

## Introduction and objectives

IOM in collaboration with CRAterre conducted a participatory assessment of local habitat and building cultures in Baidoa, Somalia, from November 2022 to January 2023. The assessment focused on the Tawakal and Buulo Berde IDP sites in Howl Wadaag urban village.

### Objectives:

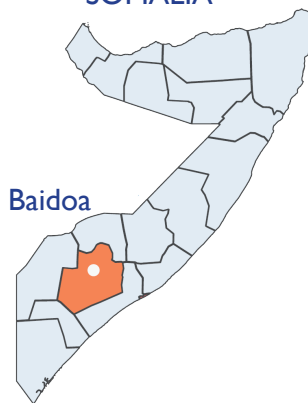
- Evaluate existing local building practices and lifestyles.
- Train local staff on assessment methodologies.
- Contextualize and localize IOM shelter projects.
- Contribute to sustainable shelter solutions in Somalia.
- Develop a local building practices profile (Shelter Response Profile) for Somalia.

## Assessment activities

- Research of secondary sources.
- Preparatory work, adaptation of assessment materials and coordination with authorities.
- Training sessions for enumerators and IOM staff to build local capacity.
- Community consultation: interview with authorities (1 person), accompanied visit (4), collective interview (15), women's FGD (10), builders and construction workers FGD (5), household interviews (6).
- Direct observation and transect walk.

### SOMALIA

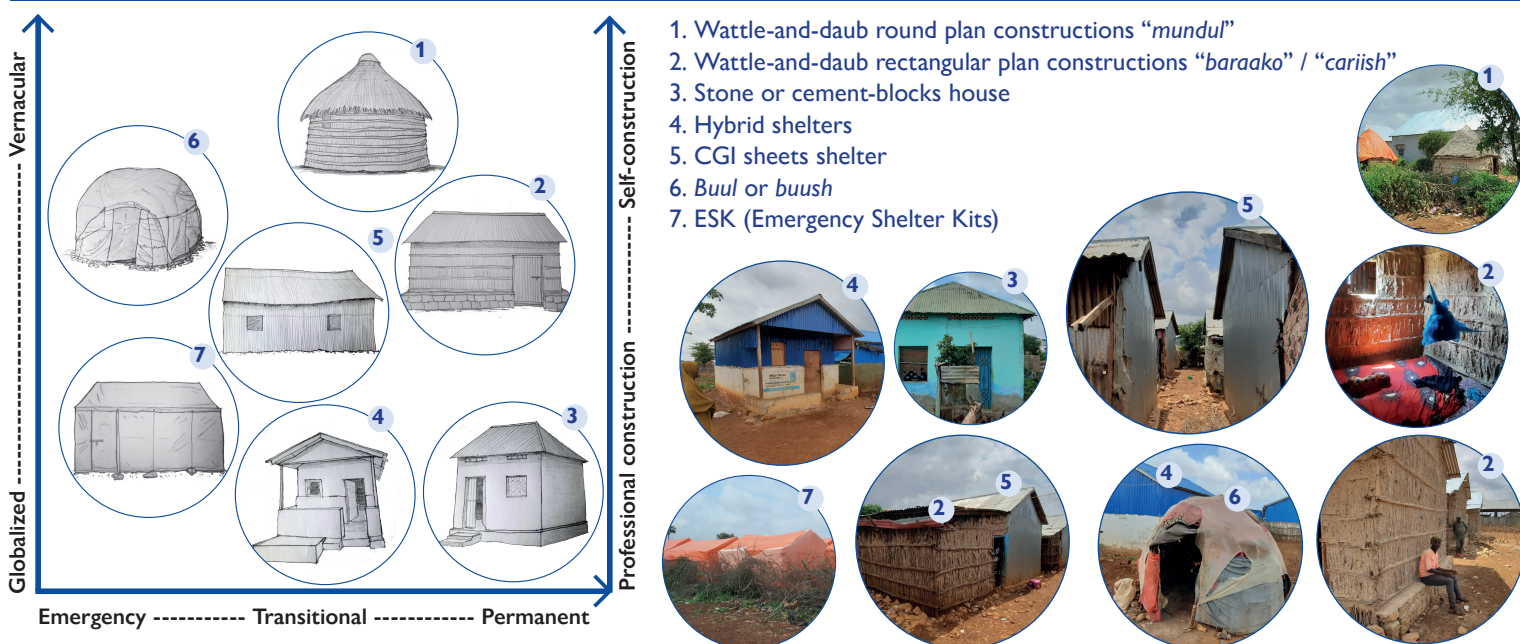
### Baidoa



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## AFFORDABLE HOUSING / SHELTER CONSTRUCTION TYPOLOGIES



## KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

► **Exposure to risks:** Various hazards are present in the city, such as flooding mainly due to inadequate drainage, harmful effects of the Harmattan winds, and a lack of green spaces. → **Develop efficient drainage systems to prevent flooding, sensitize about the importance of maintaining the surroundings of shelters with domestic drainage systems, create green spaces.**

► **Access to water:** Households face challenges accessing clean water, which is crucial for both domestic use and construction. → **Enhance the distribution and accessibility of clean water to reduce the burden on women and children. Potential solutions include creating wells, promoting rainwater harvesting systems, and advocating for water allocation per capita.**

► **Health, hygiene, and sanitation:** Sanitation is poor, with one latrine shared by approximately 100 people, leading to deplorable hygiene conditions. Waste management is mostly self-managed → **Improve the ratio of users per latrine, promote access to water for hygiene, and establish community waste management systems.**

► **Community engagement and skill transfer:** Construction is often a communal effort, fostering social cohesion and ensuring the transfer of building knowledge. Mutual support systems such as the traditional "goob" are used in construction. Also, skilled traditional laborers are respected, and efforts are made to preserve these skills. → **Encourage mutual aid practices and create income-generating opportunities through construction activities.**

► **Sustainable use of materials:** Locally sourced materials are used in construction due to their availability and affordability. However, the overuse of timber is leading to deforestation. On the other hand, carbon footprint is an important issue created by imported materials. → **Promote the use of local techniques (e.g. wattle-and-daub) within a forestry management framework. Mudbricks (not a local technique, thus training and supervision are needed) can be a sustainable alternative, reducing deforestation and carbon footprint.**

► **Housing conditions:** Most shelters are small and overcrowded, many are in poor condition and lack durability (e.g. buul or ESK), and others lack thermal comfort as they are inadapted to local climate conditions (e.g. CGI sheets shelters). → **Vernacular techniques suit the local climate and expertise. Industrial materials like cement, concrete blocks, and corrugated iron sheets can play a positive role regarding durability when used in good combination with local materials (e.g. cement and stone foundation, CGI sheets roofing).**

► **Cultural adaptation:** Most shelters lack of cultural adaptation, as they do not provide enough privacy, enough rooms for gender separation or they are not secure enough. Households seek improvements, but economic constraints limit these efforts. → **Promote dignified shelter solutions with big enough plots facilitating extensions, enough rooms or shelter surface, partitions...**

**Conclusion:** The assessment highlights the need for contextualized shelter solutions that leverage local strengths and address identified issues. The recommendations aim to improve living conditions and shelter quality, promote social cohesion, and support sustainable development in Baidoa. Regular updates and community validation of findings are essential for the ongoing relevance of the assessment.