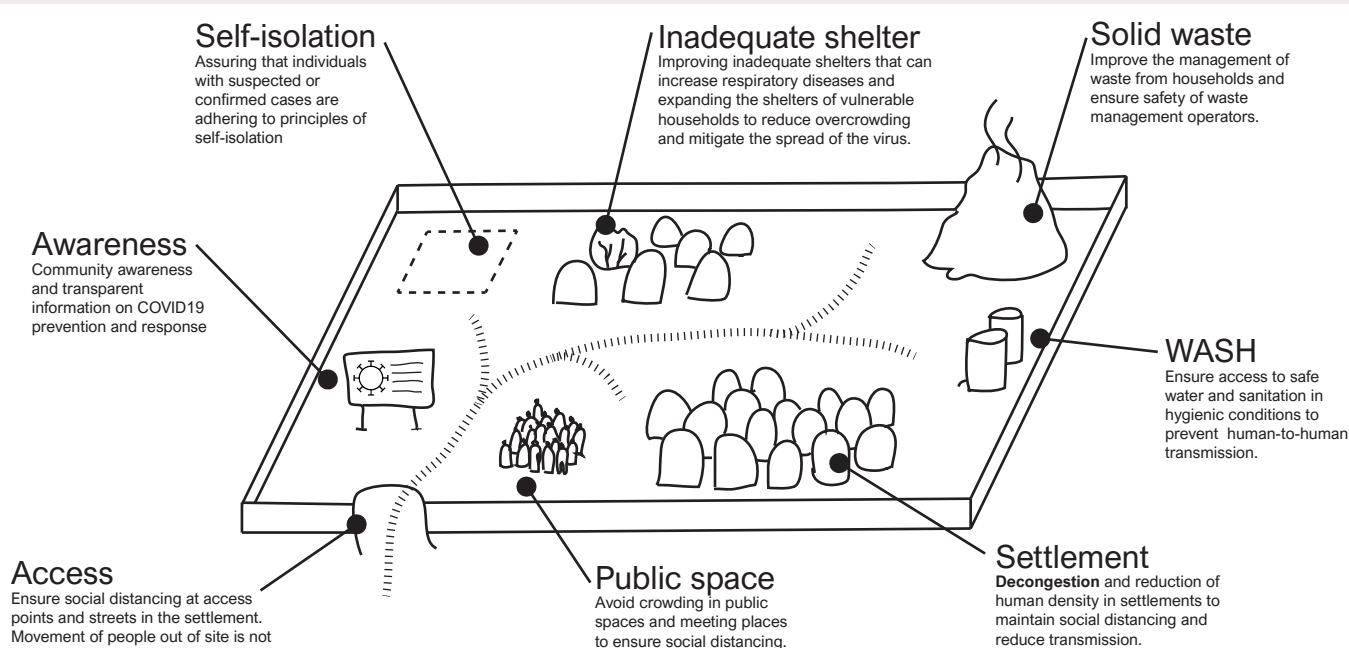


DECONGESTION of IDP settlements

as a prevention and control measure for COVID-19 pandemic in Somalia

Somalia has 2.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have limited access to quality essential healthcare, water and sanitation services and live in more than 2,000 sites in crowded living conditions in urban and semi-urban areas. COVID-19 pandemic poses an additional challenge in this already fragile context where it may further hinder access to basic services, leaving the population highly vulnerable. The present document has been jointly developed by Shelter Cluster, CCCM Cluster and UN-Habitat Somalia and outlines the overall guidance for the decongestion and upgrading IDP settlements to reduce the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

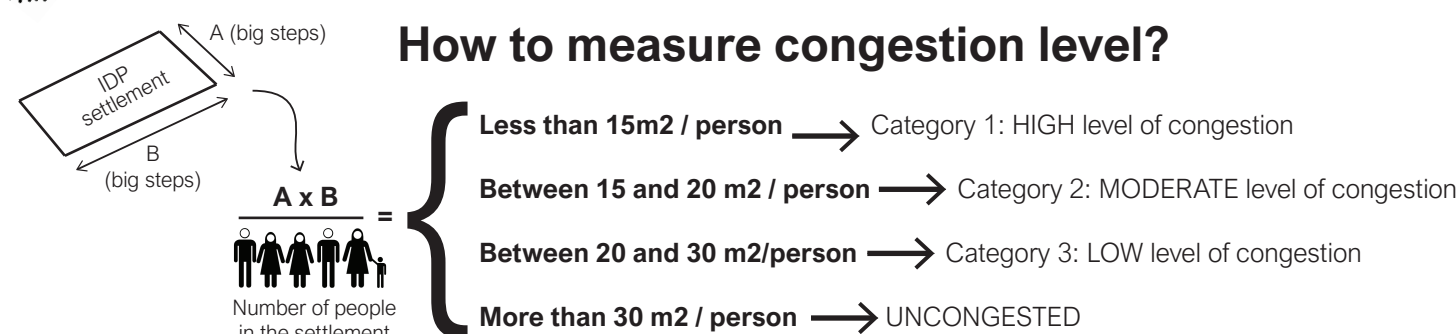
1 COVID-19 and IDP settlements



2 What is DECONGESTION ?

Decongestion is one of the main measures to mitigate the spread of pandemic COVID19 in IDP settlements in Somalia and consists of reducing the human density of the settlements in order to maintain social distance and reduce the transmission of the virus. In addition, the high density of IDP settlements causes:

- Risk of **fire outbreaks** worsened by the highly flammable shelter materials used by IDPs
- Risk of **flooding**. High density of shelters prevents the natural drainage of water, increasing risks of epidemics.
- Risk of **Gender Based Violence**. Overcrowding can exacerbate domestic violence and sexual assault by non-family members.
- Risk of **transmission of other communicable diseases**.



3 How can we DECONGEST ?

The plan for the decongestion of a settlement will depend on availability of both suitable land and funding. Community engagement is key in order to ensure successful decongestion.

- Checking land availability**
- How much land is needed?**
Calculate current and expected density. Check amount of land needed and number of people that should be moved to reach that density.
- Look for vacant land**
Land should be adjacent to the site.
If there is no vacant land, small reconfiguration activities within the site should be considered.
If this is not feasible, then partners should work on advocating for a more durable housing .
- Check land has clear ownership, free from claims / disputes**
Assessment: engagement with communities and landowner + official confirmation from local authority.
Encouraging written agreement.
- Avoid natural hazards and contaminated areas**
Avoid flood prone areas, next to steep slopes, or have been contaminated by chemicals or pollutants.
Assessment: engagement with communities + spatial analysis.

- Infrastructure mapping and re-arrangement needs**
All mapping and re-arranging actions should be done in coordination with camp leaders and the site governance committees
- Road network and open spaces**
Every part of the settlement should be accessible either by main roads (6m wide) or minor roads (3m).
Roads should be straight, perpendicular to each other and should have proper drainage and light.
Open spaces should be left to be developed into public spaces or services by the communities.
- Latrines**
At least 1 per 20 person, divided between women and men and accessible for people with disabilities.
At a distance of no more than 50m and no less than 5m from any shelter.
At a minimum distance of 30m from any water source. In a visible place for safety reasons.
- Water / hand-washing points**
At least 1 per 80 person
Waterpoints at a distance of no more than 500m and no less than 5m from any shelter and latrine.
With an open area of 2m by 2m, around community areas or close to the main road.
- Community services**
Social facilities should be located near to major paths or nodes and connected to open spaces.
- Solid waste collection**
Garbage Collection Points at a distance of 30m from any shelter and waterpoints, directly reachable from the main road to facilitate collection.
Garbage Collection Site at a distance of no more than 500m and no less than 5m from any shelter and waterpoints

- Community engagement and accountability**
Ensure community participation and establish feedback and information management mechanisms
Utilize safety audit action plans and recommendations to ensure that reconfigured sites include infrastructure that mitigates Gender-Based Violence risks

- Community awareness and consultations**
Community awareness in COVID19 risk and decongestion and upgrading needs. Individual households and community consultation through Focus Group Discussions involving group leaders and minority groups.
- Settlement Upgrading Plan (SUP)**
SUP development based on infrastructure mapping and community consultations.
SUP presentation, discussion and endorsement by community and stakeholders.
Selection of households to be reallocated to the new site considering clusters of shelters, family relations, community dynamics and place of origin.
Piloting a first rearranged cluster to sensitize community in the benefit of the decongestion
Emergency Shelter Kits and technical advice can be provided to support shelters reconstruction following SUP

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