



ReDSS DURABLE SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK

A GUIDANCE MANUAL

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ABOUT the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS)

The search for durable solutions to the protracted displacement situation in East and Horn of Africa is a key humanitarian and development concern. This is a regional and cross-border issue, with a strong political dimension that demands a multi-sectorial response that goes beyond the existing humanitarian agenda. The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) was created in March 2015 with the aim of maintaining a focused momentum and stakeholder engagement towards durable solutions for displacement affected communities.

ReDSS is managed through a core group comprising of 12 NGOs: ACTED, CARE International, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), INTERSOS, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam, Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), Save the Children and World Vision, with DRC, IRC, and NRC forming the steering committee. The Secretariat is not an implementing agency but rather a coordination and information hub, acting as a catalyst and agent provocateur to stimulate forward thinking and programming and policy development on durable solutions for displacement affected communities in East and Horn of Africa. It seeks to improve collective learning and analysis, capacity development, policy dialogue and coordination.

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS GUIDANCE MANUAL

Initially developed in 2014, the ReDSS Solutions Framework is a practical, easy to use analysis tool that helps users to understand the extent to which durable solutions have been achieved in a particular context. It is inspired and heavily informed by the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs.¹ The IASC Framework represented a significant step forward in terms of understanding what a durable solutions means, and the extent to which one can be measured, for IDPs. The ReDSS Solutions Framework is essentially the result of an initiative to operationalize the IASC Framework, and apply it more broadly to displacement situations beyond internal displacement.

At the time of writing, the ReDSS Solutions Framework has been piloted in solutions analyses in Uganda², Somalia³, Ethiopia⁴ and Tanzania⁵. It has also been used as a tool to aid project development in Somalia by NGOs who are ReDSS member agencies, through the adaptation of ReDSS Solutions Framework indicators into project log frames.

This guidance manual is informed by the learning from these pilots. It has two purposes:

1. To outline what the ReDSS Solutions Framework is, what it can be used for, and what its limitations are
2. To provide guidance on how to conduct a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework. This guidance addresses key questions such as: when should a solutions analysis take place? who should be involved? how should data be collected, analyzed and validated? how should the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework be measured and rated? and how can the findings of a solutions analysis inform policy and strategic planning and programming?

This guidance manual can be used by anyone intending to undertake a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework. A solutions analysis should ideally be a collaborative exercise involving a diverse range of stakeholders, including governmental actors and institutions, UN agencies, donors, civil society actors including private sector actors, NGOs and academics. The process should also foster the meaningful engagement of displacement-affected communities. The term “displacement-affected community” refers to the people and institutions in an area affected by displacement- it encompasses the displaced population, the host population and local institutions. Throughout this manual, guidance is provided on how to ensure a people-centered approach, and how to build consensus around the solutions analysis process and its findings.

The solutions analysis process will always need to be tailored to each displacement context. There is no “one-size fits all” approach. Key factors influencing how a solutions analysis is conducted will include the status of the population group in focus (e.g. IDPs, returnees, refugees); the length of displacement; the type of settlement situation (e.g. camp, out of camp, urban); the causes of displacement (e.g. conflict, disaster) and the capacities and incentives for governmental and non-governmental actors to engage in the process. This document should therefore be considered as general guidance, which will need to be adapted by the team undertaking the solutions analysis.

¹ The Brookings Institution. IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs.

² ReDSS (2016) Durable Solutions Framework: Refugee focus – Uganda 2015.

³ ReDSS (2016b). Return and Reintegration Focus: Review of existing data and assessments to identify gaps and opportunities to inform (re)integration planning and programming for displacement affected communities in Somalia.

⁴ ReDSS (2017) Local integration focus: Gaps and opportunities to inform local integration planning and programming for the naturalized Tanzanians (former 1972 Burundian refugees)

⁵ ReDSS (2017) Local integration focus: Planning and programming in light of the Nine Pledges undertaken by the Ethiopian Government in November 2016

An overview of the different sections of this guidance document is provided below:

Section	Key question addressed
Overview of key terminologies and concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are durable solutions and how are they achieved? • What are the core elements of solutions planning and programming
Introduction to the ReDSS Solutions Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the ReDSS Solutions Framework? • What can it be used for? How does it fit within a broader solutions analysis process? • What are the ReDSS Solutions Framework's limitations?
Planning a solutions analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When should a solutions analysis take place? What should be the focus of a solutions analysis (objectives, geography, population group)? • Who should be involved in a solutions analysis process? How should they be mobilized and engaged?
Gathering and analyzing data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information needs to be gathered to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...develop an understanding of the overall environment and the factors that may inhibit or enable solutions? • ...measure and rate progress against the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework? • What methods should be used to gather the above-mentioned information?
Developing recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can findings be used to inform policies, strategic planning and the overall response to forced displacement?

A solutions analysis provides a snapshot of the current situation, and an indication of the types of intervention that are required to advance solutions. However, more in-depth, focused assessments and analysis will be required to design specific solutions-oriented interventions. To that end, this guidance manual is accompanied by a Durable Solutions Programming Guide: "Designing solutions-oriented programs".

OVERVIEW OF DURABLE SOLUTIONS TERMINOLOGIES AND CONCEPTS

DEFINING DURABLE SOLUTIONS

There is no one, uniform definition of durable solutions that captures all forms of displacement. The following definition, adapted from the one that appears in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, has been adopted by ReDSS:

"A durable solution is achieved when displaced people:

- No longer have specific assistance and protection needs linked to their displacement; and
- Can exercise their rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement"

Displaced people may achieve durable solutions through 3 equally valid settlement options. These 3 settlement options are NOT by themselves durable solutions.

1. **Return:** Displaced persons go back to their place of origin or habitual residence. Often this is the ideal and preferred option, but it is not always possible.
2. **Local integration:** Displaced persons settle permanently in their place of refuge.
3. **Settlement elsewhere or resettlement:** Displaced persons start a new life somewhere other than their place of origin or refuge in the same country or in a different one.

Durable solutions are characterized by the absence of displacement-specific assistance and protection needs or discrimination, rather than physical movement itself i.e. returning home or settling elsewhere is not a durable solution in itself. The key is the extent to which displaced persons are able to integrate legally, socially and

economically either in their place of displacement (local integration), in their place of origin (return/voluntary repatriation) or in a third location (settlement elsewhere/resettlement).

The incremental pathway to durable solutions

Achieving a durable solution should be viewed as an incremental pathway, with intermediate outcomes that can be categorized as material/economic (e.g. improved livelihoods), physical/social (e.g. increased social cohesion between the displaced and host populations) and legal (e.g. being legally allowed to work, or access government-run health and education services).

The need to adopt a more development-focused response to forced displacement

The humanitarian system, and current response modalities, are inadequate to address the medium to long term needs of forcibly displaced people. Displaced persons are usually located in marginalized and/or poor areas of the countries that host them. Development actors need to play a central role in addressing forced displacement- both in terms of joint planning and analysis, and in ensuring the inclusion of displaced populations and returnees in national and local development plans. Adopting a more development-focused approach to forced displacement is understood to necessitate a shift away from short-term, camp-based programming, which runs in parallel to host community service delivery, towards area-based approaches that focus on building self-reliance and resilience among refugees/IDPs/returnees, host communities and local institutions. This approach also calls for closer involvement of central and sub-national government in refugee/IDP management and protection. An area-based approach also entails the integrated delivery of services, with displaced and host community members accessing the same services. Strengthening social cohesion is also a crucial element in an area-based approach, both horizontally (between displaced and host populations) and vertically (between displacement-affected communities and service providers/duty bearers).

Area-based approaches entail holistically addressing the needs of the **“displacement-affected community”**.

Core elements to inform solutions planning and programming

- Creating durable solutions requires a multi-stakeholder and sectorial, rights and needs based programming approach recognizing that a diverse range of interventions and technical specialties contribute to the attainment of solutions.
- Strong government leadership of the process at both national and local level.
- An inclusive and collective approach, which is not driven by mandate and engages a wide range of actors- government, UN, NGO, development donors, academics and the private sector.
- A shared accountability among the above-mentioned actors for meeting joint outcomes vis-à-vis forced displacement.
- Meaningful participation of the displaced population, host population and local institutions in implementing solutions strategies, and adequate measures to ensure voice and accountability during their implementation.
- Support tailored to the specific skills, assets and vulnerabilities of displaced and host populations, and based upon a strong understanding of local context (institutions, markets and income earning opportunities).
- Ongoing policy dialogue to widen the “solutions space” for displaced populations, with particular emphasis on freedom of movement, the right to work and greater flexibility in displaced settlement choice.
- Involvement of development actors from the start to inform medium to long term sectorial priorities complementing humanitarian interventions
- Investment in generating evidence of what works in terms of advancing solutions, thereby advancing learning that can be applied in other contexts.

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

TO THE REDSS

SOLUTIONS

FRAMEWORK

WHY WAS THE REDSS SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED?

The search for durable solutions to protracted displacement in the East and Horn of Africa region is a key humanitarian and development concern. It is a regional and cross-border issue, with a strong political dimension, which demands a multi-sectorial response that goes beyond the existing humanitarian agenda. At the end of June 2017, there were over 13 million people displaced in the region- with over 4 million refugees mostly from South Sudan and Somalia.⁶ Although most have been displaced for several years or even decades, few have opportunities to achieve a durable solution.

The humanitarian system, and its current response modalities, is inadequate to address the medium to long-term needs of forcibly displaced people. There is a recognized need to shift away from short-term humanitarian strategies and funding, with a “care and maintenance” focused approach delivered primarily in camps, towards more solutions-oriented approaches that engage development actors from the outset, and seek to build the resilience and self-reliance of displaced populations, host populations and local institutions.

But this shift is inhibited by a number of factors. These include:

- **The lack of quality, systematized data on displaced and returnee populations and the communities that host/receive them.** Such data is critical if area-based solutions strategies engaging both humanitarian and development actors are to be operationalized. There is also a lack of monitoring and evaluation over time to understand the extent to which advances have been made in terms of integration and solutions. This failure to document progress towards durable solutions also means that learning which could inform responses in other contexts is lost.⁷
- **The lack of unifying solutions strategies around which a wide range of actors can coalesce.** In particular, the absence of common outcomes and indicators for displacement responses can lead to fragmented, “projectized” approaches that fail to address the needs of displacement-affected communities in their totality.⁸
- **The lack of focus on displaced populations within national and local development planning.** The European Union’s 2016 communication “Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance”⁹ highlights that “forcibly displaced people are often excluded from programmes and activities carried out by development actors”, while at the same time host populations often do not benefit from humanitarian assistance targeting refugees. This disconnected system is inefficient and inappropriate given that displacement is an ongoing reality (rather than a temporary phenomenon) in many regions of the Horn and East of Africa.
- **The lack of a common understanding of the component parts of a durable solution,** and also that there is an incremental pathway towards achieving durable solutions with gradual gains in terms of social, economic and legal integration.

The ReDSS Solutions Framework was developed to address the 4 points highlighted above. The Framework was designed as a tool that would contribute to increasing the availability of data on displacement-affected communities, thereby supporting the development of more solutions-oriented responses in the region. It was designed to support the development of solutions strategies, as well as the incorporation of displaced populations into local and national development planning. It is also intended to increase knowledge of what constitutes a durable solution. Crucially, the ReDSS Solutions Framework enables a more systematic approach to accountability around the support to and progress towards durable solutions.

⁶ OCHA Regional outlook report, June 2017

⁷ ReDSS Brief and Talking Points for London Somalia Conference, May 2017.

⁸ Center on International Cooperation (2015). Addressing Protracted Displacement: A Framework for Development-Humanitarian Cooperation: A think piece drawing on collaboration by OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and the World Bank.

⁹ European Commission (2016). Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions- Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance

WHAT IS THE REDSS SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK?

The ReDSS Solutions Framework was initially developed by ReDSS member agencies in 2014. It is based on the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs (hereafter referred to as the “IASC Framework”). The IASC Framework represented a significant step forward in terms of understanding what durable solutions entail, and how to gauge the extent to which they have been achieved for IDPs. As highlighted above, the ReDSS Solutions Framework is essentially the result of an initiative to operationalize the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, and apply it more broadly to displacement situations beyond internal displacement.

The ReDSS Solutions Framework is comprised of 28 indicators arranged into 8 criteria (to determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved) contained within the IASC Framework:

1. Protection, safety and security, social cohesion
2. Enjoyment of an adequate standard of living
3. Access to job creation/economic opportunities
4. Effective and accessible mechanisms to restore housing, land and property
5. Access to personal and other documentation without discrimination
6. Family reunification
7. Participation in public affairs without discrimination
8. Access to effective remedies and justice

The full list of indicators and guidance on using them can be found in list of ReDSS framework indicators and indicator definition matrix respectively. As an example, the indicators for the “Access to personal and other documentation” criteria are listed below:

1. Existence of accessible mechanisms for obtaining/replacing documents
2. % of target population currently in possession of birth certificates, national ID cards or other relevant personal documents

The ReDSS Solutions Framework indicators measure the extent to which the 8 criteria have been satisfied. The indicators are essentially measures of integration that help us to understand to what extent a durable solution has been achieved for a particular population group. They are intended to be adaptable- the analysis team may decide that certain indicators need to be tailored to the particular context and, in some cases, certain indicators may not be relevant.

The indicators are based on those originally articulated in the IASC Framework. They have gone through several updates since 2014. The latest revision of the ReDSS Solutions Framework indicators took place in June and July of 2017. Informed by lessons learned in previous solutions analyses conducted by ReDSS, this revision aimed to make the indicators clearer and more measurable. “Alternative indicators” which can be used if it is not possible to measure the main indicator have also been introduced (see [indicator definition matrix](#) for further details).

The revision of indicators was also heavily informed by an inter-agency initiative to develop a library of durable solutions indicators for IDPs. This process is led by the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, and coordinated by the Joint IDP Profiling Service. More information on this process can be found here: <http://www.jips.org/en/profiling/durable-solutions>. The revised set of indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework is aligned with the indicators developed under this initiative.

WHAT CAN THE REDSS SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK BE USED FOR?

The ReDSS Solutions Framework is a practical, easy to use analysis tool, which is used as part of a solutions analysis process. It relies heavily on secondary, rather than primary, data collection. It can be used over a relatively short period of time to get a snapshot of the extent to which progress has been made towards durable solutions. The main method of inquiry is a secondary data review, which can be supplemented through key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The ReDSS Solutions Framework can be applied in IDP and refugee contexts, as well as situations of return for both IDPs and refugees.¹⁰ It can be used in camp, out of camp and urban contexts.

The IASC Framework states that “a durable solution is achieved when displaced people no longer have specific protection and assistance needs arising from their displacement”. A critical component of using the ReDSS Solutions Framework is therefore comparing the situation of the displaced population with that of the host population (NOTE: the term ‘displaced population’ is used in this manual as a catch-all term to cover IDPs, refugees and returnees). This helps users to:

- 1. Understand the specific protection and assistance needs arising from displacement.** This helps the user to understand the types of policies and strategies that are required to reduce these displacement-related vulnerabilities.
- 2. Understand the broader needs in displacement-affected communities.** Recognizing that displaced populations are often living in poor, marginalized areas, and that displacement/return can impact upon the situation of the host population, the ReDSS Solutions Framework also helps the user to identify common areas of need within displacement-affected communities. This information can help to inform area-based strategies targeting displaced populations, host populations and local institutions. In doing so, the solutions analysis process should also link into and inform existing local and national development assessment and planning processes, thereby ensuring that the latter incorporate a displacement focus.

What does a solutions analysis process using the ReDSS Solutions Framework look like?

The solutions analysis process outlined in this guidance manual is summarized in the diagram on the next page:

¹⁰ The term “displaced population” is used throughout this guidance note. The term encompasses both those who have returned (returnees) as well as those still in displacement (IDPs and refugees).

**INITIATING THE
PROCESS:**

Recognizing the need for a solutions analysis, determining its focus and mobilizing stakeholders

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ANALYSIS:**

To what extent is the environment conducive to the achievement of solutions?

**CRITERIA ANALYSIS
AND INDICATOR
RATING:**

To what extent have solutions been achieved?

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ADVANCING SOLUTIONS
RELATING TO....**

- The legal and policy environment
 - Planning and strategies
- Stakeholder engagement and coordination
 - Funding
- Approaches and interventions
 - Filling gaps in existing data

The process of **initiating a solutions analysis** is explained in the next section of this manual. This process involves considering if the timing is right for a solutions analysis, and if so, determining what the focus of the analysis should be, and mobilizing and engaging key stakeholders.

The solutions analysis process outlined in this guidance manual consists of 1) an “environmental analysis”, and 2) a “criteria and indicator analysis”. A comprehensive solutions analysis should include both of these processes.

An environmental analysis assesses the extent to which the context is conducive to the achievement of solutions. It looks at factors such as the legal and policy environment, the operational response to displacement, and the relationship between the displaced and host populations. This process helps us to understand enabling and inhibiting factors vis-à-vis solutions. An outline of how to conduct an environmental analysis is provided in Part 3.

Alongside the environmental analysis, the ReDSS Solutions Framework is used to conduct a “criteria and indicator analysis”. This process, which is also outlined in Part 3, helps the user to understand the extent to which actual progress has been made towards durable solutions. The criteria and indicator analysis entails:

- Gathering and analyzing data relevant to the 8 IASC criteria in the ReDSS Solutions Framework.
- Measuring the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework for the displaced population and host population, and comparing their situation. Indicators are also then “rated” using a traffic-light rating system, a process described in further detail in Part 3.

Recommendations can then be developed based on the findings of the environmental analysis and the criteria and indicator analysis. Recommendations may relate to the following:

- The development of policies that widen the “solutions space” in a particular context.
- The development of strategies and plans specifically focused on advancing durable solutions. For example, in Somalia the solutions analyses conducted using the ReDSS Solutions Framework were used to develop area-based action plans involving humanitarian and development actors under the leadership of government.
- Incorporation of a stronger solutions focus into regular planning and strategy processes e.g. national and local development plans, Humanitarian Response Plans, Regional Refugee Response Plans etc.
- Further, targeted data collection: to fill gaps in existing data identified through the application of the ReDSS Solutions Framework.

The process of developing recommendations is outlined in Part 4.

A step by step solutions analysis procedure involving a collaborative process through a consensus building approach is illustrated below:



WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS OF THE REDSS SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK?

- i. The ReDSS Solutions Framework provides an overview or “snapshot” of the current situation, it does not provide in-depth, granular-level detail. The solutions analysis process highlights gaps and needs under the 8 different IASC criteria, however, further sector-specific assessments are required to develop programs that address these gaps and needs. For example, a solutions analysis might highlight that IDPs lack access to documentation, but it will not provide the level of detail required for a NGO to design an intervention that increases access to documentation for IDPs. A companion guide to this guidance manual- “Designing solutions-oriented programs”- has therefore been developed to support agencies to incorporate a stronger solutions focus in their program design process.
- ii. The primary focus of a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework is understanding the progress that has been made towards durable solutions. It is therefore concerned with comparing the situation of the displaced population with that of the host population, and identifying specific protection and assistance needs related to displacement. A secondary focus is on identifying broader needs within the displacement-affected community. In performing this secondary function, it is important to note that the solutions analysis is not in itself a development assessment. Its findings can, however, feed into development planning and support the inclusion of displaced populations in development planning processes.
- iii. A solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework relies primarily on secondary data. Various limitations in secondary data have emerged in previous ReDSS solutions analyses:
 - There is often a lack of quantitative secondary data available to adequately measure many of the indicators.
 - There is a lack of disaggregation between the displaced and host populations in secondary data. This often makes it difficult to compare the situation of both groups. In testing the ReDSS Solutions Framework to date, ReDSS has found that there is frequently more data available for displaced populations than there is for host populations.
 - The secondary data that is available is not always representative of the whole of the population group that a solutions analysis is examining. For example, assessments conducted by organizations to inform their programming in specific geographic areas may not be representative of the displaced/host population at large.
 - It is often difficult to verify the methodological rigor of secondary data sources.

If there is a lack of existing data, this will be reflected in the findings of solutions analysis.

One important function of the ReDSS Solutions Framework is that it helps to identify existing gaps in data, and it can therefore inform future data collection efforts.

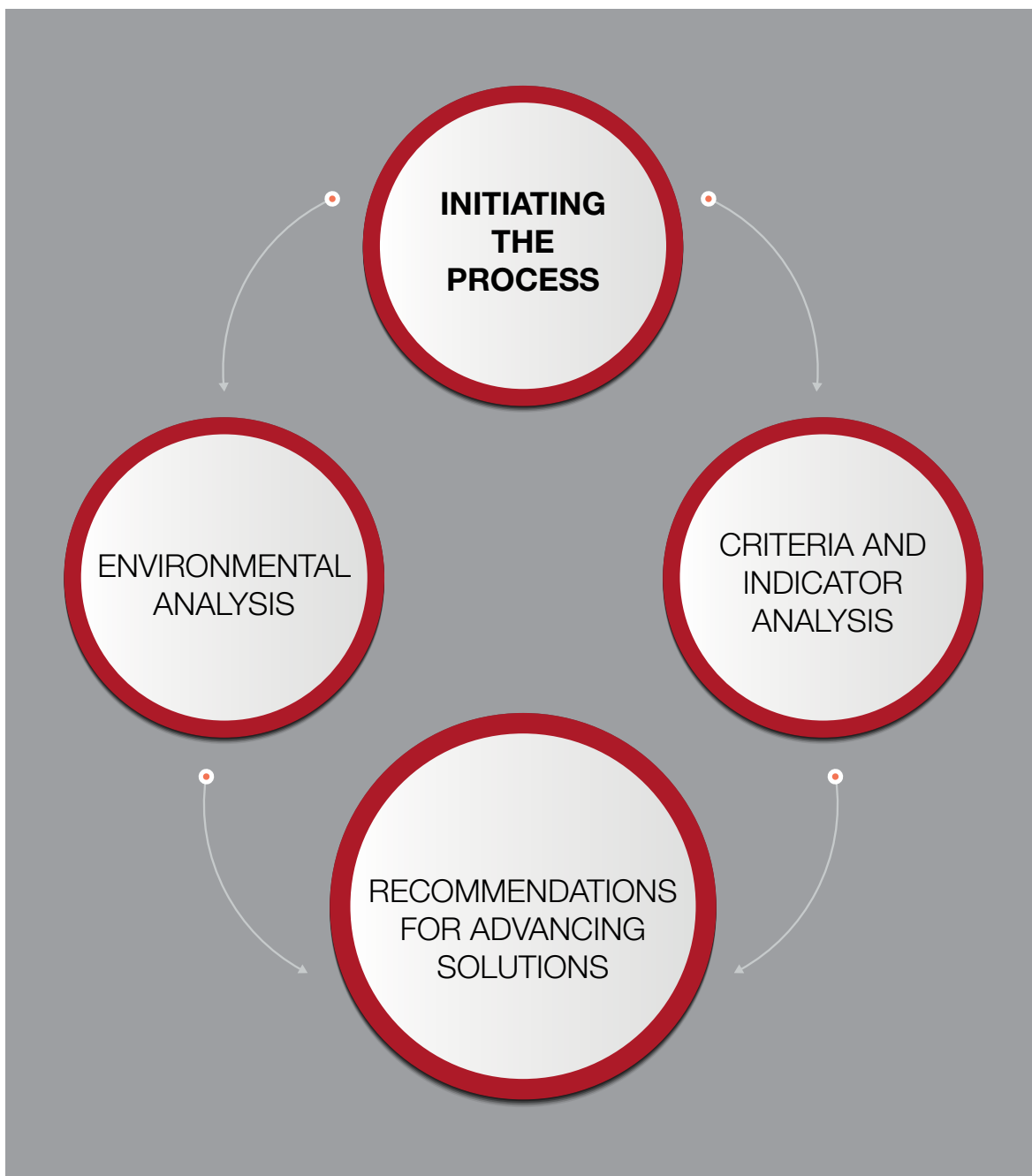
It should also be noted that even when there is not enough secondary data to measure an indicator, it will still be possible to do an analysis of the existing data that is relevant to the theme of that indicator.

PART 2

GETTING

STARTED

This section outlines the initial steps to be taken before a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework is conducted. Firstly, the process of deciding whether to conduct an analysis is outlined. Secondly, guidance is provided on determining the focus of the solutions analysis. Finally, guidance is provided on mobilizing and engaging stakeholders.



DECIDING TO USE THE REDSS SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK:

WHEN SHOULD A DURABLE SOLUTIONS ANALYSIS PROCESS BE INITIATED?

The need to think about durable solutions from the early stages of displacement has long been recognized. As the [ReDSS study on early solutions planning](#) states: “Initial decisions about stakeholder engagement and involvement, coordination mechanisms and modalities of support...can either hinder or help in laying the foundations for future durable solutions”.¹¹ To that end, a solutions analysis can be undertaken from the early stages of displacement onwards. Furthermore, conducting a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework should not be regarded as a one-off exercise.

An initial solutions analysis will provide a baseline against which progress can be measured with future solutions analyses. The frequency of solutions analyses is dependent on the context. For example, in a protracted displacement situation in stable conditions a solutions analysis may just be required once every two years to inform response planning. However, the exercise may be conducted more frequently in reaction to specific events that have a significant impact upon the displacement-affected community. These may include the emergence of new conflicts or disasters, new influxes of IDPs/refugees, increased numbers of returnees, or changes in policy vis-à-vis displaced persons.

WHO INITIATES THE PROCESS?

Previous solutions analyses using the ReDSS Solutions Framework have been initiated by ReDSS member agencies. However, the process can be initiated by a wide range of different actors, including representatives of local and national government, academics, the RC/HC and the UN Country Team, UNHCR or national/international NGOs. It is critical that whoever initiates the process seeks the engagement and buy-in of other key stakeholders (see the section manual below on “mobilizing and engaging stakeholders”)

WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT CAN HELP TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION TO CONDUCT A SOLUTIONS ANALYSIS?

The decision to conduct a solutions analysis may be influenced by a number of factors. Some of the key questions to answer before embarking on a solutions analysis are detailed below (answers in the affirmative point towards it being an appropriate time to conduct a solutions analysis):

- Is there a lack of recent analysis vis-a-vis solutions for the context/population group in question?
- Are there particular processes/plans/strategies that the solutions analysis will be able to inform? (these might include national and local development planning, Humanitarian Response Plans, joint humanitarian-development planning to address forced displacement at national or local level etc)
- Is there already buy-in, or demand coming from key stakeholders such as government representatives and donors for a solutions analysis?
- Is the displaced/returnee population likely to remain in situ?
- Are resources available (financial and human) to undertake a solutions analysis?
- Is it safe for a solutions analysis to be conducted, in terms of the security of displacement-affected communities and the analysis team?

¹¹ ReDSS (2016). Early solutions planning in displacement: what can be done to promote, support and facilitate solutions processes in the early stages of displacement?

WHAT SHOULD THE FOCUS OF THE SOLUTIONS ANALYSIS BE?

Once the decision to undertake a solutions analysis has been made, its focus can be determined by asking the following questions:

- Do you want a fairly quick snapshot of the overall situation vis-à-vis durable solutions in a particular country? OR
- Do you want more specific information on IDPs/refugees/returnees in a particular city or sub-national region? OR
- Do you want to learn more about a specific group/nationality of IDPs/refugees/returnees/host community?

The ReDSS Solutions Framework can be used to do all of these things. Solutions analyses using the ReDSS Solutions Framework have been conducted on different levels and for different groups. For example:

- In Uganda, the ReDSS Solutions Framework was used to conduct a **national level analyses** focusing on all refugee groups in the country.
- In Somalia, it was used for an **area-based analysis** focused on IDPs and returnees in three regions of the country
- In Tanzania, it was used for a **specific population group analysis**- the newly naturalized Tanzanians
- In Ethiopia it was used for an area based analysis focused on refugees in two regions of the country

All of the above can have their merits, and the most suitable approach will vary from context to context. **National level analyses** will not be useful in informing area-based plans; their utility lies in informing national-level policy on forced displacement, and making it more solutions-oriented, as well as encouraging the engagement of non-traditional actors in addressing forced displacement. **Area-based analyses (focusing on specific sub-national regions)** can inform the development of area-based action plans that address the specific geographical gaps and needs of both displaced and host populations. **Specific population group analyses** are particularly useful when the group in question has specific characteristics- for example they are at a particular stage of displacement (e.g. they have been naturalized, they have just returned home), they have specific vulnerabilities, or government and donors are showing a specific interest in advancing progress towards solutions for this group.

Oftentimes, national-level analyses, areas-based analyses and specific population group analyses overlap and may be combined in one solutions analysis. For example, national-level analyses and area-based analyses could be combined within the same exercise, or a specific population group analyses could adopt an area-based approach and focus on those living in a specific city or sub-national region.

WHO IS THE “HOST POPULATION”?

As highlighted in the “Introduction to the ReDSS Solutions Framework” section, it is critical to understand the situation of the host population and compare it to the situation of the displaced population. This comparison helps us to understand:

1. Vulnerabilities that are specific to the displaced population; and
2. Vulnerabilities and challenges that are shared among the displaced and host populations (area-based challenges across the displacement-affected community).

Before conducting the solutions analysis, it is crucial to determine who will constitute the “host population”. For the purposes of solutions analyses using the ReDSS Solutions Framework, a host population can be defined **as the people living within a defined geographical unit which is affected by displacement, but who are not themselves refugees, IDPs or returnees**. Rather than looking at the population as a whole in a country, the solutions analysis should focus on those living in the districts, sub-national regions or cities where the displaced population is located. This more localized focus will help users to better understand displacement-specific protection and assistance needs, as well as the broader needs for area-based interventions.

MOBILIZING AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

This section provides guidance on how to determine who should be engaged in the solutions analysis process, whether as a member of the analysis team or as a key informant. It should be noted that no two contexts will ever be the same, and therefore this section provides general guidance on what and who to consider, rather than a prescriptive outline.

The core elements of solutions planning and programming (see p.5) must be applied during a solutions analyses using the ReDSS Solutions Framework. Concretely, this means that:

- Local and/or national governmental authorities should ideally play a central role in the durable solutions analysis process;
- The process should involve both humanitarian and development actors, with multi-sectoral expertise; and
- Community engagement is crucial- an approach should be adopted which is inclusive of the whole of the displacement-affected community (the displaced population and host population, as well as local institutions and civil society organizations).

INTRODUCING THE PROCESS TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS, AND ENSURING BUY-IN

Before the solutions analysis process begins, it is essential to secure the engagement and buy-in of key stakeholders. These stakeholders include:

- Most critically, relevant government counterparts- departments specifically focused on refugees/IDPs/ returnees at the national-level and local/municipal government representatives;
- UNHCR and other UN agencies;
- Representatives of displacement-affected communities;
- NGOs and local civil society actors; and
- Donors.

Ideally, pre-analysis engagement with these stakeholders should focus on:

- Briefing them on the proposed focus of the solutions analysis, what the outputs will be and what the limitations of the exercise are.
- Providing the opportunity for them to provide feedback and shape the focus on the analysis.
- Securing their participation in the analysis process. This could range from them being interviewed as key informants and participating in the validation process, to them being members of the analysis team (see below).
- Obtaining any relevant secondary data from key stakeholders that will help inform the exercise.

This engagement could occur through one-on-one discussions, or as part of a workshop bringing together the above-mentioned actors. This process of initial engagement should be led by people who are known to the key stakeholders, rather than external consultants who may not have existing relationships with the stakeholders in question.

IDENTIFYING THE TEAM WHO WILL CONDUCT THE SOLUTIONS ANALYSIS

Although previous solutions analyses using the ReDSS Solutions Framework have often been conducted by external consultants, ideally the process should be undertaken by a team of people with a working knowledge of the context, including national-level policies and response strategies. Members of this “analysis team” should also have multi-sectoral expertise, and both the humanitarian and development spheres should be represented. As a priority, the engagement of representatives of national and local government should be sought. In reality it may be difficult to secure the engagement of a wide range of actors in the analysis team, given people’s competing priorities. Whatever the make-up of the final analysis team, an external consultant may well still be required to coordinate the process and do a lot of the heavy lifting (particularly around the data analysis and reporting).

A steering committee, which would advise and oversee the work of the analysis team should be created drawing participation from at least one representative from all key stakeholders identified.

It is also important to tap into existing clusters and sector working groups- it may be possible for their members to take a lead on gathering and analyzing secondary data against specific indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework. For example, members of a Protection Cluster could be encouraged to take the lead on the “Protection, safety and security” and “Access to documentation” criteria of the ReDSS Solutions Framework.

Specific roles for analysis team members should be determined based on each individual’s expertise and connections, as well as the time that they can commit to the process. Analysis team members will generally be involved in the following processes:

- The environmental analysis;
- Gathering data against the ReDSS Solutions Framework criteria and indicators;
- Conducting secondary data review, key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) as part of the above two points;
- Analyzing data and rating indicators;
- Overseeing the validation process; and
- Developing recommendations and writing the analysis report.

PART 3

GATHERING

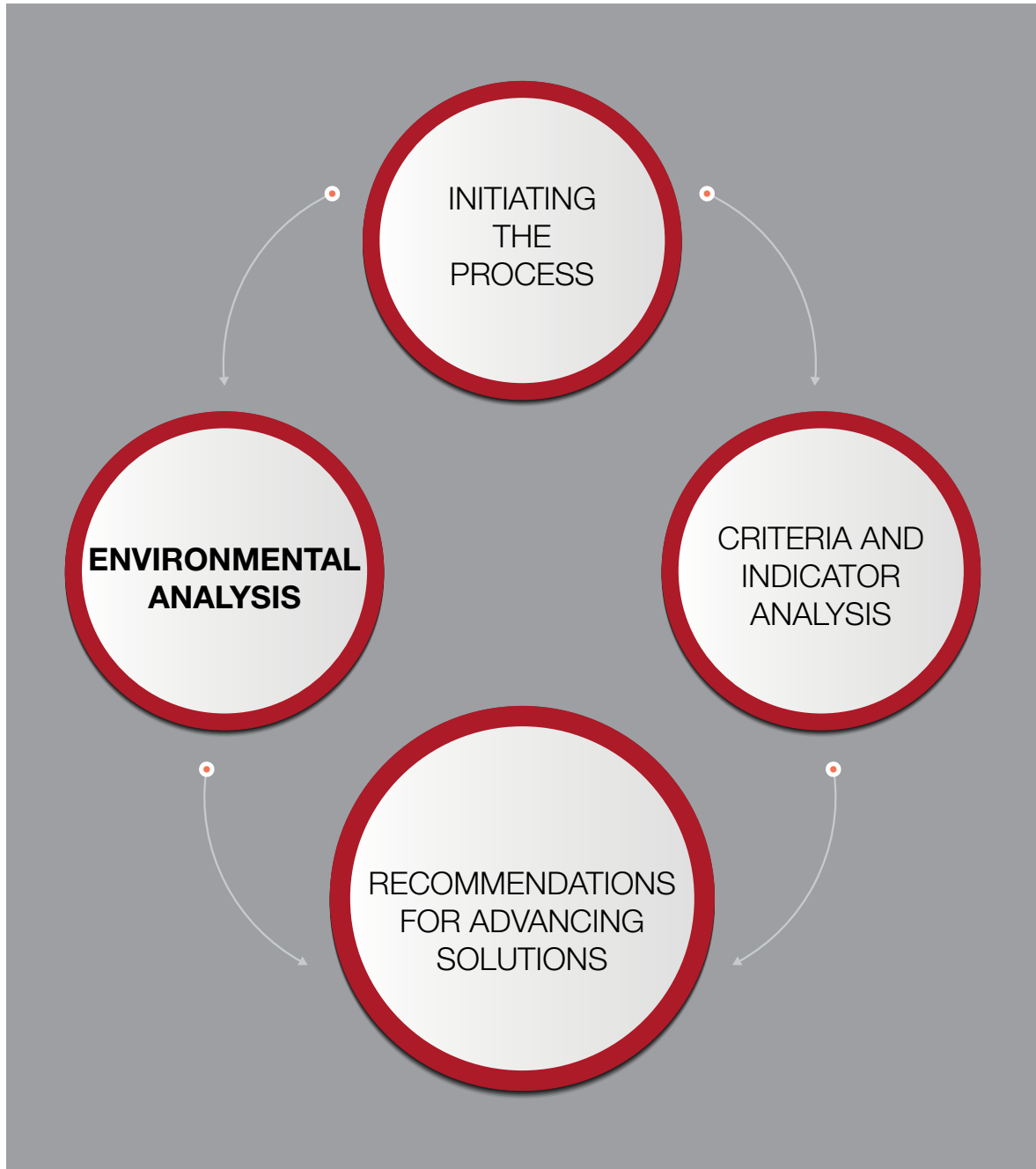
AND

ANALYZING

DATA

This part of the manual outlines how the solutions analysis process is conducted. The processes of conducting 1) an environmental analysis and 2) a criteria and indicator analysis are explained. This is followed by an overview of the methods that are used to undertake these two processes, namely a secondary data review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



Conducting a solutions analysis is about more than just measuring the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework. It is essential to consider broader environmental factors, including the legal and policy environment, the capacity and willingness of the institutions with responsibility for addressing forced displacement, the profile of the displacement-affected community and the nature of the current response to forced displacement. Consideration should also be given to understanding the root causes of displacement, and the conditions in the country/area of origin of the displacement population. The environmental analysis is focused on more

generalizable contextual factors that are not captured by the criteria and indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework. This “environmental analysis” process helps the user to understand the extent to which the environment is conducive to the achievement of durable solutions.

The process outlined below has been developed by ReDSS, however, it draws on a number of key sources, including work conducted on the drivers of solutions,¹² tools developed under UNHCR’s Strengthening Protection Capacity Project¹³ and the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons.

The key areas to consider in an environmental analysis are presented in the diagram below:



The environmental analysis is crucial as oftentimes the major barriers to durable solutions will not necessarily be captured by the ReDSS criteria and indicators. For example, in many contexts, a restrictive refugee policy presents the major barrier to durable solutions. Other inhibiting factors may include low levels of development and high levels of poverty in displacement-affected areas. In other contexts, a humanitarian-centric response to forced displacement with low engagement of development actors may inhibit solutions-oriented approaches. Public attitudes towards forced displacement can also either hinder or help the search for durable solutions. An environmental analysis will also inform better understanding of the political context and incentive structures within which national refugee policies are made. Understanding these environmental factors is critical to understanding the barriers that exist to solutions. It is also crucial in forming recommendations. An environmental analysis can help to formulate recommendations on organizational, institutional and process changes that need to occur. It can also help to explain why there has been a lack of progress against certain indicators.

The key questions to be answered in the environmental analysis are presented in the table below. The analysis team should try to gather as much information as possible, although it is unlikely that there will be answers

¹² Starup, K. (2014). Key Drivers for Displacement Solutions. Prepared for the 2014 Solutions Alliance Roundtable.

¹³ UNHCR (2008). Protection Gaps Framework for Analysis: Enhancing Refugee Protection. Strengthening Protection Capacity Project.; and 2) Protection Cluster and Early Recovery Cluster (2008). Protection of Conflict-induced IDPs: Assessment for Action.

available to all of the questions in the table. Data for the environmental analysis can be gathered through the secondary data review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.¹⁴

DATA TO BE GATHERED IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

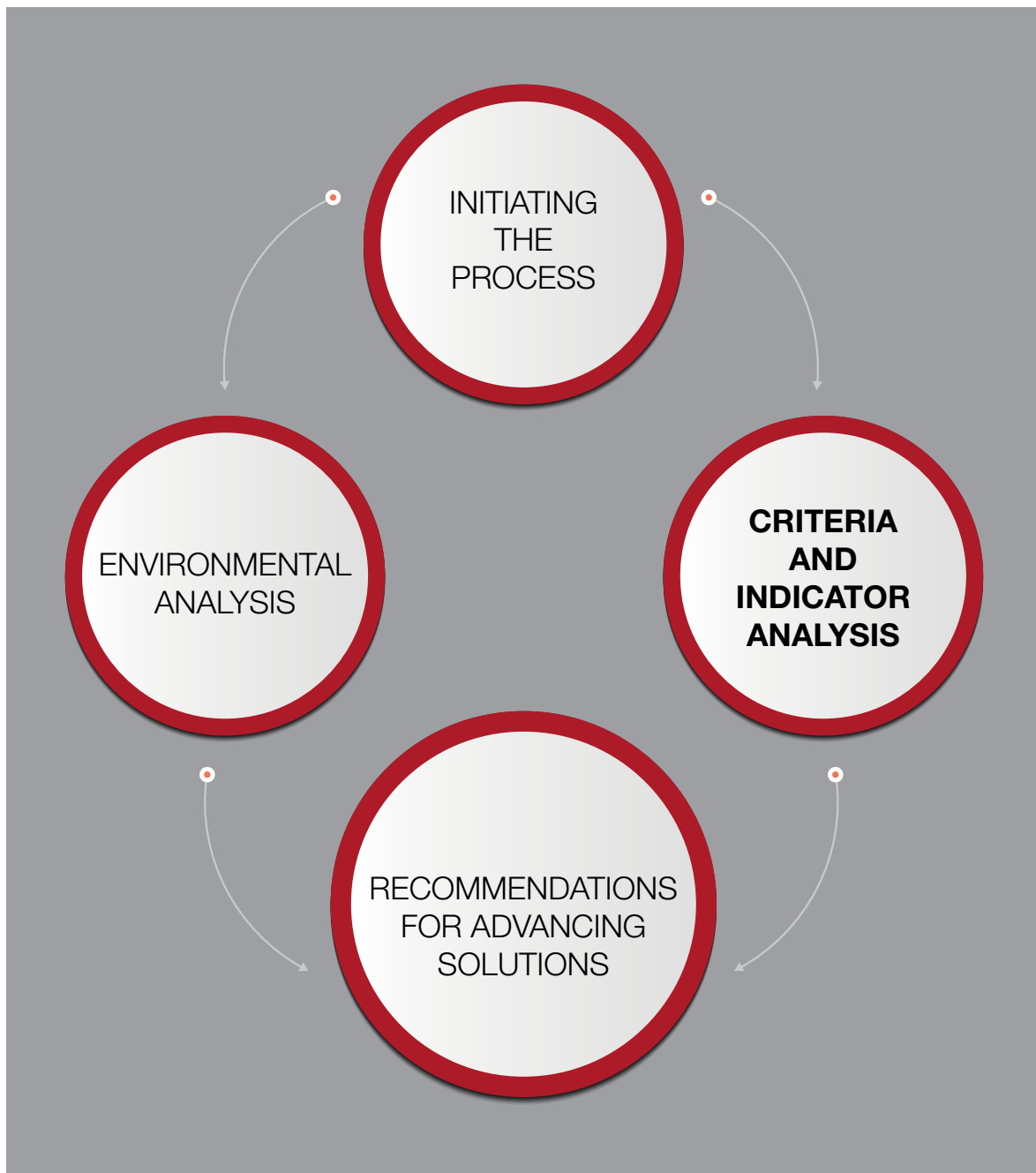
<p>Legal and policy environment (including political analysis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the host country ratified the Refugee Convention, and/or regional conventions on displacement? • Which national laws, policies and regulations pertain to IDPs/refugees/returnees and durable solutions? What do they say about durable solutions? • Which local laws, policies and regulations pertain to IDPs/refugees/returnees and durable solutions? What do they say about durable solutions? • To what extent have forced displacement and solutions been incorporated into national and local development policies and plans? • To what extent have forced displacement and solutions been incorporated into any peace negotiations/processes/agreements? • What are the government's/ political incentives for, and commitment to, implementation of all of the above? • What is the government's capacity to implement the above?
<p>Profile of displacement affected community¹⁴</p>	<p>General information on displacement-affected community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the development status of the displacement-affected area (i.e. subnational region, district etc.)? How does the displacement-affected area score in development indices such as the Human Development Index and the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index? • What are the key local government structures? What is their capacity and willingness to address forced displacement? <p>Information on the host community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population numbers within displacement-affected communities (with any available disaggregation). Ratio of host population to displaced population in these areas. • Where does the host population live? (rural/urban, mixed or separated from the displaced population etc.) • What is their socio-economic profile? (including professional or vocational backgrounds as well as resources, capacities and assets) <p>Background on displaced population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of origin • Population numbers (with any available disaggregation) • What is the nature of their displacement? (i.e. its length, whether it is still ongoing; whether it was sudden or not) • Where are displaced populations located? (i.e. rural/urban, in camps/dispersed etc.) • What are their reasons for/root causes of displacement (or return in the case of returnees)? What is the current situation in their place of origin? Do the factors that led to displacement still persist? • What is their socio-economic profile? (including professional or vocational backgrounds as well as resources, capacities and assets) <p>Intentions/preferences of displaced population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the stated intentions and preferences of IDPs/refugees/returnees vis-à-vis durable solutions, including short, medium and long-term plans? • What are the factors that influence the above-mentioned intentions? • What are the barriers to achieving these solutions?

¹⁴ Much of this section was adapted from 1) UNHCR (2008). Protection Gaps Framework for Analysis: Enhancing Refugee Protection. Strengthening Protection Capacity Project.; and 2) Protection Cluster and Early Recovery Cluster (2008). Protection of Conflict-induced IDPs: Assessment for Action.

<p>The response to forced displacement</p>	<p>Actors/institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key governmental institutions at regional, national and local-level with responsibility in relation to IDPs/refugees/returnees? • What is the capacity and willingness of the above-mentioned institutions vis-à-vis IDPs/refugees/returnees, and incentives vis-à-vis durable solutions? • Which actors are involved/not involved in addressing displacement, including non-humanitarian actors? (State, local government, national civil society, development actors, private sector). <p>Planning and strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What mechanisms for coordination and planning exist, and which actors participate in these? • What response-level strategies and plans are in place- humanitarian, development, resilience etc- including any existing durable solutions strategies? • To what extent is the response focused on building self-reliance and resilience of displaced, host communities and local institutions (an area-based approach) versus a “care and maintenance” approach? • What other development plans and strategies are in place for the displacement-affected community (including those which do not directly target the displaced population as beneficiaries)? <p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the response funded? • Who are the key humanitarian and development donors and what are their priorities? • How well is it funded?
<p>Social cohesion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the attitudes of host population/media/local and national government towards IDPs/refugees/returnees? • What are the attitudes of the IDPs/refugees/returnees towards the host population? • Where negative attitudes exist, why is this? • What current efforts are being undertaken to mitigate negative attitudes? • What is the nature of relations between the displaced/returnee population and the host population/local institutions? Does the legal and policy environment or the response to forced displacement have any impact on this?

A template for logging information gathered during an environmental analysis can be found in [environmental analysis matrix](#). The next section of the manual describes the process of conducting a criteria and indicator analysis. The criteria and indicator analysis can be conducted concurrently with the environmental analysis, however, the environmental analysis should at least commence first as it provides important background contextual information.

CRITERIA AND INDICATOR ANALYSIS



Whereas the environmental analysis helps us to understand the extent to which the environment is conducive for the attainment of durable solutions, **the criteria and indicator analysis uses the ReDSS Solutions Framework to examine the actual progress that has been made towards durable solutions.**

The criteria and indicator analysis has 2 components, which can run concurrently:

- i. **The measurement and rating of indicators**, where secondary data is used to put figures on the 28 indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework. After measuring the indicators, they are rated individually using a traffic-light system. These ratings are based on:
 - A comparison between the situation of the displaced population and that of the host population; and
 - A determination as to whether the displaced population has assistance and protection needs, or faces forms of discrimination, that are specifically linked to their displacement.

- ii. **A criteria analysis**, where information is analyzed against the 8 IASC criteria that are used in the ReDSS Solutions Framework. Here, all information relevant to each specific criteria (for example, “Protection, Safety and Security”) is gathered and analyzed. Information is gathered through secondary data review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

MEASURING AND RATING INDICATORS

Measuring indicators

Whereas the criteria analysis provides important background information on progress towards solutions within each of the 8 IASC criteria, measuring the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework provides a specific snapshot against each indicator against which progress can be measured over time.

A full list of ReDSS Solutions Framework indicators can be found in list of ReDSS framework indicators. At the outset of the solutions analysis, the analysis team should review the 28 ReDSS Solutions Framework indicators to determine if 1) adaptations need to be made to them and 2) they are relevant in relation to the particular context. For example, the indicator relating to the right to vote will not be relevant in refugee contexts. The indicator relating to employment rate may also not be a relevant measure in contexts where formal employment is rare among both the host population and the displaced population. The analysis team should agree on a final set and wording of indicators before commencing the solutions analysis. Further notes on contextualizing indicators can be found in the guidance notes in indicator rating and criteria analysis.

The indicators use the phrase “target group”. The target group for each solutions analysis should be determined in the planning stage (see Part 2). Indicators should always be measured separately for:

1. **The displaced population.** For example, the Somalia analyses looked at both IDPs and returnees, and aimed to measure the indicators separately for both population groups. (NOTE: in this guidance manual, the term ‘displaced population’ is used to refer to IDPs, refugees and returnees).
2. **The host population.** The analysis team should always try to measure the indicators for the host population. It is essential to try to do this, as the comparison between the displaced population and the host population is central to the solutions analysis. Guidance in defining the host population can be found in Part 2.

[indicator rating and criteria analysis](#) provides detailed guidance on measuring each of the 28 indicators. This guidance provides the following for each indicator:

- **Definition:** an explanation of what the indicator is trying to measure, definitions of key terms, and a breakdown of composite indicators into their different elements.
- **Data source(s):** information on likely sources of data that can be used to measure the indicator.
- **Ideal disaggregate(s):** these are described as “ideal” because the solutions analysis process is reliant on secondary data and the disaggregation that it provides us with.
- **Alternative indicator(s):** these are indicators that can be used as alternatives (or proxies) if it is not possible to measure the main indicator using existing data. Ideally, the main indicator should be used.

The limitations of a methodology that relies primarily on secondary data should again be highlighted here. In previous solutions analyses using the ReDSS Solutions Framework, measuring the indicators has frequently been challenging in large part due to shortages of relevant data that disaggregates between the displaced population and the host population. In the previous solutions analyses, it has not been possible to put specific figures against most of the indicators for both the displaced and host populations. This should not discourage the analysis team. Indeed, noting gaps in existing data is important as it can help to inform more robust data collection efforts in the future.

Rating indicators

After the indicators have been measured, the next stage is to “rate” them, using the traffic-light rating system developed by ReDSS. **The rating system provides a quick visual overview of the progress that has been made towards durable solutions in a given context, through making a comparative assessment of the situation of the displaced community relative to that of the host community.** The rating is focused on this comparison, rather than on highlighting the common, shared needs of the displaced and host population.

The rating system is described below:

Rating explanation of rating	Key question addressed
Green	The displaced population experiences a situation that is similar or better than that of the host population, AND there are no longer specific protection or assistance needs, or discrimination, related to displacement.
Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The displaced population experiences a situation that is worse than that of the host population, BUT there are no longer specific protection or assistance needs, or discrimination, related to displacement; OR • The displacement population experiences a situation that is the same or similar to that of the host community; BUT there are still specific protection or assistance needs, or discrimination, related to displacement.
Red	The displaced population experiences a situation that is worse than that of the host community, AND there are still specific protection or assistance needs, or discrimination, related to displacement.
White	Not enough data exists to rate the indicator.

As indicated by the explanations above, 2 questions must be answered to rate an indicator;

1. Is the situation for the displaced/returnee population similar or better than that of the host population?

Where there is quantitative data available to measure an indicator separately for both the host population and the displaced population, answering this question will be straightforward. When there is not, the analysis team will have to make a judgment on whether there is enough relevant data available (among the secondary data, from the KIIs and from the FGDs) to give a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer to this question. We can highlight this process using the following indicator as an example:

“ % of target population facing restrictions on their freedom of movement”

In the solutions analysis conducted by ReDSS in Tanzania, no quantitative secondary data comparing the situation of naturalized Tanzanians (former refugees) to that of the host community was found. However, the existing qualitative information in the secondary data, as well as information gathered during the key informant interviews and focus group discussions all highlighted that neither the naturalized Tanzanians nor the host community faced restrictions on their freedom of movement. The analysis team therefore concluded that the situation for naturalized Tanzanians vis-à-vis freedom of movement was the same as that of the host community.

2. Do IDPs/refugees/returnee still have specific protection and assistance needs that are linked to their displacement and/or face discrimination on account of their displacement?

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions states the following:

“A durable solution is achieved when internally 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 IASC Framework goes on to explain different types of protection and assistance needs and discrimination related to displacement:

- Those that are a consequence of events causing displacement or resulting from displacement. Example: displaced people who have lost their personal documents during flight are unable to obtain replacements.
- Those that result from the displaced person's absence from their home. Example: a group of displaced people are not on the voter registry because they were not present in their current location when the census took place.
- Those that prevent a displaced person from choosing a settlement option (local integration, return, settlement elsewhere). Example: some IDPs are offered relocation in a part of the country where there are no public services available.
- Problems arising specifically because of discrimination against the displaced population. Example: refugees are exposed to abuse, exploitation and harassment specifically because they are refugees.

The different combinations of answers to these two yes/no questions, and the resulting ratings in the traffic-light system, are presented in the table below.

Question	Combination of answers					
Is the situation for IDPs/refugees/returnees similar to or better than for the host community?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes or no	Not enough data
	No	Yes	No	Yes	Not enough data	Yes or no
Rating	Green	Orange	Orange	Red	White	White

Note: In cases where part of the indicator meets the criteria for durable solutions while part of it does not, the rating can be divided between two colors depending on the analyses. E.g. if refugees are allowed to vote but not allowed to vie for elective positions, then the indicator rating will be half green and half orange.

Once the indicator ratings are finalized, they can be presented in an infographic. The infographic showing the rating of indicators in the Lower Juba, Somalia analysis is provided as an example in [ReDSS framework infographic template](#).

Limitations of the rating system

In answering the two questions above, the ratings system is concerned with comparing the situation of the displaced population with that of the host population. A green rating indicates that (in relation to the indicator in question) the situation of the displaced population is the same or better than that of the host community, and that there are no longer protection and assistance needs, or forms of discrimination, specifically related to displacement. However, a green rating does not necessarily indicate a situation that is adequate in terms of human development. For example, if less than 5% of children in the displacement-affected community have a birth certificate, but levels of possession are similar for the displaced population and the host population, then the indicator- “% of target population currently in possession of birth certificates...” would be rated green. The green rating does not mean that access to birth registration is adequate; it simply suggests that the displaced population do not have displacement-specific needs in relation to birth registration.

A set of green ratings means that the displaced population no longer has specific protection and assistance needs, or face specific forms of discrimination, related to their displacement. Even if a solutions analysis produces green ratings across the board, there will still likely be a need for considerable development investment in displacement-affected communities. Through using this rating system, the solutions analysis process can inform development planning and strategies by highlighting persisting displacement-specific vulnerabilities.

The ratings system is not specifically concerned with understanding development in the displacement-affected community. Its focus is on making a comparative analysis of the respective situations of the displaced population and the host population. Broader development needs in the displacement-affected community are still explored elsewhere in the solutions analysis process, as part of the environmental analysis and criteria analysis.

CRITERIA ANALYSIS

Gathering data against the ReDSS Solutions Framework is not just about measuring the indicators. There may also be a wealth of other quantitative and qualitative information available that tells us something about the barriers to/progress towards solutions under each of the 8 IASC criteria in the ReDSS Solutions Framework. For example, if it is found that net primary/secondary education attendance is low, we will want to understand more about the barriers that exist to attending school, and more about the particular population groups of children who are affected by these barriers.

The final report on a solutions analysis should present a narrative analysis against each of the 8 criteria. As a reminder, the 8 IASC Criteria are listed below:

1. Protection, safety and security, social cohesion
2. Enjoyment of an adequate standard of living
3. Access to job creation/economic opportunities
4. Effective and accessible mechanisms to restore housing, land and property
5. Access to personal and other documentation without discrimination
6. Family reunification
7. Participation in public affairs without discrimination
8. Access to effective remedies and justice.

The criteria analysis is important for the following reasons:

- It helps to provide background information that is relevant to the indicators, and helps to explain their scores.
- It provides us with useful information even when it is not possible to measure the individual indicators:
 - For example, there may not be enough quantitative data available to measure the indicator “**% of target population who were subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months**”, but useful protection monitoring and qualitative analysis data may still be available on the types of violence and other threats that people face and their prevalence.
- Whereas the focus of measuring and rating the indicators is to identify the protection and assistance needs of the displaced population specifically related to their displacement, the criteria analysis looks more generally at the needs within the displacement-affected community. The findings can therefore be useful in terms of identifying broader developmental needs within the displacement-affected community, thereby helping to inform area-based planning and strategies that aim to build the self-reliance and resilience of the displaced population, the host population and local institutions.

As a key first step in the criteria analysis process, the analysis team should identify any national-level standards existing in laws and policies (e.g. national health policies, or laws relating to the administration of land) that may be relevant to each of the criteria. Where relevant standards exist, the situation in the displacement-affected community should be compared with these standards.

The table below highlights some of the key questions that the criteria analysis should try to answer. The analysis team should try to answer as many of these as possible through the secondary data review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

Key questions to answer in a criteria analysis

Protection, safety and security and social cohesion	<p>Threats to safety and security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major threats to safety and security in the displacement-affected community? (harassment, intimidation, physical/sexual/psychological violence, landmines etc) • Who are the perpetrators? • Which population groups are most vulnerable to these threats? Do women and girls face specific threats? • Are IDPs/refugees/returnees still exposed to the threats that led to their displacement? • Do IDPs/refugees/returnees face more or different threats than the host population? • Have disaster risk reduction measures been implemented? (in case of return or settlement in disaster prone areas) <p>Freedom of movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there legal or other restrictions on freedom of movement? What is the nature of these restrictions? • Do IDPs/refugees/returnees face more or different restrictions than the host population? <p>Access to police and judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What level of policing exists in the displacement-affected community? • What level of functioning formal/informal courts are there? • Are IDPs/refugees/returnees able to access police and courts to the same extent as the host population? • What barriers exist to accessing the police and the courts? <p>Social cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you or any member of your family experienced stigmatization or discrimination in the community for being a refugee/ IDP/ returnee? • What form of discrimination do you experience? • Do you generally feel accepted in the community? If not, please explain
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<p>Adequate Standard of living</p>	<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of housing/shelter do IDPs/refugees/returnees have? Is it of a similar standard/type to that of the host population? <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there food shortages in the displacement-affected community? When do these occur? Are there particular groups who are affected more than others? Do IDPs/refugees/returnees face worse/better/different challenges to the host population? • Who receives food assistance (including cash) in the displacement-affected community? <p>Water & sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -What barriers exist to accessing water and sanitation facilities in the displacement-affected community? Are there particular population groups who are more affected than others by these barriers? Do IDPs/refugees/returnees enjoy the same access as the host population? Do they access the same facilities? <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there children who are out of school in the displacement-affected community? What are the main reasons for this? Are particular population groups of children more affected than others? Do IDPs/refugees/returnees enjoy the same access as the host population? Do IDPs/refugee/returnees access the same services as the host population? Do girls enjoy the same access as boys? <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major health problems experienced by IDPs/refugees/returnees and are these worse or different to those experienced by the host population? • What health facilities exist in the displacement-affected community? Who runs/manages these? • What barriers exist to accessing health care facilities? Are their particular groups who are more affected than others by these barriers? Do IDPs/refugees/returnees enjoy the same access as the host population? Do they access the same health facilities/services? <p>Social protection programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What national and local social protection programs exist? Are there any barriers to accessing these? Are IDPs/refugees/returnees able to enjoy the same access to these as the host population?
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<p>Access to job creation/economic opportunities</p>	<p>Employment/economic activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any legal or administrative restrictions on employment or economic activity in the displacement-affected community? What is the nature of these restrictions? • Do IDPs/refugees/returnees face more or different restrictions than the host population? • What types of work and economic activity are undertaken by IDPs/refugees/returnees? How do these differ from those undertaken by the host population? How do these differ between men and women? • What types of work/economic activity were IDPs/refugees/returnees undertaking previously, prior to displacement/return <p>Skills development/training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are IDPs/refugees/returnees able to access professional skills and vocational training? Do they enjoy the same level of access as the host population? <p>Access to credit and loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are IDPs/refugees/returnees able to access credit and loans? Can they access the same credit/loans services and schemes as the host population?
<p>Effective and accessible mechanisms to restore housing, land and property</p>	<p>Security of tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do IDPs/refugees/returnees have security of tenure? (As tenants? As owners?) How does this compare with the host population? Do women face specific challenges in terms of security of tenure, including in relation to inheriting property? • Do those who own/rent have documents of ownership/tenancy? • To what extent are IDPs/refugees/returnees at risk of forced eviction? Are their particular groups that are vulnerable to forced eviction? Are there mechanisms in place to support those who are evicted? <p>Enforcement of housing land and property rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there mechanisms in place to provide those who have lost their HLP with compensation, restitution or some other form of remedy? • Are there mechanisms in place through which people can enforce their housing, land and property rights? What is the nature of these mechanisms? Who manages them? • To what extent are these mechanisms accessible? Can IDPs/refugees/returnees access the same mechanisms as the host population?
<p>Access to personal and other documentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there mechanisms in place for people to obtain/replace documents? What is the nature of these mechanisms? Who manages them? • To what extent are these mechanisms accessible? Do IDPs/refugees/returnees enjoy the same level of access as the host population? • What are the main reasons that people do not have birth certificates (or other documents)? Are particular groups less likely to be in possession of documents? Are IDPs/refugees/returnees less likely to have documents than the host population?
<p>Family reunification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there mechanisms in place to reunite separated family members? Who manages these? • To what extent are these mechanisms accessible? • In the case of unaccompanied/separated children (UASC), is there a process in place to ensure that reunification is in their best interests? • Are alternative care arrangements found for UASC who cannot be reunited with their families? • Can IDP/refugee/returnee UASC access same child protection mechanisms as the host population?

Participation in public affairs without discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are IDPs/refugees/returnees eligible to vote on the same basis as the host population? • If not, what obstacles exist to IDPs/refugees/returnees voting? • Can IDPs/refugees/returnees be elected to positions of power on the same basis as members of the host population? If not, why? • What local governance structures/decision-making bodies exist? Are IDPs/refugees/returnees able to participate within these?
Access to effective remedies and justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there mechanisms in place that can provide remedies for violations suffered (either those that led to displacement or those experienced during displacement)? What is the nature of these mechanisms? Who manages them? • What types of remedy do they provide? (compensation, restitution etc) • What extent are these mechanisms accessible? Are there particular groups who are less likely to be able to access these mechanisms?

A number of questions in the table relate to access to services. To unpack this, the following factors should be looked at. To be fully accessible, services should be:

- Provided without discrimination;
- Within safe and easy reach;
- Affordable;
- Known of by beneficiaries; and
- Culturally appropriate and sensitive to gender and age.

Secondly, a number of questions refer to “population groups” who are most vulnerable to, or most affected by, a particular issue. A primary concern should be to understand the specific challenges faced by women and children. For example, children may be exposed to certain types of protection risk, or women may be prevented from inheriting land and property. It is also important to identify other aspects of diversity that expose certain people to certain risks or prevent them from accessing certain services- factors such as nationality, ethnicity, age and disability may all be relevant.

Finally, the analysis team should also identify which actors are implementing interventions in the displacement-affected community under each of the IASC criteria.

A template for recording and analyzing the information gathered in the criteria and indicator analysis is provided in [analysis of 8 criteria impact](#).

METHODS OF ENQUIRY

This section provides an overview of the different methods used to collect data for the environmental analysis and the criteria and indicator analysis process outlined above. The main method is a review of secondary data. Secondary data can be complemented with key informant interviews and focus group discussions. This section also provides guidance on how to validate findings with key stakeholders and displacement-affected communities.

SECONDARY DATA REVIEW:

As highlighted above, a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework is primarily based on a secondary data review (SDR). A SDR is the key method of enquiry for the environmental analysis, as well as the criteria and indicator analysis. The SDR provides the analysis team with the following:

- Quantitative and qualitative information that answers the key questions listed in the environmental analysis section.
- Quantitative information that enables us to measure the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework.
- Quantitative and qualitative information that answers the key questions listed in the criteria analysis section.

Furthermore, the SDR can also help the analysis team to identify key actors to interview during the key informant interviews.

Why does the ReDSS Solutions Framework methodology prioritize secondary data over primary data collection?

- There is often a wealth of information available on displaced populations, but it exists in different places- using the ReDSS Solutions Framework helps to synthesize and systematize it in one place. The analysis can help to later inform more targeted primary data collection methods, based on the gaps in data that have been found during the solutions analysis.
- There is often “assessment fatigue” among displacement-affected communities.
- The methodology presented in this guidance is intended to be straightforward, and not too time intensive for the actors involved in conducting a solutions analysis.
- The methodology does employ some primary data collection methods (key informant interviews and focus group discussions) to capitalize on the knowledge and expertise of actors who are familiar with the context, and the lived experiences of displacement-affected communities themselves.

A number of different sources should be consulted during the SDR. These will include:

- **Laws and policies** at the regional, national and local level that are relevant to the displacement-affected community. Both laws and policies specifically relating to the displacement-affected community (e.g. national refugee legislation), as well as those that affect them (e.g. a national education policy) should be reviewed.
- **Official national statistics** such as employment rates, poverty rates and civil registration data.
- **Development indices**, such as the human development index.
- **Academic research** conducted on the displacement-affected community.
- **Assessments** conducted by humanitarian and development actors.
- **Household surveys** e.g. (Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, censuses, living standards measurement surveys).
- **Strategy and programming documents** publicly available as well as those shared by key informants during the course of the analysis.
- Reports on IDP profiling exercises
- **Previous solutions analyses (if conducted).**

As part of the SDR, the analysis team should engage with the actors and outputs of local and national planning processes, as well as existing data collection mechanisms. Although the SDR is the starting point for a solutions analysis, it should be noted that the process can continue throughout the analysis. For example, the analysis team may be alerted to new sources of secondary data while key informant interviews are being conducted.

Understanding the limitations of secondary data

Despite the benefits of focusing primarily on secondary data (highlighted above), it is also important to consider the limitations of such an approach. Previous ReDSS solutions analyses have identified a number of limitations of secondary data.

Lack of specific data: There is often a lack of quantitative data to specifically measure the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework. Furthermore, data may exist on the displacement-affected community, but it is frequently not disaggregated between the displaced population and the host population, thereby preventing quantitative comparison. There is little that the analysis team can do about this lack of data, but it is very important that gaps in data are highlighted in the analysis report, and through rating indicators “white” when data is lacking.

Relevance and representativeness of secondary sources: Assessments conducted by organizations to inform their programming may be focused in specific geographic areas, or on a particular population group, and therefore not generalizable to the whole of the displaced or host population. It is therefore essential that the analysis team is aware of these limitations, and seeks to identify similar data that covers other geographical areas, and other population groups.

Reliability and credibility of data: It is important to try to make an assessment of the reliability and quality of each source. Key questions to ask include: what methodology was used? is this methodology sound and proven? is there organizational and cultural bias within the source? are the findings a result of anecdotal evidence or unsubstantiated rumor? [These questions are based on information in ACAPS (2014). Technical Brief on Secondary Data Review: Sudden Onset Disaster.]

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

In order to build on and supplement the SDR, key informant interviews (KIIs) should be conducted with a wide range of actors.

KIIs provide an important means of gathering additional qualitative data to inform the environmental analysis process. Although KIIs will not provide the quantitative information necessary to rate the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework, they will provide important qualitative information for the criteria analysis. Further sources of secondary data may also be identified during the KIIs. For example, key informants may share programming, assessment or analysis documents that are not publicly available. Key informants will also likely provide recommendations for other people who should be interviewed.

Key informants should be identified in the following categories:

- National and local government representatives;
- Local NGOs and civil society organizations;
- Representatives of displacement-affected communities;
- Academics who have conducted research in the displacement-affected community;
- Representatives of the private sector;
- UN Agencies and international NGOs (ensuring coverage of both humanitarian and development agencies); and
- Donors- both humanitarian and development.

KIIs can provide invaluable information on the following:

- The current legal, political and socio-economic context, and the extent to which these enable or inhibit solutions;
- The challenges and successes vis-à-vis the solutions to date, and anticipated future challenges;
- The current and planned interventions supporting return/local integration/settlement elsewhere, and identified gaps within these;
- The current and planned development interventions in the regions where the displacement affected community lives;
- Specific information relevant to the ReDSS Solutions Framework indicators/criteria where the stakeholder has specific expertise or knowledge. Obviously it will not be possible to ask questions about all of the indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework during each KII. Choosing a thematic focus should be determined by a number of variables:
 - The thematic focus of each particular stakeholder's work (if any).
 - Gaps that have been identified in data during the SDR.
 - Areas where clarity is required, or where there is disagreement, emerging from the SDR.
- Ideas/recommendations on what can be done to advance solutions.

Questions for KIIs should be tailored to each individual stakeholder. The questions listed in the environmental analysis and criteria analysis sections of this guidance manual can be used as a guide.

Specific issues to discuss with different types of stakeholder (additional to the above) are presented in the table below:

Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which solutions are considered within current policies and plans (e.g national and local development plans). • Extent to which policy has been changed/adapted based on recent influxes/returns. • Scope for solutions within future policy. • Coordination with humanitarian and development actors.
UN/NGOs/local civil society actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency policies and strategies vis-à-vis displacement and solutions. • Constraints in the operational environment. • Coordination with actors within and beyond the humanitarian sphere. • Extent to which current strategies encompass thinking around solutions.
Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and future priorities for displacement funding. • Extent of current coordination and potential coordination between humanitarian and development focused donors/funding streams.
Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key gaps in research around forced displacement and solutions. • Engagement of research community with humanitarian and development actors on displacement and solutions. • Extent to which existing research recommendations on displacement and solutions are being operationalized.
Representatives of displacement affected communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which they feel meaningfully engaged in humanitarian and development planning processes. • Relations between different population groups (refugee/IDP/returnee and host population). • Priority areas for intervention to advance solutions, and build self-reliance and resilience in displacement-affected communities.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

In addition to the SDR and KIIs, a solutions analysis should also ideally include focus group discussions (FGDs) in the displacement-affected community.

FGDs can provide important information on:

- The extent to which displacement-affected communities feel that indicators in the ReDSS Solutions Framework have been achieved in relation to the host and displaced populations;
- Concrete examples which illustrate the above;
- Qualitative background information relevant to each of the indicators. For example, information on the barriers to accessing education, or the reasons why people do not have birth certificates;
- Intentions of the displaced population (in terms of return, staying in situ, moving to another location);
- Participant's thoughts on what the major obstacles to durable solutions are; and
- Changes that participants would like to see in policies and programming to advance durable solutions.

As with the KIIs, it will not be possible to cover all of the 8 IASC criteria in a single focus group discussion. Prioritization of the 8 IASC criteria should be based on the following:

- Gaps in data that have been identified during the SDR and KIIs;
- Areas where clarity is required, or where there is disagreement, emerging from the SDR; and
- Issues that the participants see themselves as most important in terms of achieving a durable solution.

The composition of FGDs should be considered carefully, with respect to the age, gender and diversity of displacement-affected communities. At a minimum, separate FGDs should be held for men and women, as well as for displaced and host populations. For example, in the Tanzania solutions analysis conducted by ReDSS, FGDs were conducted with the following groups in each location:

- 2 FGDs with host population women
- 2 FGDs with naturalized Tanzanian women
- 2 FGDs with host population men
- 2 FGDs with naturalized Tanzanian men

If time and resources allow, further variations in focus group discussions could be determined based on factors such as age and nationality (in contexts where refugees come from more than one country). Youth participation should be sought in the FGDs, even if it is not possible to organize youth-specific FGDs. Capturing children's voices is also important, and having child-specific FGDs is encouraged. However, consent must be obtained for children's participation, and the FGDs must be led by individuals who are skilled and experienced in communicating and working with children in displacement settings. The number of focus groups conducted as part of a solutions analysis will largely depend on the time available, and the number of people who can lead them. Regular procedures should be followed for obtaining permissions/permits for conducting FGDs in displacement-affected communities.

Sample questions for Focus Group Discussions can be found in [sample questions for focus group discussions](#).

THE VALIDATION PHASE

Solutions analyses using the ReDSS Solutions Framework must adopt a consensus building and people-centered approach. This guidance has already examined how this can be applied in terms of securing buy-in for a solutions analysis, forming a core analysis team, and gathering data through KIIs and FGDs.

Too often in assessments and research conducted in displacement-affected communities, the engagement of different actors ends before they have a chance to be informed about key findings and recommendations, and provide feedback and input into them. The process of validating findings with key stakeholders is crucial. To ensure that this happens, the solutions analysis should include a validation phase that engages key stakeholders, specifically representatives of:

- Displacement-affected communities (IDP/refugees/returnees and host population);
- Local and national government;
- The academic community;
- Local, national and international NGOs and civil society organizations;
- UN Agencies;
- Donors.

The validation stage should take place once the analysis team has finished the environmental analysis and the criteria and indicator analysis.

What are objectives of the validation phase?

The validation phase offers an opportunity to:

1. Review and validate the findings of the analysis;
2. Obtain additional information that can help to inform the findings;
3. Obtain agreement on the rating of the indicators using the traffic-light system; and
4. Review the recommendations emerging from the analysis, and flesh these out further with the input of key stakeholders. This could include identifying key people for action, timeframes etc.

How should the validation phase be organized?

The mechanics of the validation process should be determined in each individual context. In most instances, the appropriate approach to build consensus on findings and recommendations will be to hold validation workshops that gather a diverse range of actors around the table.

Ahead of the validation workshops, the analysis team should do the following:

- Check in with main government counterparts to give them an initial overview of findings and recommendations. The government bears the primary responsibility for protecting and assisting the displaced and it is therefore important to share findings with them first. The team may also choose to discuss findings with other key stakeholders ahead of the validation workshop.
- A summary of findings and recommendations should be shared with all participants ahead of the validation workshops. This briefing for participants in advance will enable a more fruitful discussion in the workshop.

Depending on the number of key stakeholders involved in the solutions analysis, and other factors such as the sensitivity of the findings, it may well be worth holding more than one validation session. For example, one session could be held for donors and representatives of government, while another could be held for UN agencies and NGOs.

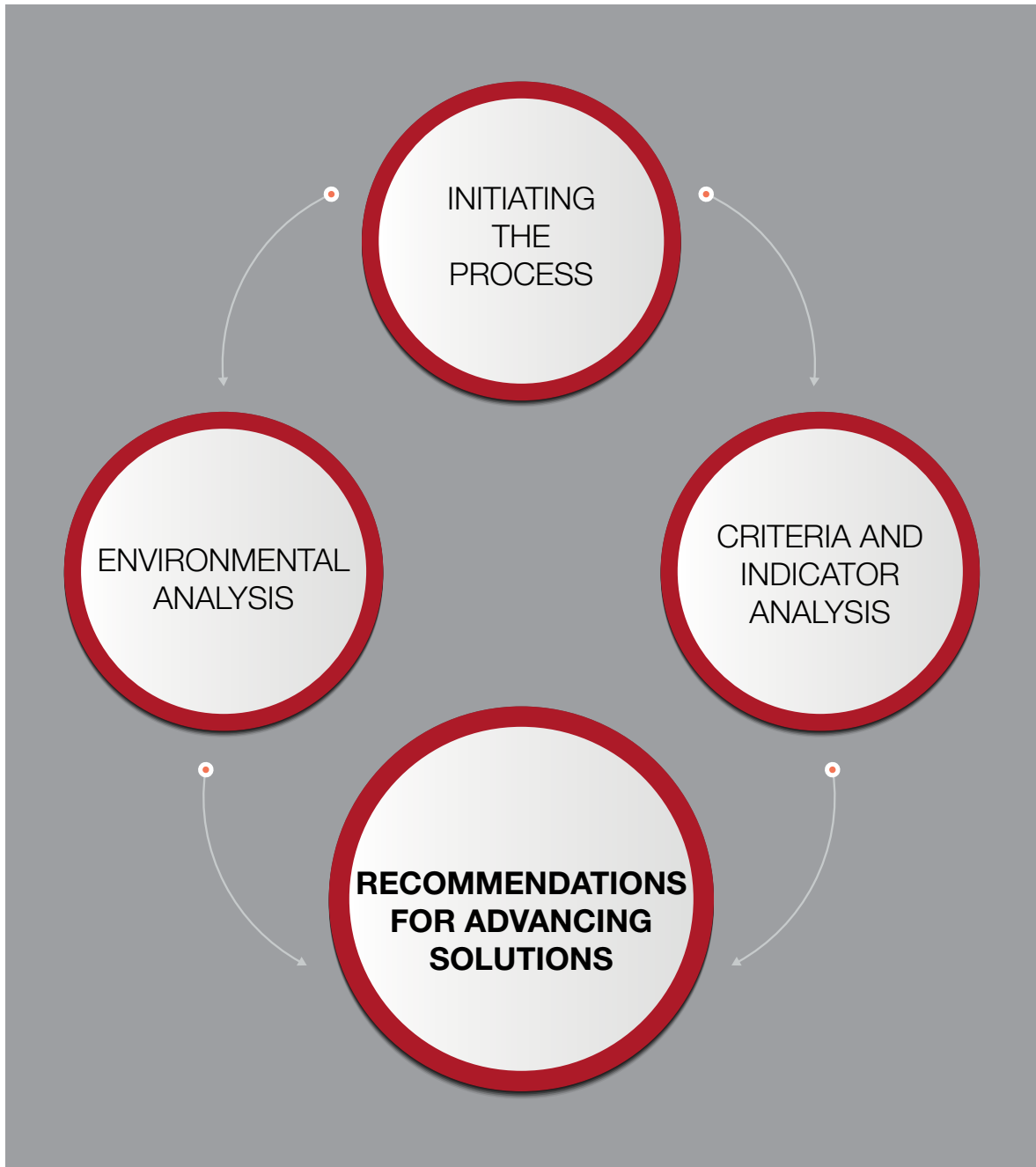
Engaging the displacement-affected community in the validation process is critical. Representatives could be invited to the validation workshops above, however, in order to engage a diverse group from within the displacement-affected community, the analysis team should try to conduct validation sessions/workshops within displacement-affected communities, with the participation of the displaced population and the host population, as well as local government representatives. These sessions could follow a similar format to the validation sessions outlined above, however content and materials will have to be adapted to this audience.

PART 4

DEVELOPING

RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides guidance on how to develop recommendations based on the findings of the environmental analysis and the criteria and indicator analysis.



All recommendations should be aligned to the ReDSS “core elements to inform solutions planning and programming” (See text box below).

Core elements to inform solutions planning and programming

- Strong government leadership of the process at both national and local level.
- An inclusive approach, which is not driven by mandate and engages a wide range of actors- government, UN, NGO, development donors, academics and the private sector.
- A shared accountability among the above mentioned actors for meeting joint outcomes vis-à-vis forced displacement.
- A multi-sectoral approach, recognizing that a diverse range of interventions and technical specialties contribute to the attainment of solutions.
- Meaningful participation of the displaced and host population and local institutions in implementing solutions strategies, and adequate measures to ensure voice and accountability during their implementation.
- Support tailored to the specific skills, assets and vulnerabilities of displaced and host populations, and based upon a strong understanding of local context (institutions, markets and income earning opportunities).
- Ongoing policy dialogue to widen the “solutions space” for displaced populations, with particular emphasis on freedom of movement, the right to work and greater flexibility in where the displaced can live.
- Investment in generating evidence of what works in terms of advancing solutions, thereby advancing learning that can be applied in other contexts.

The different types of recommendation that can be formulated

Recommendations emerging from a solutions analysis can be pitched at a number of different levels, and target a number of different actors. Those planning to undertake a solutions analysis should read previous ReDSS solutions analysis reports¹⁵ to get a sense of the different types of recommendation that have emerged from those analyses. In developing recommendations, it is crucial to draw from the findings of both the environmental analysis and the criteria and indicator analysis, and in doing so, to understand how the findings of both of these processes influence one another.

Four different categories of recommendation are presented in the table below. Solutions analysis recommendations do not necessarily need to address all of the points in the table, however, all of these categories should be given consideration during the process of developing recommendations.

Legal and policy	<p>Recommendations on...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how national and local laws and policies might be adapted or changed to better address prospects for durable solutions. • how national and local laws and policies might be adapted or changed to bring about development gains in displacement-affected communities.
Planning and strategies	<p>Recommendations on...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how joint humanitarian-development analysis and planning could be undertaken/improved, including how displaced populations could be incorporated into existing and ongoing local and national development planning. • what plans and strategies should be in place, or what should be adapted/changed in existing plans and strategies.

¹⁵ These reports can be found on the ReDSS website- www.regionaldss.org

Actors and architecture	Recommendations on... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the roles and engagement of humanitarian actors, development actors, the government and others in addressing forced displacement. • how to engage the displacement-affected community. • what coordination mechanisms should be in place. • funding mechanisms, sources and modalities.
Approaches and interventions	Recommendations on... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what area-based approaches/plans that build self-reliance and resilience in displacement-affected communities would look like in the particular context. Recommendations on what the key outcomes of these approaches/plans might be. • potential interventions and areas of programming. NOTE: the solutions analysis will not generate findings that will fully inform program design, but it will highlight areas/sectors where there are gaps and problems to be addressed. Sector-specific assessments conducted by experts would be subsequently required to inform program design. The ReDSS companion guide- "Designing solutions-oriented programs"- can be used after a solutions analysis has been conducted to flesh out the specifics of interventions that will advance solutions.
Data	Recommendations on... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to address gaps in existing data on displacement-affected communities.

In line with the overall outcomes which a solutions analyses aims to contribute to, recommendations should be focused on both of the following:

- Reducing the specific assistance and protection needs, as well as forms of discrimination, related to displacement.
- Increasing the self-reliance and resilience of the displacement-affected community (displaced population, host population and local institutions) through area-based approaches.

Guidance on developing recommendations aligned to these two outcomes is provided below.

Developing recommendations on reducing protection and assistance needs, as well as forms of discrimination, specifically related to displacement.

Step 1: Identify those indicators that are rated "red" or "orange".

Step 2: For each of these indicators, try to understand the factors that contributed to the red or orange rating.

The following two questions should be asked:

- Why is the situation for the displaced population worse than that of the host population? AND/OR
- Why are there still protection and assistance needs, or forms of discrimination, specifically related to displacement?

To answer these questions, the analysis team should look back at the other outputs of the analysis:

- The environmental analysis helps us to understand how factors such as the legal and policy and environment, the engagement or lack of engagement of different stakeholders, and public attitudes towards IDPs/refugees/returnees have influenced the negative rating of the indicators. Some possible examples are presented below:
 - Limited freedom of movement for refugees may be the result of a restrictive refugee policy.
 - Discrimination experienced by IDPs in obtaining employment may be the result of negative public attitudes towards them.

- A lack of security of tenure for returnees may be exacerbated by a response that fails to include interventions promoting and strengthening housing, land and property rights.
- A lower level of access to healthcare for the host population may be the result of interventions in the displacement-affected area that focus solely on the needs of the displaced and fail to take an area-based approach.
- The criteria analysis helps us to understand the broader thematic factors that helped to influence the red or orange rating. For example, if net primary school attendance is low, the criteria analysis for “adequate standard of living” will help us to understand the barriers that exist to accessing education, and develop recommendations accordingly. It is also important to look outside of the current criteria. For example, if people do not have documents (under the “access to personal and other documents” criteria) they may not be able to pass freely through checkpoints, which would represent a restriction on their freedom of movement under the “protection, safety and security” criteria. A table displaying potential areas of intersection between the different criteria can be found in [Template VII](#).

Step 3: Identify changes required: what needs to change and who is required to make these changes? The types of change that might be required are categorized in table above that explains the different types of recommendation.

Developing recommendations for an area-based approach

As well as addressing the specific protection and assistance needs of the displaced community, recommendations should also address broader needs in the displacement-affected community, and inform the development of area-based approaches that increase the self-reliance and resilience of the displaced population, the host population and local institutions.

In this sense, a solutions analysis can inform a more development-focused approach to addressing forced displacement. Such an approach is understood to necessitate a shift away from short-term, camp-based programming, which runs in parallel to host community service delivery, towards area-based approaches. The approach calls for closer involvement of central and sub-national government in refugee/IDP management and protection, with these ideally integrated into national and local development plans.¹⁶ An area-based approach also entails the integrated delivery of services, with refugees and host community members accessing the same services. Strengthening social cohesion is also a crucial element in an area-based approach, both horizontally (between refugees and host communities) and vertically (between displacement affected communities and service providers/duty bearers).

Recommendations for an area-based approach can be drawn from the findings of both the environmental analysis and the criteria and indicator analysis. It is particularly important to look beyond the indicator ratings, as these are a measure comparing the situation of the displaced population to that of the host community rather than overall measures of development for the displacement-affected community.

How can a solutions analysis inform assessment and planning processes? A solutions analysis does not replace or remove the need for other humanitarian and development assessment and planning processes in displacement-affected communities. Rather it should be seen as complement to these processes.

Through identifying the specific protection and assistance needs of the displaced population, and identifying key challenges faced across populations and institutions in the displacement-affected community, the findings and recommendations can complement and inform:

- Humanitarian planning processes;
- Joint humanitarian-development analysis and planning for area-based interventions;
- Local and national government planning processes (ensuring the inclusion of displaced populations within these plans).

¹⁶ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/sustainable-development/development-planning-and-inclusive-sustainable-growth/migration-refugees-and-displacement.html>

The ReDSS programming guide- “Designing solutions-oriented programs”

A companion guide to this guidance manual has been produced, which provides guidance on how to design programs and interventions that address the gaps identified in a solutions analysis. A solution analysis is a crucial step in understanding the extent to which the environment is conducive to solutions and the extent to which progress has been made towards solutions. The solutions analysis will highlight areas/sectors where there are gaps and problems to address but it will not generate findings that will fully inform program design. Following on from a solutions analysis, agencies will need to design programs and interventions that address gaps and advance solutions- the companion guide therefore provides support in this process. The companion guide can be access [here](#) and its accompanying templates [here](#).



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