

AVSI Cross-Border Approach between Kenya and Somalia

December 2019

Dadaab refugee camps - Background

- Dadaab refugee camp complex is located in Kenya (Garissa County) 80 km from the border with Somalia.
- The first emergency camp was established in Ifo to accommodate about 90,000 initial influx from Somalia in 1991 (as consequence of Siad Barre government).
- Kenya had established two other camps (Hagadera and Dagahaley) to accommodate the increasing number of asylum seekers and the refugees in 1993.
- The number of the refugee population was the highest following a drought- triggered influx of 2011- 2012 where the population reached around 500,000, which necessitated the expansion by opening of two new camps: Ifo 2 and Kambioss.
- The Government of Kenya initiated a Voluntary Repatriation Program (VolRep) to encourage the Somali refugees to voluntarily repatriate back to their country. From 2015, 88,177 refugees went back mainly to Mogadishu and Kismayo (in IDP camps); process almost concluded (just 1889 repatriation in 2018).
- Adoption of Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) at UN General Assembly, New York, 2016; adoption of Nairobi Declaration and Djibouti Declaration (2017).
- The current population in Dadaab is 212,936 refugees (August 2019) out 479,194 refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (furthermore 191,500 refugees are established in Kakuma and 74,758 in urban area; 258,710 are Somali, 119,920 South Sudan, 42,701 from DRC).

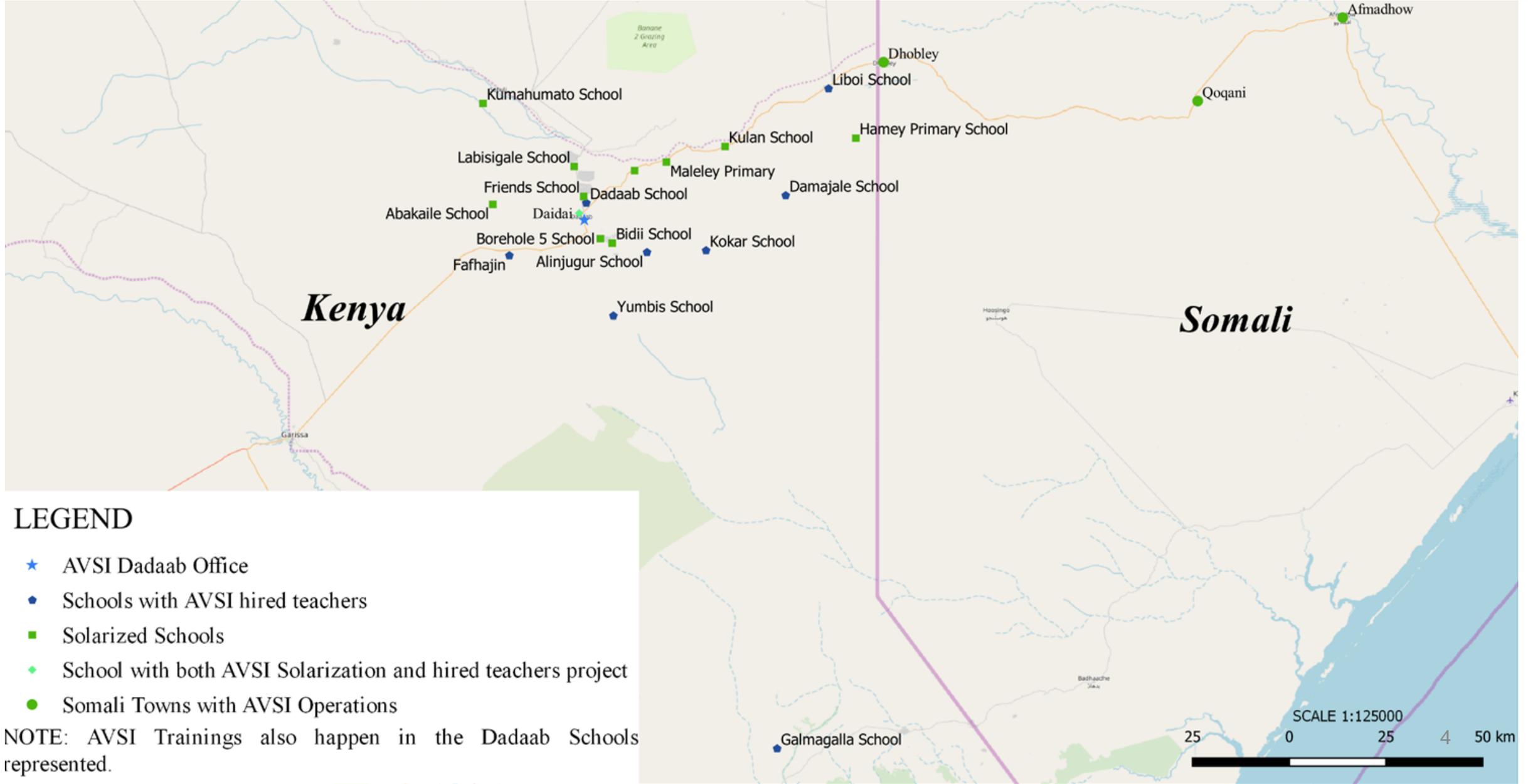
AVSI operations in Dadaab

AVSI started operations in Dadaab in 2009 thanks to the support of the Italian Cooperation.

Thanks to several donors (Italian Cooperation, UNICEF, US Government / BPRM, EU Delegation in Somalia, ENI) with an investment of 12 millions euro, AVSI achieved the following results:

- 193 classrooms rehabilitated in 48 schools
- 134 new classrooms constructed
- 7 new schools and 24 education facilities were supported
- 15 ECD Centres rehabilitated and constructed
- 10 education facilities constructed (Libraries and Teacher training centres)
- 5 Green Houses constructed
- 4 ICT centres fully developed and equipped with training equipment
- 11 schools solarized for a total of 38.4 kWh and provided with 47 computers
- 2,435 teachers trained at various levels with special attention to female participation
- 1,543 youths trained on life skills, environmental conservation and peace building in supporting the refugees who voluntarily return to Somalia

AVSI cross-border interventions



AVSI cross-border interventions

- **2015-17, SERD II Project**, financed by EU Delegation in Somalia: 600 teachers trained on using Somali as a language of instruction in ECD and lower primary school levels in Dadaab; elaboration of *A baseline survey of knowledge, attitudes and practices in Somali language in education policy in Dadaab refugee camps* and presentation in a workshop with DG MoE of Somalia;
- **2017-18, Project financed by BPRM** (US Government) with components on: Development of *The Kenya – Somalia Ministry of Education (MoE) Policy Guidelines for placement and equation of teachers and learners competencies upon repatriation by Somali refugees*; info point for Voluntary Repatriation on education system in Somalia;
- **2018: Emergency Project** *Azione d'emergenza per la resilienza delle famiglie e le comunità colpite da siccità in Jubaland* (AID 11248) financed by AICS on agriculture, nutrition, WASH and protection sectors in Lower Juba (Afmadow District) in favor also of returnees from Dadaab;
- **2018-20, Project financed by BPRM** (US Government) with components on: info point for Voluntary Repatriation on education system in Somalia; support to primary schools; participation in the development of *The Refugee Education Policy for Ministry of Education of Kenya*.

In Somalia, AVSI is registered as INGO at the Minister of Interior, Federal Republic of Somali and Jubaland State of Somalia, even if operations are conducted from Nairobi and Dadaab offices; collaborations with the Ministry of Education (MoE) at Federal level and Jubaland State and Governor of Lower Juba.

AVSI cross-border interventions

Work plan 2020-22:

- **Extension of interventions in host community around Dadaab camp** in line with Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) approach and Garissa Socio Economic Development Plan in Garissa County.
- **Development of cross-border projects in Kenya - Somalia on:**
 - Quality Education (out-of-school children, teacher training, infrastructure)
 - Peacebuilding for adolescents and youths (scouts, CSO strengthening)
 - Job creation and agri-business according graduation approach
 - Women empowerment (CSO strengthening)

