

Introduction and objectives

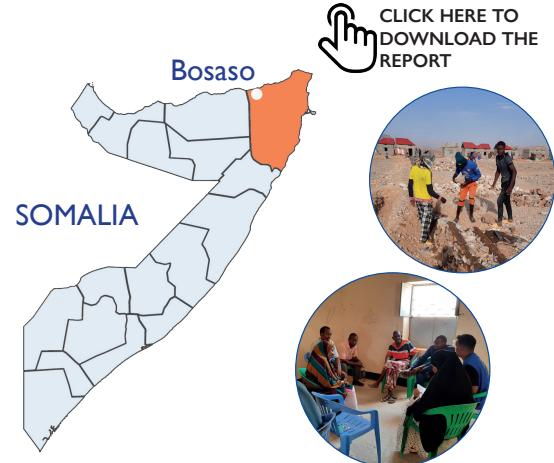
IOM in collaboration with CRAterre conducted a participatory assessment of local habitat and building cultures in Bosaso, Somalia, from July to September 2023. The assessment focused on the Gible 1 and 2, Tawakal, and 100 Buush IDP sites, as well as on the town centre.

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.

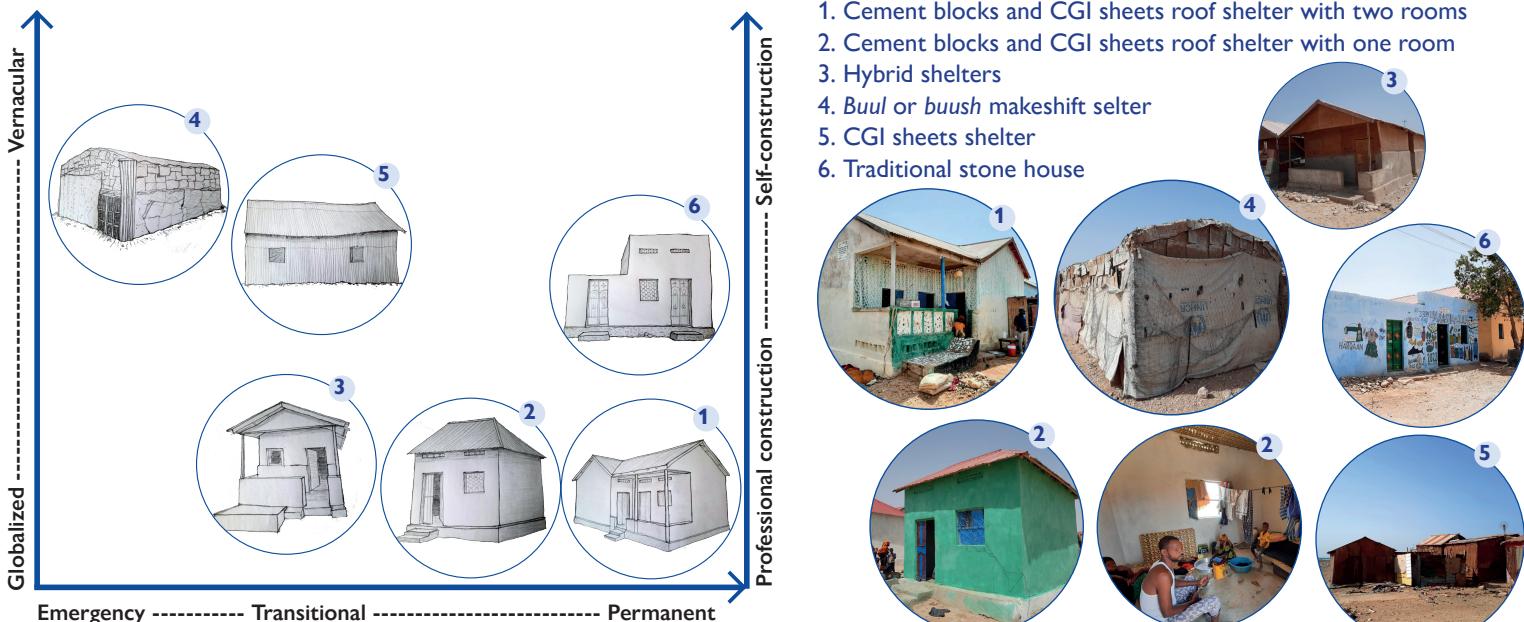
Assessment activities

- 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: accompanied visit (13), collective interview (15), women's FGD (10), builders and construction workers FGD (5), household interviews (12), visit to suppliers/manufacturers of materials (3).
- Direct observation and transect walk.



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING / SHELTER CONSTRUCTION TYPOLOGIES



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

► **Security of tenure:** IDPs in informal sites rent small plots of land to landlords, where they build makeshift shelters. They are in high risk of eviction and the main aspect they would change is their own security of tenure. → *Continue researching suitable land for the development of durable solutions for IDPs (as in Gible).*

► **Water, health, hygiene, and sanitation:** Access to water is very time consuming for women and children. Sanitation is poor, with high ratios of users per latrine. Health hazards from poor sanitation and deficient waste management lead to waterborne diseases. → *Construct private or collective latrines (less than 20 users / latrine). Build more water taps closer to households and elevated water tanks. Establish waste management systems.*

► **Sustainable use of materials:** Local stone is less and less used in construction despite its availability and good thermal comfort. On the other hand, carbon footprint is an important issue of imported materials (CGI sheets, cement...). → *Promote the use of local stone. Mudbricks (not used anymore in Bosaso, thus training and supervision needed) can be a sustainable alternative (no deforestation and low carbon footprint).*

► **Site selection:** Proximity to Bosaso's city center is crucial for access to services, employment opportunities, and markets. However, Gible IDP sites are located far from the city, limiting residents' ability to integrate economically and socially into the broader community. → *Prioritize locations closer to the city center for new shelter projects, and ensure transportation options for distant sites.*

► **Community engagement and skill transfer:** Community members assist each other in building makeshift homes. These mechanisms reduce construction costs and strengthen community bonds and facilitate skill transfer → *Strengthen solidarity mechanisms providing training and resources to community groups. Create income-generating opportunities through construction. Train local labor in alternative construction methods.*

► **Housing conditions:** Most informal shelters are small and overcrowded, many are in poor condition and lack durability (e.g. buul), 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).*

Conclusion: Significant challenges related to droughts, extreme heat, environmental sustainability, community health and inadequate housing conditions persist in Bosaso. The recommendations emphasize promoting sustainable sourcing of materials, integrating industrial and local materials, and enhancing community-driven construction projects. The report advocates for programs that support sustainable and resilient shelter development, ensuring improved living conditions while preserving the environment.