ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy (2021 – 2023)
Part two: Operationalising the strategy

The ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy is in three parts:

- **Overall Regional Policy Strategy** which outlines our key commitments and common actions across four key durable solutions challenges to find and sustain solutions to address forced displacement in our region;

- **Operationalising the Strategy** which outlines ReDSS approaches to policy engagement, key achievements and learning, and critical success factors in the implementation of the joint regional strategy;

- **Regional Policy Strategy intervention logic** which connects the implementation of Strategy to the ReDSS overall policy logframe.

This updated Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) Regional Policy Strategy has been developed to guide the secretariat’s collective engagement to address forced displacement in the Horn of Africa region. It is an update to ReDSS previous Agenda for Humanity and SDGs (2016) and serves as a more comprehensive reference to our overall joint regional policy strategy (2021 – 2023) that will inform collective annual work plans at regional and country level in the years to come.
Women fetching water in Kabasa IDP settlement in Dollow, Somalia. Credit: DRC
Key achievements and learning

Since 2015 ReDSS and its members have managed to create a space to talk about durable solutions, and, initiated and engaged in policy processes and programming solutions. ReDSS has also engaged with development actors and donors contributing to a shift in addressing protracted displacements. ReDSS has acted as a coordination and information hub contributing to improved joint learning and programming for durable solutions. In particular, ReDSS and members have engaged in constructive and influential policy dialogue with key national and regional policy actors and processes at the local, national, regional and global levels. The focus has been both on strengthening the policy reach, access and impact of ReDSS members and providing timely, evidence-based policy advice for use by ReDSS members and policy actors.

Key achievements in policy dialogue

### Strengthening the policy reach, access and impact of members
- Increased strategic engagement with key stakeholders (local, national, regional, global levels) (incl. Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), World Bank Group (WBG), United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), national and local authorities, humanitarian & development donors etc)
- ReDSS members supported to navigate complex political spaces while managing potential risks
- Non-governmental organisations (NGO) members participate in key policy processes while ReDSS creates the space to engage
- ReDSS recognised as an umbrella organisation – invited to key working groups, donor briefings, UN missions etc
- Supporting local civil society organisations (CSOs) engagement in national and regional policy processes

### Providing timely, evidence-based policy advice and analysis
- Documentation of learning and best practices in relation to durable solutions e.g. Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) implementation in Horn of Africa; sharing of thematic policy briefs and key messages
- Governments, humanitarian, development and peace building actors brought together for collective reflection – learning events; policy dialogue in partnership with key stakeholders
- Coordination and alignment around a common vision and approaches with monthly donors/NGOs/United Nations (UN)/ Durable Solutions working groups

### Providing timely, evidence-based policy advice and analysis
- Use of evidence to inform policy, challenge a common narrative and assumptions
- Focus on strengthening engagement with governments (national and local authorities)
- Produce and support common messages and coherent engagement strategies

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Cover photo: Banbusul IDP settlement in the outskirts of Baidoa, Somalia. Credit: DRC

1 The Horn of Africa region consists of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.
How does ReDSS engage in policy dialogue?

Policy dialogue is one of the four ReDSS strategic pillars in support of the overall goal to improve programming and policy in support of durable solutions processes so that displacement-affected communities live in safety and dignity in the East and Horn of Africa. The overall objective of ReDSS’ Policy dialogue pillar is to “facilitate and undertake constructive and influential policy dialogue at local, national and regional levels”.

Policy dialogue is not a standalone objective or activity but is also mainstreamed across the three other ReDSS pillars (Research and analysis, capacity development and Coordination). The focus for ReDSS is the use of evidence, learning and analysis to influence policy dialogue through engaging in key policy processes and with key actors.

Policy dialogue for ReDSS has both internal and external dimensions in terms of how ReDSS supports our members and engages as a Secretariat across two outcomes:

- **Outcome 1**: Strengthen ReDSS policy reach and impact through serving as a platform for engagement and dialogue informed by evidence and learning.
- **Outcome 2**: Provide timely, evidence-based policy advice and analysis that orient policy processes towards solutions to displacement.

The focus for ReDSS to use evidence, learning and analysis to influence policy dialogue through engaging in key policy processes and with key actors.

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Top photo caption: South Sudanese refugees walk through Jewi refugee camp in Ethiopia. Credit: UNHCR

Policy dialogue - to facilitate and undertake constructive and influential policy dialogue with at local, national and regional levels.

Outcome 1: Strengthen ReDSS policy reach and impact through serving as a platform for engagement and dialogue informed by evidence and learning.

Outcome 2: Provide timely, evidence-based policy advice and analysis that orient policy processes towards solutions to displacement.

ReDSS Pillars

Research & analysis  →  Capacity development  ←  Coordination

What are the key policy themes and processes and who should we engage with?

ReDSS has worked with its members to identify key policy processes and actors to engage with in relation to durable solutions agenda in our region. Since 2018 the focus in terms of policy processes has been: (1) national and sub-national government policies and plans; (2) CRRF at regional and country levels; and (3) WBG International Development Assistance (IDA) processes. Key actors at regional level identified have included: (1) IGAD and its Forced Displacement Secretariat; (2) UNHCR; and (3) Humanitarian and development donors. While ReDSS engages in global policy processes such as the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019 and ongoing work of the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement in 2020, it is based on strategic decisions of where engagement can add value to the broader policy dialogue in the region. Engagement at the global and donor capital levels is usually through members and through the sharing of ReDSS analysis, evidence and learning.
In 2020 ReDSS worked to more comprehensively identify both priority policy themes and engagement strategies across the refugee and internal displacement agendas at both the regional and country levels. Detailed policy engagement strategies were developed at the country level in 2020 with ReDSS members and partners and will be regularly updated to inform constructive and influential policy engagement and define collective work plans and key activities.
## 2021 priority policy themes at regional and country level

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<th>REGIONAL</th>
<th>SOMALIA</th>
<th>ETHIOPIA</th>
<th>KENYA</th>
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<td><strong>2021 overall theme: social and economic inclusion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Local (re) integration</td>
<td>Measuring local (re) integration processes and collective outcomes</td>
<td>Integrated response</td>
<td>Integrated access to services/education</td>
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<td>Self reliance and graduation</td>
<td>Self reliance, graduation and safety nets</td>
<td>Self-reliance and right to work</td>
<td>Self reliance, graduation and safety nets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection and politicisation of population movement</td>
<td>Protection, rights and inclusion</td>
<td>Protection oriented and principled responses to displacement</td>
<td>Protection, rights and inclusion</td>
</tr>
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Women and children in Bula-Fulay IDP camp which is located in Waberi village in Baidoa, Somalia. Credit: Marco Gualazzini

Top photo caption: A peace caravan session in Dollow, Somalia. Credit: DRC
This updated ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy will inform the collective development of the 2021-2023 ReDSS Strategy with ReDSS members. The key commitments and actions will also be integrated at the regional and country level into the annual ReDSS work plans across the four pillars to ensure that policy engagement is informed and mainstreamed across all of ReDSS’ work.

The regional and country level work plans developed with members will outline next steps and key milestones aligned to Regional Policy Strategy and create stronger collective responsibility and mutual accountability through identification of key activities to be undertaken by ReDSS Secretariat, ReDSS members and ReDSS role as a learning partner in Durable Solutions Consortia.
The ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy represents a commitment to work together and be held mutually accountable for its implementation. **It is one vision implemented by ReDSS members through joint learning and collective outcomes.**

- ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy (2021 - 2023) is developed and endorsed by ReDSS Steering Committee and Core Group. It informs the collective development of the next ReDSS Strategy (2021-2023) across all four ReDSS pillars including the updated Theory of Change, overall Logframe and annual work plans at regional and country level.

- ReDSS members at all levels are aware of and actively use the ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy to inform their engagement in policy processes, the development of durable solutions programming, priority research, joint analysis and collective monitoring and learning.

- Capitalise on ReDSS regional and national membership and the capacities and expertise of membership more actively to implement the key actions and support greater joint learning and coordination.

- Strengthened knowledge and engagement of ReDSS members in priority thematic areas for durable solutions identified in the ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy and related country level policy engagement strategies.

- ReDSS relevance in policy dialogue sustained in regional and national policy processes through the use of evidence and learning.

- Increase ReDSS’ monitoring and evaluation capacity and foster greater accountability for collective outcomes.

- Adaptive learning at the centre through embedding adaptive working approaches so that ReDSS strategies and activities aligned to the joint Regional Policy Strategy are designed assuming change is inevitable and regularly collectively reviewed and updated.

This updated ReDSS Regional Policy Strategy will inform the collective development of the 2021-2023 ReDSS Strategy with ReDSS members.
The Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) is a coordination and information hub that acts to catalyse forward thinking and policy development on durable solutions for displacement. ReDSS seeks to improve joint learning and programming, inform policy processes, enhance capacity development and facilitate coordination in the collective search for durable solutions. It is comprised of 14 organisations working together to maintain focused momentum and stakeholder engagement towards durable solutions for displacement-affected communities in East Africa and the Horn of Africa.