



The search for durable solutions: Humanitarian and development linkages

Core elements to inform Solutions planning and programing

- The 3 durable solutions options (voluntary repatriation, local (re)integration or resettlement elsewhere) are processes, they are not solutions in and of themselves. The ultimate goal for all is (re)integration. So **return is not a solution, (re)integration is.**
- Creating durable solutions requires a **multi-stakeholder and sectoral, rights and needs based programming approach.** Addressing physical, material and legal safety of displaced people as a whole is critical in the search for durable solutions, and **requires contributions from all sectors** (humanitarian, development, human rights, peace-building...) in creating favourable conditions for durable solutions.
- Therefore the process must be viewed as a **collective action rather than mandate driven** based on an inclusive, participatory and consensus building approach - our common goal being to give the millions of displaced persons a chance of a better life with dignity and self-reliance.
- **National, regional and local authorities have the primary responsibility** and they need to be supported to be able to play a leadership and coordinating role. It is essential to strengthen their capacity and **to support the integration of protracted displacement and durable solutions in national development plans and in peace negotiations and agreements.**
- It is essential to **adopt a 'displacement affected communities'** approach- inclusive of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities – supporting integrated programing for both displaced and host communities, factoring in appropriate economic, environmental and social considerations (legal, material and physical safety).
- **Community engagement is critical to inform reintegration analysis and programing.** As numerous researches have shown, return and (re)integration 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 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, so as to ensure their ownership and support in order **to make solutions lasting, locally relevant and supportive of social cohesion.**
- Developing **area based Solutions analysis (localization of aid)** to inform safe and dignified (re)integration modalities is paramount due to limited absorption capacity, limited access to basic services, shelters and livelihoods opportunities, prevailing protection concerns, and persistent security, safety and access issues. This is what the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) is doing, working in close collaboration with all relevant actors.
- While 'solutions' analyses contribute to identify and prioritize (re)integration needs for displacement affected communities, by **involving development actors from the start**, it should also contribute to inform medium to long term sectorial priorities for development programing complementing humanitarian interventions. This is not only about starting new plans, but building into existing humanitarian and development ones to address displacement affected communities' needs and contribute to a comprehensive effort.

Recommended actions

1. Solutions Framework to support joint accountability and analysis to monitor progress and challenges

It is critical to improve the generation and availability of relevant data and analysis to better understand and operationalize complementary humanitarian and developmental approaches in the search for durable solutions and to mitigate against secondary displacements.

There are quite a lot of available data and needs' assessments in the region but most of them don't have a displacement component. So different type of data and analysis are required, building on what exists, to have better 'profiling'/ understanding of displaced and host communities (*skills assessments, DRR/ environmental/ urban assessments, economic and market/ private sector analysis, absorption capacity of different sectors...*).

This requires to adopt a common Solutions framework to support joint accountability and analysis to monitor collective progress and challenges and to improve data and knowledge management on displacement in the region. It is urgent to develop a system/ monitoring scheme to strengthen and standardize the generation and availability of relevant 'solutions' data and analysis - a "public data" set/ flowchart to monitor progress over time.

Another key challenge is the fact that durable solutions initiatives are rarely inclusive of displacement affected communities. Data collection, planning and analysis cannot be done without the **direct involvement of displaced and host communities**. It is of paramount importance to recognise that displacement affected populations have the right and the capacity to participate in any decision impacting their life. An inclusive process is key in the search for durable solutions and to ensure social cohesion and inclusion. While many are in need of assistance, they have capacities as well as vulnerabilities. Rather than assuming a need for indefinite care and maintenance, interventions should nurture such capacities.

ReDSS seeks to examine the conditions for durable solutions for displaced persons in its focus countries in the region, starting Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. The data gathered in each country is based on the [ReDSS Solutions framework](#), looking at physical, material and legal safety of the displaced (returnees and IDPs), in comparison to the host communities. ReDSS operationalized the IASC framework on durable solutions for IDPs to develop the ReDSS Solutions framework for displacement affected communities. It comprises the 8 IASC criteria using 31 IASC indicators organized around physical, material and legal safety. A matrix has been developed to collect existing information. The use of the same framework in the different countries will allow for comparison between different regions and populations groups. The ReDSS Solutions framework can be used as a rapid analytical tool to address displaced populations needs in the search for solutions.

Multi stakeholders and sectors engagement and investment

Creating durable solutions requires a multi- stakeholder and sectoral, rights and needs based programming approach. Therefore the process must be viewed as a collective action rather than mandate driven based on an inclusive, participatory and consensus building approach.

The objective is to include displacement into existing structure, like National Development Plans and to support national and local authorities to be able to play a leadership and coordinating role.

Early solutions planning and programing needs to support initiatives that strengthen self-reliance and resilience of both displaced and host communities building on the existing, and especially on the resilience agenda and architecture in the region. Resilience programing mainly focus on **material safety** in durable solutions language, so it is critical to build on that and add legal and physical safety components that are key elements to support (re)integration.

Equally important, **by having development actors involved from the start**¹, it is a key opportunity for them to include displacement related vulnerabilities in their programing and analysis, but also to complement humanitarian interventions by bringing development specialists² to support the collective effort and inform medium to longer term planning, creating the space required to plan for durable solutions (*Emergency deployment of non-emergency people to support early solutions thinking and planning, to ensure that early responses will build the ground for longer term programing: urban planners, community engagement specialists, etc.*).

This involves:

- **Providing adequate long-term multi sectorial funding to support administrations and communities that host refugees, returnees and IDPs**, in such ways that improve inclusive access to services and economic opportunities, including on housing, employment, education, access to health care and other vital public services and infrastructure for all. Investing in youth and education is crucial. Failing the children and youth risks creating a lost generation and sets us on a path toward new conflicts and greater displacement in the future.
- **Improving knowledge and solutions programing in urban context**: the majority of returnees go to urban centers and many IDPs living in urban areas will not return to their rural areas of origin. This highlights the increased need to seek solutions in urban environments and to better understand urban dynamics.
- **Investing into capacities to sustain solutions locally and nationally**. Such investments will strengthen national institutions and partnerships that can sustain locally owned solutions.
- **Placing our collective accountability to displaced populations** at the center of our action.

¹ World Bank, EU, UNDP...