



ReDSS Durable solutions framework

The search for durable solutions to the protracted displacement situation in the region is a key humanitarian and development concern. This is a regional/cross border issue, dynamic, with a strong political dimension, and which demands a multi-sectorial response that goes beyond the existing humanitarian agenda. Currently, more than 8 million people are internally displaced and a further 3.4 million have sought refuge in neighboring countries. Although most have been displaced for several years or even decades, few have access to durable solutions' prospects.

The aim of the Solutions Framework for displacement affected communities¹

ReDSS seeks to examine the conditions for durable solutions for displaced persons in East and Horn of Africa, and to highlight the important roles and contributions of the various sectors (humanitarian, development, human rights and peace-building) in creating favourable conditions in the search for durable solutions. Affirming that the three solutions (voluntary repatriation, local (re)integration or resettlement elsewhere)² are processes, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) operationalised the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs **to develop the ReDSS Solutions framework for displacement affected communities. It comprises the 8 IASC criteria using 30 IASC indicators organised around:**

- a) **Physical Safety** – safety and security
- b) **Material Safety** – adequate standards of living, access to livelihoods, restoration of housing land and property.
- c) **Legal Safety** – access to documentation, family reunification, participation in public affairs, access to effective remedies and justice.

The framework is a rapid assessment tool that offers a snapshot in time to assess to what extent durable solutions for displaced populations have been achieved in a particular context.

A traffic light system has been developed to assess the status of each indicator. The traffic light provides a comparative assessment of conditions between the displaced and the host community.

The framework can be used as an analytical and programmatic tool and as a joint monitoring and evaluation tool to support coordination and identify gaps and needs of displacement affected communities. It provides common overall outcomes (minimum skeleton) and then detailed activities based on the result will be developed and adapted to the local context. The objective is to improve and standardize the generation and availability of relevant data and analysis to better and more consistently operationalize joint response plans based on evidence in the search of durable solution in East Africa. **The process is guided by the 9 IASC principles³.**

Traffic Light System

The traffic light system is used to rate against the indicator groupings of: Access to Documentation, Family Reunification, Participation in Public Affairs, Access to Effective Remedies & Justice, Safety & Security, Adequate Standard of Living, Access to Livelihoods and Housing, Land & Property. The rating for each indicator is decided based on information available at the time of the review.

- **Green** indicates that the policy conditions exist for achievement, and that, in practice it is well on its way to being achieved
- **Orange** denotes that some obstacles exist to achievement and the indicator has not been fully met
- **Red** means that the standard is far from met.
- **White** means no data and information

Key foundations for a durable solution process

- *A durable solution is achieved when displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.*
- *The search for durable solutions requires a multi-sectoral, rights and needs based programming approach addressing physical, material and legal safety*
- *Political will and longer term investment from development actors are critical in the search of durable solutions for displacement affected communities. The inclusion of displacement and durable solutions issues in regional and national development plans is key for this.*
- *Direct engagement of displacement affected communities is paramount to make these solutions lasting, locally relevant and feasible. A participatory process is key to support return and reintegration and to ensure social inclusion.*

¹ The term 'displacement affected communities' entails all displaced populations and host communities.

² Page 8 of IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons specifically notes "...a long-term process of gradually diminishing displacement-specific needs, while ensuring that IDPs enjoy their rights without discrimination related to their displacement" and that "a solution may become durable only years, or even decades, after the physical movement to the place of origin or place of Settlement has taken place, or the decision to locally integrate has been made."

³ Government responsibility/ Access for humanitarian and development initiatives and monitoring/ People's rights, needs and interests are the primary concern/ Displacement affected communities' Information, consultation and participation/ Respect for displaced communities' options/ Prohibition of coercion/ Non-discrimination/ Support for host communities/ Continued protection.

Key challenges

- The indicators aim to achieve minimum standards: this raises questions of the 'quality' of durable solutions available in contexts experiencing chronic crises, specifically in comparison to areas where local standards are already low.
- Most data sources, measurements and ratings of the indicators reflect a context of humanitarian service provision that is determined by displacement status rather than an equal legal status to the national population. This can confuse discussions around minimum standards where the local / host population may be worse off than displaced hosted in their area.
- The lack of comparative data and analysis within and across displacement affected populations, and in comparison to local populations and national standard, is a key challenge.
- Access to quantitative data on some indicators is really challenging due to lack of standardisation of data management and lack of a common framework

Piloting phase

The Solutions framework is a first step towards having a common rapid assessment tool to measure durable solutions achievements for displacement affected communities in the region. The next steps involve further development and pilot testing of the framework in different operational and policy contexts.

The participatory process in which the framework tool is further developed and tested, through engaging with partners and building consensus, is key to ensuring its relevance and appropriateness, including learning from challenges and managing different opinions and perspectives to reach common objectives. The fact that it is currently being tested in different context and settings is also key to be able to demonstrate how to best use and adapt it. The objective of the piloting phase is to improve the standardization, generation and availability of relevant data and analysis to better and more consistently operationalize joint response plans based on evidence. This involves:

- The adoption by a wide of range of actors of an updated **Solutions framework tool for IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities** with standard indicators addressing physical, material and legal rights and needs of displacement affected communities. It will allow actors to better work together based on joint analysis, targeting and common accountability. **A technical working group and a steering committee** composed of ReDSS members and key stakeholders (JIPS, UNHCR...) will lead the development process, to ensure ownership, efficiency and effectiveness.
- **A collective process and consensus building.** The process is transformational by focusing not only on technical quality but on consensus building at each stage of its development. By bringing a wide range of actors to develop it further, stakeholders will have a common tool for working together to inform durable solutions strategies and response, and for building comprehensive baselines against which to monitor progress over time. This framework tool represents a unique way of informing joint program planning at the granular level in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Actors will be able to tailor programming according to a common logical framework around solutions.
- **Development of guidance for adaption to different audience and use in different contexts** to allow for comparison within and between groups and to learn from different settings. **A protocol to support disaggregation of data** will also be developed, as displacement affected populations (IDPs, refugees, returnees, and host communities) have different vulnerabilities, protection needs and capacities depending on their age, gender and diversity. This will also ensure a Do No Harm approach at community level.
- **Development of a standard protocol to score and rate the indicators** to allow for rapid qualitative and quantitative assessment informed by a simple methodology. **The scoring system and traffic light categorization protocol adopted** for the framework tool provides a very clear quantification and visualization on progress and challenges around quantitative and qualitative indicators, and it is **a very simple communication tool for complex issues.**
- **A people centered approach** that recognizes that displaced populations have skills, talents, and aspirations, so data and evidence will be collected and analyzed together with displacement affected communities.