



ReDSS guidance note to develop a Solutions Framework Analysis

INTRODUCTION

Displacement in Eastern Africa is predominantly of a protracted nature. At the end of September 2016, there were 12.5 million people displaced in the region and the majority are women and children¹. Although most have been displaced for several years or even decades, few have durable solutions prospects such as returning to their home, being integrated into their host communities or settled elsewhere.

A consistent problem in the response to protracted displacement is the lack of common framework and indicators relevant to solutions and a joint understanding of the drivers (or the construct) of solutions. This challenge makes it difficult to generate relevant data and analysis to identify displacement-specific protection and assistance gaps and needs to inform decision-making in collective responses.

The lack of standardized data and evidence inhibits development of adequate joint programming strategies and thus puts the collective accountability of 'solutions stakeholders' at risk, while making it really difficult to document progress towards durable solutions. It is globally recognized that indexing and measuring progress indicators is a vital part of an increased 'solutions accountability'.

Creating durable solutions requires a multi-stakeholder and sectoral, rights and needs based programming approach. A collaborative effort made by all actors using their different mandates, expertise, and resources, can significantly increase the prospect of durable solutions being achieved by identifying common needs, capacities and joint outcomes. For this to happen, actors involved in the search of durable solutions should use common and concerted durable solutions data and tools to make joint and informed decisions.

The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat ([ReDSS](#)) through consultations with stakeholders, has operationalized the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs to develop a comprehensive framework inclusive of displacement affected communities (refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities alike). The current framework is a rapid analytical tool that offers a snapshot in time to assess to what extent durable solutions for displaced populations have been achieved in a particular context. It comprises the 8 IASC criteria using 30 IASC indicators organized around Physical safety, Legal safety and Material safety. A traffic light system has been developed to assess the status of each indicator. The traffic light provides a comparative assessment of conditions between the displaced and the host community and an easy overview of the 'state of solutions'.

This framework is a rapid analytical tool that offers a snapshot in time to assess to what extent durable solutions for displaced populations have been achieved in a particular context. It can also be used as a joint monitoring and evaluation tool to support coordination and identify gaps and needs of displacement affected communities. It provides common overall outcomes and detailed activities based on the result that is developed and adapted to the local context. The objective is to improve and standardize the generation and availability of relevant data and analysis to better and more consistently operationalize joint response plans based on evidence in the search of durable solutions in East Africa.

The ReDSS Solutions Framework aims at ascertaining the status and conditions of displaced vis-à-vis the host population; the status and conditions of displaced vis-à-vis national or international humanitarian standards; and the status and conditions of communities affected by displacement vis-à-vis communities not affected by displacement. The indicators

¹ OCHA report, October 2016

are meant to be disaggregated by age, gender, and demographic groups, namely areas of origin, when disaggregated data is available.

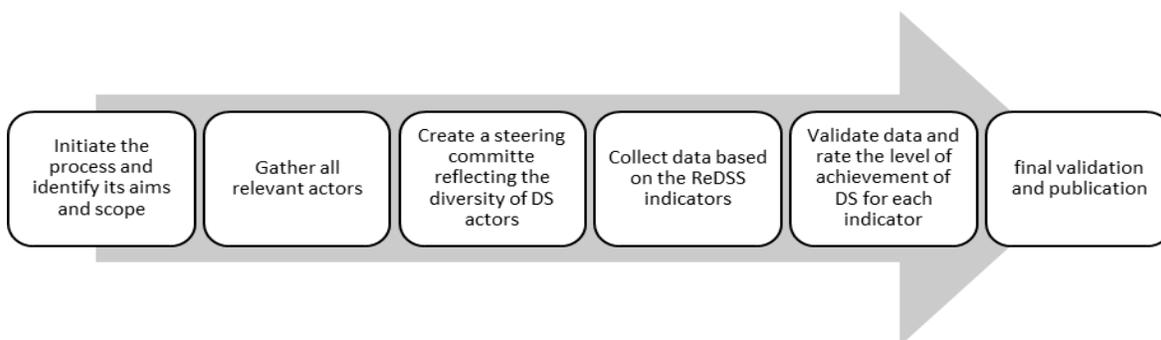
The objective for ReDSS is to examine the conditions for durable solutions for displaced persons in East and Horn of Africa, and to highlight the important roles and contributions of the various sectors (humanitarian, development, human rights and peace-building) in creating favorable conditions in the search for durable solutions.

The ReDSS solutions framework can be used by humanitarian and development practitioners and policy makers alike, to tailor programming and policies according to a common logical framework and analysis around solutions. This requires a collaborative process and active involvement and consultation with representatives from government at both national and local level, humanitarian and development actors and displacement affected communities. The participatory process through engaging with partners and building consensus, is key to ensuring its relevance and appropriateness, including learning from challenges and managing different opinions and perspectives to reach common objectives. The framework focuses not only on technical quality but on consensus building at each stage of the process. By bringing a wide range of actors, it provides a common tool for working together and with governments to inform durable solutions strategies and response, and for building comprehensive baselines against which to monitor progress over time. More specifically, the framework aims to achieve:

- A common framework tool for displacement affected communities (IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities) by which actors can gauge progress towards durable solutions and allow disaggregation between activities and sectors.
- Collective process and consensus building – with a people centered approach involving displacement affected communities to listen to their aspirations to inform better response; to verify analysis and progress – and to establish priorities among the many factors/elements that are part of solutions. Finally,
- The scoring system and traffic light categorization protocol adopted for the framework tool to provide a very clear quantification and visualization on progress and challenges around quantitative and qualitative indicators. It is also a simple communication tool for a complex issue.

SOLUTIONS ASSESSMENT / SOLUTIONS BASELINE

1. The solutions framework: a collaborative process



When and why do we use the ReDSS framework?

When there is a need for a joint analysis/monitoring and evaluation of the level of achievement of durable solutions of displaced persons with a view to identify gaps and opportunities that could form the basis of a common strategy and future programming. It can be carried out at the national or local level for all or a specific categories of displaced population (IDPs, refugees or returnees). Clearly identify the aims, the scope and the target population from the beginning of the process. Adjustments can be made after further discussion with the steering committee or other relevant stakeholders based on the availability of data, access to target population, etc.

ReDSS is currently using the Solutions Framework in a number of countries (Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania...) as part of a series aiming at piloting the framework in different operational and policy contexts in the region, in order to

test the indicators and to collect and record lessons learnt to adapt and improve it but also to have standard data to provide comparative analysis between different contexts.

Who should be part of the process?

Gather the relevant actors: humanitarian and development international organizations, international and local NGOs, national and local authorities, donors, representatives of civil society organizations, representatives of the displaced persons and of the host communities. Scholars such as universities or researchers can also take part to the process. Representatives of the private sector should also be involved through the process.

A collective process and consensus building: the process is transformational by focusing not only on technical quality but on consensus building at each stage of its development. Additionally, the objective of the consensus building and participatory approach is to reach a consensus on the analysis in order to collectively agree on gaps and priorities. By bringing a wide range of actors to develop it further, stakeholders will have a common tool for working together to inform durable solutions strategies and response, and for building comprehensive baselines against which to monitor progress over time. This framework tool represents a unique way of informing joint program planning at the granular level in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Actors will be able to tailor programming according to a common logical framework around solutions. Validation workshops with governments, NGOs and clusters, UN agencies and humanitarian and development donors to discuss key findings and recommendations and agree on a joint analysis to inform our collective way forward is also an important part of the process.

Community engagement is critical to inform reintegration analysis and programming. As numerous researches have shown, return and reintegration successes depend by large on the degree of participation accorded to displaced populations and host communities, which involve extensive period of consultation, sensitisation, negotiation, conflict resolution, factoring in individual's own perception of risks, and differentiated according to class, gender, age, clans, etc. It is therefore critical to support the safe and meaningful involvement of displacement affected communities in the search of durable solutions that affect their own lives, including children and other vulnerable groups, so as to ensure their ownership and support in order to make solutions lasting, locally relevant and supportive of social cohesion.

How do we ensure that all actors are on the same page?

Such a process requires a minimum of common understanding of the key durable solutions concepts and frameworks and of the process itself. Ideally and if time allows, a training workshop on durable solutions can be organized for the actors taking part in the process (the members of the steering committee, the actors involved in the data collection and those who will be requested to provide data and actors invited to the validation workshops). ReDSS has developed a two-day training package on durable solutions that can be easily rolled out at the beginning of the process, once the actors have been identified. In any case, a half a day workshop to present the aim of this exercise, its collaborative nature, the IASC framework and the ReDSS application tools; its indicators and the different steps of the process will be held. The steering committee will also agree on a concerted plan for the data collection, compilation and validation process.

What type of secondary data needs to be collected?

The secondary data collection is guided by the 31 indicators and related sub-indicators developed by ReDSS and adapted from the IASC framework on durable solutions for IDPs. Further guidance is to be found in the Joint IDP Profiling Service's (JIPS') global indicator library², should it be useful for partners to have a further breakdown of data. The goal is to collect existing data that match the information needed to rate each indicator. This exercise is not about conducting new assessments and evaluations but to collect existing ones (extensive desk review). Data is often scattered among

² JIPS and the Special Rapporteur on IDPs have initiated an indicator project that revives the IASC framework, and reinforces and unfolds a guide on how to collect data speaking systematically to the IASC indicator. The involved stakeholders hope to get this endorsed for further global usage by IASC. Though this is an IDP framework, the actors are committed to see how far this could be taken in a refugee context.

different organizations and sectors. The aim of the secondary data collection process is to collect and compile relevant, comparable and coherent data from different organizations.

How is data compiled and analysed?

It has been beneficial, in the exercises that ReDSS has engaged in, to hire a consultant, who will complete the analysis. Examples of TORs are available. On an average, depending on the scope of the exercise, it has taken between 30 working days to compile a baseline report, including extensive desk review and validation workshops.

How to proceed with validation and rating of indicators process?

The validation of the findings and the final rating for each indicator based on consensus building and according to ReDSS traffic light methodology will be done through three validation workshops:

- Validation workshop for UN organisations (both humanitarian and development sectors)
- Validation workshop for NGOs, CSOs, INGOs and representatives of both the displaced and host communities
- Validation workshop for national and local authorities
- Validation workshop for humanitarian and development donors and academia

Once the results of the three validation workshops have been compiled a final report is published. It is composed of the **one pager solution framework** featuring the final rating for each indicator through the traffic light color coding and a report with a narrative for each indicator. In March 2016, ReDSS finalized a similar exercise in Uganda titled “*Durable solutions framework Uganda, 2016: Local integration focus*”³ with a much more extensive validation process identified through lessons learnt from the previous exercises. The study included a desk review of recent literature on the situation of the displaced groups in Uganda, as well as interviews with key stakeholders and a focus group discussion (FGD) with urban refugees and host communities, as well as two validation workshops involving all key actors. Feedback were very positive from NGOs, UN, refugees, host communities, and the Government of Uganda.

2. Indicators and ReDSS rating process:

31 indicators, 3 safeties, 8 dimensions: The 31 indicators are organised around physical, material and legal safety and sorted in 8 dimensions corresponding to the IASC framework criteria. (See [ReDSS solutions framework table](#)).

1. Safety and Security/protection/social cohesion
2. Adequate standard of living/ access to basic services
3. Access to Livelihoods/ job creation and income generation
4. Restoration of housing, Land & Property
5. Access to Effective Remedies and Justice
6. Participation in Public Affairs
7. Access to Documentation
8. Family Reunification

The indicators are used to measure to what extent a durable solution for displaced has been achieved. Some of the criteria are interlinked and partly overlapping. It is important to be aware, that the principle of non-discrimination underpins all of the indicators; that is that displaced populations are not discriminated against, neither on the basis of their displacement nor on other grounds.

When possible they imply a comparison with the host community or national standards depending on the context – and if the context is complex between IDPs, refugee returnees, IDP returnees and host populations. The indicator set consists of an even mix of indicators on macro-level (institutional, community) and micro-level (household), and a mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators. Dimensions covering safety/security and standard of living dominates with their 6/7 indicators.

³ Full report: [Durable solutions framework: Uganda refugees’ focus 2016 – Key achievements and remaining gaps](#).

Info graphic: [ReDSS Uganda Solutions Framework Local Integration info graphic](#)

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

- Green indicates that a durable solution can be achieved,
- Orange indicates that the benchmark for durable solutions has not been met,
- Red indicates that the benchmark for durable solutions is far from being met.
- White indicates that data is missing, while white dots indicate that some data is available, but not enough to rate the indicator.

The final rating, based on the result of the collection of existing data and its compilation is done through consensus building during the validation workshops.

Ideally the participants to the validation workshops will have received the results of the data collection process for each indicator prior to the workshop.

Indicators and sub-indicators: The Solutions Baseline is intended to be used as a quick joint assessment and/or monitoring and evaluation tool. The main objective is to use existing and most of the time scattered data to get a snapshot in time of the level of durable solutions achievement. As a result most of the 31 IASC indicators are broad and sometime cover different elements or dimensions. The sub-indicators are indicative and proposed to help practitioners in the understanding and necessary breakdown of the broadest IASC indicators. Lack of data available might not allow for a full use of some of the suggested sub-indicators but they provide a better idea of the different dimensions to take into account when rating.

Data disaggregation: The level of achievement of durable solutions might not be the same for different components of the displaced population, especially for women and girls who often face specific obstacle in their search for durable solutions. When relevant and possible, the rating should include the specific issues, obstacles or discriminations faced by men, women, boys and girls as well as members of specific minorities. Guidance is provided in the indicators matrix on the type of disaggregated data to be collected in order for these issues to be taken into account in the final rating and comments (narrative report).

Terminology, concepts and general guidance: Definitions on specific terminologies or concepts are provided in the “guidance” column of the indicators matrix in order to clarify the meaning of some of the most complex indicators.

3. Consensus building methodology:

The overall process is guided by a participatory approach. Nevertheless, the validation workshops are crucial for the final rating of each indicator. The use of a consensus building approach for the rating process is key for the overall relevance and success of the collaborative process. The ultimate goal is for the results to be used by all durable solutions actors.

The same methodology is used for each of the three validation workshops.

Rating exercise: the audience is divided in three to five groups (depending of the number of participants) and each group reviews each criteria rating them using the traffic light color coding based on the data collected and made available. Ideally the rating process will be divided into three sessions according to the three “safety”. It is highly preferable that each group review all the indicators to avoid any gap in the consensus building process.

The process can be done as follows:

- Dedicate 10 minutes for individual thinking at the beginning of each session.
- Allow at least 40 minutes for group discussion on the rating of indicators
- Ask each group to come up with a colored rating for each criteria and two short bullet points to explain and/or comments their ratings
- Write down the results of each group for each indicator on an A1 paper or on a document projected on the wall.
- 15 to 25 minutes of debriefing and final rating in plenary
- Agree on a final rating for each indicator in plenary.
- The final rating can be bi-color (green-orange for instance) when no clear-cut decision can be made on the basis of the information available. The report narrative will provide the rationale behind this rating.

More specific guidance on the rating itself is provided in the “rating” column of the indicators matrix

THE FRAMEWORK AS BASIS FOR SOLUTIONS PROGRAMMING

In the Horn of Africa, several examples of programming are emerging in which the project descriptions and logframes including at indicator level have utilized the Solutions Framework. In its simplest terms, selected sectors, or multiple sectors have been chosen by NGOs often in consortia, and whereas programme response have been formulated according to local needs, data collection (and baseline data) has been formulated according to the Solutions Framework indicators. This has enabled a more systematic approach to accountability around the support to and progress of Solutions, as well as strong consideration to the complexity of the parameters of legal, physical and material awareness that constitute a solution.