

ReDSS Durable solutions framework

Understanding progress towards durable solutions

The search for durable solutions to the protracted displacement situation in the region is a key humanitarian and development concern. This is a regional/cross border issue, dynamic, with a strong political dimension, and which demands a multi-sectorial response that goes beyond the existing humanitarian agenda. Currently, more than 8 million people are internally displaced and a further 4.4 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries¹. Although most have been displaced for several years or even decades, few have access to durable solutions' prospects.

The aim of the Solutions Framework for displacement affected communities²

ReDSS seeks to examine the conditions for durable solutions for displaced persons in East and Horn of Africa, and to highlight the important roles and contributions of the various sectors (humanitarian, development, human rights and peace-building) in creating favourable conditions in the search for durable solutions. Affirming that the three solutions (voluntary repatriation, local (re)integration or resettlement elsewhere)³ are processes, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) operationalised the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs to develop the ReDSS Solutions framework for displacement affected communities. It comprises the 8 IASC criteria using 30 IASC indicators organised around:

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

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

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

The framework can be used as an analytical and programmatic tool and as a joint monitoring and evaluation tool to support coordination and identify gaps and needs of displacement affected communities. It provides common overall outcomes (minimum skeleton) and then detailed activities based on the result will be developed and adapted to the local context. The objective is to improve and standardize the generation and availability of relevant data and analysis to better and more consistently operationalize joint response plans based on evidence in the search of durable solution in East Africa. **The process is guided by the 9 IASC principles⁴.**

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Key foundations for a durable solution process

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

Traffic Light System

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

- **Green** indicates that the policy conditions exist for achievement, and that, in practice it is well on its way to being achieved

¹ OCHA June 2017, IDMC December 2016

² The term 'displacement affected communities' refers to the people and institutions in an area affected by displacement- it encompasses the displaced population, the host population and local institutions

³ Page 8 of IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons specifically notes "...a long-term process of gradually diminishing displacement-specific needs, while ensuring that IDPs enjoy their rights without discrimination related to their displacement" and that "a solution may become durable only years, or even decades, after the physical movement to the place of origin or place of Settlement has taken place, or the decision to locally integrate has been made."

⁴ Government responsibility/ Access for humanitarian and development initiatives and monitoring/ People's rights, needs and interests are the primary concern/ Displacement affected communities' Information, consultation and participation/ Respect for displaced communities' options/ Prohibition of coercion/ Non-discrimination/ Support for host communities/ Continued protection.

- **Orange** denotes that some obstacles exist to achievement and the indicator has not been fully met
- **Red** means that the standard is far from met.
- **White** means no data and information

About the ReDSS Solutions Framework Guidance Material and Programming Guide

The **ReDSS Solutions Framework Guidance Manual** outlines how to conduct a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework, and in doing so, answers the following questions: when should a solutions analysis take place? Who should be involved? How should data be collected, analyzed and validated? How should the indicators be measured and rated? and how can the findings of a solutions analysis inform policy and strategic planning/ programming?

The 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, NGOs and academics. The process should also foster the meaningful engagement of displacement-affected communities. To download the full Solutions Framework Manual, click [here](#) and the user guide [here](#)

Following on from a solutions analysis, agencies will need to design programs and interventions that address gaps and advance solutions. Recognizing this, ReDSS has also produced a **Solutions programming guide- “Designing solutions-oriented programs”**. The companion guide includes guidance on incorporating a solutions focus into assessments and developing solutions-oriented log frames. To download the full Solutions programming guide, click [here](#)

Limitations of the ReDSS Solutions Framework

- The ReDSS Solutions Framework provides an overview or “snapshot” of the current situation, it does not provide in-depth, granular-level detail. The findings of a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework can be used to inform strategy, policy and planning. The solutions analysis process highlights gaps and needs under the 8 IASC criteria, however, further sector-specific assessments are required to develop programs that address these gaps and needs. A Programming guide to this guidance manual- “Designing solutions-oriented programs”- has been developed to support agencies to incorporate a stronger solutions focus in their program design process.
- The primary focus of a solutions analysis using the ReDSS Solutions Framework is understanding the conditions for and 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.
- 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.

Note: 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.