	As with other institutions across government agencies, government stakeholders in the DDR program had low capacity, especially on gender programming.	DRP received training on gender programming and they had a gender focal person for the program in each of the three locations.

**3.4 Impact**

**Capacity Development**

Capacity development is considered a strategic support in most development work. The DRP’s involvement in the program enabled the agency to build its needed institutional capacity. . The DRP, with the help of IOM, developed a capacity building plan that included a training plan and technical assistance. DRP officials acknowledged that IOM program staff played a supportive role through continuous consultations and in providing useful inputs throughout program implementation.

In particular, the program provided gender-programming trainings to staff of the DRP that also deployed one gender focal point to each of the three districts, who also formed part of the project implementation and monitoring team. Furthermore, the involvement of DRP in program coordination and onsite monitoring of the DDR activities provided hands-on experience for the institution’s staff. Likewise, the project staff of the implementing partners noted that the trainings on Finance and Monitoring and Evaluation were particularly very helpful in enriching their capacity as it was also translated in Somali for ease of understanding.

**3.5 Program Sustainable Results**

The project made important contributions to enhanced reintegration of women formerly associated with al-Shabaab, hence the successful reception and reintegration of 150 women and their household members. The improving situation of these women, as shown by the findings of the evaluation gives the various stakeholders, partners and national and regional authorities more confidence to move ahead with similar initiatives.

Furthermore, the capacity building component which targeted both the implementing partners and DRP would go a long way in furthering the capability of these institutions, especially on DDR. Similarly, the vocational skills training and numeracy and literacy skills that targeted all the women beneficiaries will forever remain with the participants of those crucial trainings.

Nevertheless, the sustainability of these achievements depends on the framework conditions that the demobilized and persons previously associated with the militant group face. The regional and ethnic differences and overall grinding poverty means that stability in the country, as a whole, is still fragile. Ensuring a sense of social belonging and a long-term stake in national economic development provide powerful incentives for former combatants to continue their civilian lives. Hence, supporting the national government address the needs of persons formerly associated with al-Shabaab will remain an important matter for state stability.

### **3.6 Programme Monitoring & Coordination**

Although the project was sensitive and high-risk, support to improve the program's M&E was provided by IOM to the implementing partners. In addition, the program team ensured that the results framework guided the day-to-day activities of the DDR with staff conducting periodic follow-up. Assessments. The project officers and the M&E officer tracked performance, using tools such as attendance sheets, field reports and photos.

IOM, DRP and the implementing partners jointly conducted coordination of the project activities. This strategy ensured that there was effective hands-on modality of delivering a sensitive and risky endeavor. This kind of partnership further ensured complementarity, which also enhanced the project's prospect for successful implementation. For example, the issuance of identity cards was done after screening by NISA in collaboration with DRP, while IOM and the implementing partners ensured the beneficiaries opened their bank accounts at Salaam Bank.

### **Challenges & Lessons Learned**

#### **Challenges**

The project faced a number of challenges due to its sensitivity and context of the areas where it was implemented. To begin with, the capacity of the implementing partners was quite low, especially on DDR project, which involves relevant technicalities. This has had an impact on their communication and reporting of program progress, which was crucial for monitoring and tracking of indicators.

In addition, participation in the outreach activities by both the program beneficiaries and local communities was challenging as staff felt insecure. This was also the case for the program staff, especially the social workers who always struggled to balance safety concerns while ensuring they implement project activities as required. Furthermore, there was an initial lack of trust

especially by the government amongst the beneficiaries – but this was later sorted through screening by NISA.

### **Lessons learned**

- Partnership with key stakeholders such as the special government agencies is very important in sensitive programs such as the project under review. DRP proved very helpful in supporting activities that wouldn't have been done by IOM and the implementing partners alone, this included the screening of persons (through NISA) supported by the program.
- Local partners are key to ensuring the smooth implementation of programs such as this. While they did not have all the requisite capacity to effectively deliver, their local connections and the rapport they have with local communities remain valuable in program implementation.
- Quality assurance in M&E requires dedicated resources and attention. In order to track performance, databases need to be set up with clarity on which variables the program wishes to track, preferably with consistency across regions if program similarity makes this logical and possible.
- Funding for important programs such as DDR that contributes to overall peace and stability requires more predictable and long-term engagement than the *ad hoc* pilot initiatives to enhance achievement of sustainable results.
- Reintegration is more complex and long-term than simple reinsertion, and while a DDR program normally cannot do full-term reintegration, monitoring systems and support should have been in place to ensure that regional authorities could continue to track progress.

## **CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The project succeeded in reintegrating 150 women formerly associated with al-Shabaab, which is a major contribution to the country's stability. Overall, the evaluation established that all planned activities were delivered within the stipulated time frame. The delivery approach adopted by IOM and partners in engaging multi-stakeholders including government agencies has been critical in bringing a wide range of actors around the table, providing a conducive environment for joint programming, and providing a forum for exchange of views, experiences and new knowledge. Stakeholders appreciated this mechanism of program implementation which enhanced learning and meeting, and especially since there were no or few other such joint forums in DDR programming across the country available at the level of the DDR bodies. However, it is important to highlight that being a pilot and short-term program, the sustainability of beneficiaries' reintegration is fragile, pointing to the need for a more robust and wide-scale DDR program to track and – where needed – help program longer-term reintegration.

### **Recommendations**

- There is a need to roll out the program to more women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. While the pilot program targeted 150 women across the three locations, expanding the program to more women is recommended.
- Prioritizing community engagement and participation, including vulnerable groups, in the design/implementation, monitoring and evaluation of future DDR to maximize human security should be considered. Despite the sensitivity of the DDR programs, future similar initiatives should be community-based and locally owned. That is, the engagement of locals from the outset, who understand the community context within which DDR, is taking place and who can engender local ownership, build confidence and trust and also strengthen social capital.
- IOM and partners should prioritize gender issues in DDR programming, both to address vulnerabilities associated with gender but also to ensure that women in particular have the opportunity to contribute to community security and recovery. For example, gender-sensitive programming should be considered in future DDR interventions where what roles are appropriate for women and men are clearly stipulated, and how these are shaped by other forms of exclusion prevalent in fragile situations.
- Future DDR programmes should make stronger DDR connections with reconciliation efforts. DDR should connect more strongly with traditional community reconciliation and dispute mechanisms which are often damaged during the conflict but which have a critical role in holding communities together.
- Build the knowledge and capacity of women formerly associated with AS in areas of reintegration and social reconciliation and engage them as primary local change agents as this would give them the opportunity of working with community leaders and becoming

part of the cadre of peace activists at the community level.