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DURABLE SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE





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The Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) provides a principled operational framework and platform to design and implement durable solutions in support of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia and host communities/communities at locations of return, relocation or local integration.

It aims at facilitating collective action and cooperation between the Ethiopian government authorities at national, regional, and local levels and the international community.

It is based on and reflects relevant governmental plans and strategies as well as international standards including the 2010 United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the 2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons.



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WHAT ARE DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT?

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. It can be done through sustainable reintegration at the place of origin (voluntary return), local integration in areas where displaced persons take refuge or in another part of the country based on their choice (relocation).

IDPs have the right to make an informed and voluntary choice on what durable solutions to pursue and to participate in the planning and management of durable solutions. Active engagement of IDPs and the members of communities receiving them, including in restorative justice and reconciliation processes, is essential to make solutions sustainable.

Finding durable solutions entails gradually reducing the short and long-term needs of displacement-affected communities relating to physical, material and legal security and enabling internally displaced persons to rebuild their lives and to become self-reliant through sustainable economic and social reintegration into society either at the location of displacement, the place of origin or elsewhere

in the country. In short, they should be brought to equal footing with the communities receiving them in enjoying both their constitutional and fundamental human rights. Measures taken must be gender and age-sensitive and address the specific needs of children and particularly vulnerable persons such as persons with disabilities or traumatized individuals, unaccompanied children and female headed households. Effective remedies for displacement related violations include access to land for the purposes of shelter and livelihood.

The Nairobi-based Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) has adapted the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons to the regional context of the Horn of Africa and operationalized it, using 28 outcome indicators¹ organized around physical, material, and legal safety to measure the extent to which durable solutions have been achieved in a particular context. 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 evidence-based responses in the region.²

¹ See <http://regionaldss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/List-of-ReDSS-framework-indicators.pdf>

² See <http://regionaldss.org/index.php/research-and-knowledge-management/solutions-framework/>

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The DSI has been developed by the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donors. Modeled after good practices in other countries, the DSI in Ethiopia seeks to provide a principled operational framework to guide the work of all partners on durable solutions in the country. Its ultimate objective is to enable conditions

conducive for all internally displaced persons to achieve durable solutions in a principled way. Toward this end, the DSI will support political ownership and leadership at the highest level, ensure community engagement, as well as linking up the necessary humanitarian, development, and peace actors to support durable solutions for IDPs at five levels:

DSI SUPPORT LEVELS:

POLICY	Mainstreaming the issues of displacement in key policy/strategy documents, including in national development plans.
LEGISLATIVE	Supporting the ratification of the Kampala Convention and the development of implementing legislation and/or policy.
INSTITUTIONAL	Strengthening the coordination and operations of the federal and regional level working groups on durable solutions and seeking to enhance a whole-of-government approach to durable solutions.
PLANNING	Mainstreaming the issues of displacement in regional spatial plans, city-wide structure plans and neighborhood development plans.
OPERATIONAL	<p>Implementing area-based, comprehensive, government-led and community driven programmes in areas of voluntary return, relocation or local integration.</p> <p>Supporting internally displaced households to find individual solutions (e.g. through microfinancing or portability of social protection entitlements).</p> <p>Mainstreaming solutions into development programmes and humanitarian action.</p>



POLICY LEVEL

The GoE is currently developing a 10 year-prospective plan, as well as its Growth and Transformation Plan III (2020/2021 – 2024/2025), and a peacebuilding strategy, which will guide the efforts and investments of the GoE and the development actors over the next five years. In parallel, the United Nations' Country Team is developing its new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and a multi-year resilience strategy to support the GoE. Efforts will be made by the initiative to mainstream the agenda of durable solutions for displacement affected communities in these strategic documents.

In addition, the DSI will share Ethiopia's experiences working towards durable solutions with the High level Panel on Internal Displacement and the GP20 platform, which is a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together UN entities, NGOs, academia, UN Member States, the World Bank Group and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to advance prevention, protection and solutions for IDPs.

LEGISLATIVE LEVEL

The federal government has initiated discussion with the regional governments about the possible ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the 2009 Kampala Convention) with the support of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has transferred the ratification document to the Council of Ministers for endorsement.³

Ratifying the Kampala Convention and adopting a law and/or a policy to give it domestic effect, as well as amending sectoral legislation or introducing new domestic laws where needed, would be significant milestones in Ethiopia's efforts to provide protection and assistance to IDPs and enable durable solutions for them. Support for legislative reform is being provided by Professor Chaloka Beyani, former Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, UNHCR, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

³ In addition to the official African Union translation of the Kampala Convention into the Somali language, UNHCR has supported the translation into the Amharic, Afan, Oromo and Tigrinya languages.



INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

In the Somali region of Ethiopia, a Durable Solutions Working Group was established in 2014. Efforts are now ongoing to replicate this good practice of coordination in other regional states (Afar, Gambella, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region) affected by internal displacement. Under the DSI, trainings and cross-regional learning are envisaged with different line Ministries under the aegis of the federal level Durable Solutions Working Group. The institutional architecture is likely to evolve as the legislative reform agenda is implemented.

PLANNING LEVEL

The current Ethiopian spatial planning system includes a National Urban Development Spatial Plan, Regional Urban Development Spatial Plans and, at local level, Structure Plans and Neighborhood Development Plans. Mainstreaming the specific needs of displacement-affected communities in the Ethiopian planning system, especially at regional, city and neighborhood level, is crucial to promote durable solutions for both displaced and host communities.

Reinforcing the system of human settlements will avoid making primary cities the first choice for IDPs and can make region and rural areas more resilient to climate-induced displacement. Considerations in terms of natural resources availability, territorial climate risk analysis and local clan-based land management systems on regional planning can facilitate local integration and the selection of suitable relocation sites, as well as the proper integration of IDP sites into the system of cities and human settlements.

OPERATIONAL LEVEL

Under the DSI, the aim is to support new joint programmes on internal displacement that demonstrate a “proof of concept” in supporting durable solutions interventions in selected locations (see Toolbox). Initial projects will be implemented in the Somali and Oromia regions, with the view to being scaled up across all displacement-affected regions of the country.

Support will be provided to the GoE to create flexibility within existing development financing in areas of voluntary return, local integration or relocation across different sectoral areas to keep the IDPs and former IDPs on the same footing with the host community, in line with the DSI principles.



TOOLBOX FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Area-based interventions addressing the needs of affected communities in areas of return, relocation or local integration are best suited to achieve durable solutions. They should be complemented with interventions targeting individuals and households which would allow them to find solutions on their own (for instance for highly mobile traders, pastoralists and other business people who will not necessarily move to or remain in areas of return or relocation). Support should be made available that allows for continued mobility.

As resources for solution-specific programmes and projects will necessarily remain insufficient, systematically integrating, where relevant and possible, displacement affected communities into relevant on-going or future development programmes and projects substantially strengthen activities contributing to durable solutions. There is a need for strong data and evidence gathering as there are numerous gaps in what is currently available for IDPs and no comparison

with host communities in terms of poverty and vulnerability aspects, which is key for targeting and measuring the impact of durable solutions. Such data collection will also be important for clarifying what is meant by durable solution. The “end-point” of displacement is achieved when people have been able to overcome the specific vulnerabilities and protection needs that distinguish them from other poor in the communities where they live, in a sustainable manner.

Protection is at the core of all efforts to promote or implement durable solutions. In addition to efforts made towards durable solutions, all stakeholders shall ensure that urgent humanitarian needs of IDPs are met, which is a pre-requisite for obtaining solutions.

The chart on the following pages provides an overview of possible activities contributing to the achievement of durable solutions.

1. AREA-BASED INTERVENTIONS

COMMON ACTIVITIES:

- Carry out intention surveys, taking into account the related risks for IDPs who do not want to return to an area.
- Provide accurate and adequate information to allow each displaced person to make informed decision-making.
- Undertake a conflict risk profile on root causes and risk analysis with Do No Harm components to reduce risks that interventions fuel tension in the community.
- Develop community profiles to better understand the situation, needs, and potentials of displacement-affected communities.
- Bring displacement-affected communities together to carry out gender/age/diversity balanced community-based planning and build social cohesion.
- Consider “quick win” conflict sensitive interventions that are effective and efficient such as using food/multi-purpose cash incentives to bring communities together to mitigate tensions due to limited natural resources, as well as early investments in livelihoods and in health.
- Support community-based rehabilitation or construction of permanent shelters by providing building materials and technical support, using preferably IDP manpower in these efforts.
- Support rehabilitation, expansion or construction of basic services and infrastructure, include incentivizing the use of these services (e.g. school meals to encourage attendance).
- Ensure financial access of IDPs/returnees to health and other social services (free services, exemption schemes, community-based insurance).
- Ensure the centrality of protection in all actions, including paying particular attention to the risks of gender-based violence as well as the needs of survivors.
- Support activities that strengthen social cohesion, such as the creation of youth or women’s groups.
- Ensure that activities bring in the relevant line Bureaus as early as possible to ensure a whole-of-government approach and establish accountability frameworks.
- Provide the displaced with assistance to restore personal identification and housing, land and property-related documentation.
- Establish strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the sustainability of the returns, relocations and local integration.

1.1

TYPE OF INTERVENTION:

Facilitating sustainable local integration in areas where IDPs are currently displaced

LOCATION-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES:

- Conduct spatial planning for expansion of existing urban or rural settlements, including for expansion of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, education and other social services.
- Provide land to IDPs for housing and livelihoods ensuring adequate housing and land rights, including for female-headed households and minority groups and other marginalized groups.
- Support informal settlement upgrading and regularization in urban areas where IDPs have settled in informal areas.
- Re-enroll children in school to facilitate local integration.
- Support host communities whose resources and resilience have been due to IDP presence.
- Support job creation in all ways possible including through construction of incremental housing, key infrastructure investments and incentives that attract formal business and industries.
- Support skills development to facilitate job placements for IDPs.



1. AREA-BASED INTERVENTIONS

1.2 | TYPE OF INTERVENTION: **Facilitating safe, voluntary and sustainable return**

LOCATION-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES:

- Support go-and-see visits for IDP elders, women, men, children and youth in areas of planned return.
- Conduct training and awareness for government officials and service providers focused on conflict sensitive approaches to planning and execution of public service and infrastructure projects.
- Establish and run (temporary) medical screening centers. Prior to departure, returnees are assessed/advised on risks (i.e. pregnancy), existing health conditions are managed and continuation of treatments is ensured (i.e. chronic diseases such as tuberculosis).
- Develop community-driven programmes that cover and link up communities on both sides of regional borders.
- Strengthen/support the capacity of local level conflict resolution mechanisms and facilitating/supporting reconciliation activities (e.g. “sports for peace” and cultural activities).
- Provide training and support for men, women, children and youth aimed at creating a conducive environment for co-existence (e.g. creation of a youth or women groups that receive small resources to carry out joint activities, including activities with a health focus).
- Where relevant, facilitate restitution of land and other property and addressing other challenges related to housing, land and property (HLP) rights as well as facilitate access to justice for crimes committed during conflict.

1.3 | TYPE OF INTERVENTION: **Facilitating sustainable relocation**

LOCATION-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES:

- Support go-and-see visits for IDP elders, women, men, children and youth in areas of planned relocation.
- Conduct spatial planning regarding housing, infrastructure and livelihood activities as well as WASH, social, and education services to integrate relocated communities.
- Provide land to relocated communities for housing and livelihoods ensuring adequate housing and land rights, including for female-headed and child-headed households.
- Support job creation through key infrastructure investments and incentives that attract agro-processing and other forms of light industrial development and (re) establishment of health and educational services.
- Implement appropriate mental health services (i.e. community healing dialogues) and if possible, link these with job creation programmes.
- Provide information on availability and accessibility of services to the affected population.

2. FINDING INDIVIDUALIZED SOLUTIONS

2.1 | TYPE OF INTERVENTION: **Provision of start-up capital**

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Provide persons with necessary capital to restore livelihoods of their own choosing.
- Invest in skills and training to support sustainable livelihoods.

ELEMENTS:

- Grant seed money (cash grants) for small and medium size enterprise development with a principle focus on vulnerable IDP groups such as women and youth.
- Provide micro-credits for traders, farmers and other business people and support reforms to remove legal and institutional obstacles to access such financing (e.g. by provision of credit guarantee for micro-credit institutions).
- Support the creation of saving associations for male and female traders to facilitate access to credits to establish small scale businesses.

2.2 | TYPE OF INTERVENTION: **Social protection benefits**

KEY ACTIVITY:

- Ensure that IDPs can be Productive Safety Net Programmes (PSNP) clients in any location to receive their entitlements.

ELEMENTS:

- Support efforts to improve targeting based on vulnerability for long term displaced/returnees.
- Provide information, counselling and legal assistance to IDPs living in protracted displacement on social protection programmes.
- Support obtention of digitalized identification for IDPs to access health services, obtain insurance and financial exemption schemes.

2.3 | TYPE OF INTERVENTION: **Access to adequate affordable housing**

KEY ACTIVITY:

- Ensure that IDPs have access to adequate housing.

ELEMENTS:

- Provide material support where needed for rural and urban housing, through incremental housing and self-build schemes.
- Facilitate micro-credit for incrementally built housing in urban areas.
- Scale up housing provision in urban areas through public-private land development approaches, based on land value capture mechanisms .

3. MAINSTREAMING SOLUTIONS

3.1 | TYPE OF INTERVENTION:

Integration of displacement affected communities into development programmes and projects including on climate change adaptable and mitigation

KEY ACTIVITY:

- Systematic use of a solutions marker⁴ for development programming whose main purpose is not displacement-specific.

ELEMENTS:

- Development actors include displacement related data into their analysis and assessments.
- Development actors include climate change/ environmentally induced displacement related data into their analysis and assessments.
- Development actors systematically ask themselves: Is the programme/project targeting areas and locations, where IDPs and returnees live? If yes: How can internal displacement issues be included?⁵ How development programs 'does no harm' to the displacement affected populations?
- Development plans of the GoE at all levels (regions, zone, woreda, kebele) and associated budget allocations, as well as sector Bureaux programming and budgeting systematically take into account the specific needs of displacement-affected communities.
- The IASC Durable Solutions Indicators are integrated into project design, data collection and analysis, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).



3.2 | TYPE OF INTERVENTION:

Integration of a solutions perspective into humanitarian action

KEY ACTIVITY:

- Systematic use of a resilience marker⁶ for humanitarian programming in protracted displacement situations.

ELEMENTS:

- Humanitarian actors ask themselves and ask communities: Is the specific situation sufficiently safe and stable to help internally displaced household and communities making steps towards self-sufficiency? Is a sustainability/ handover component built into the project? Is the project linked to government/ community systems (e.g. in the areas of education, health, water), or to longer-term interventions? What are the associated resources both human and financially? Will the entitlements of target populations to services/utilities be legally recognized?⁷

⁴ "Solutions marker" refers to tools to assess whether a development programme or project whose main purpose is not displacement-specific is designed to include displacement affected communities rather than leaving them behind.

⁵ E.g. local government programmes/projects providing, e.g. (i) capacity building for LGs on displacement matters; (ii) supporting reforms that ensure fiscal transfers and budget allocations to sub-national / local levels on the basis of the de-facto population rather than the registered one.

⁶ "Resilience marker" refers to tools to assess whether a humanitarian programme or project would only have short-term life-saving effects or whether it is designed to contribute to strengthening the resilience of IDPs at household and community levels and thus contributes to their longer-term efforts to rebuild their lives.

⁷ OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2019. Examples of humanitarian action with a resilience component would include the use of school vouchers for public schools allowing authorities to hire additional teachers rather than short-term NGO-run schools; or the provision of types of transitional shelter that can be transformed by occupants into durable housing at a later stage of recovery.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS PROGRAMMING



The Durable Solutions Initiative will be governed by the following principles⁸:

Rights- and Needs-Based

Interventions are guided by the needs, rights, legitimate interests, resources and capacities of displacement-affected communities. They respect the individual right of internally displaced persons to make an informed and voluntary decision on what durable solution to pursue and facilitate safe, unimpeded and timely access to support and information. Interventions aim at enabling internally displaced persons to fully enjoy all their economic, legal, socio-cultural and civil-political rights without any discrimination for reasons related to their displacement. The respect of humanitarian principles should be also at the core of any durable solutions action, ensuring the Do No Harm principle with a protection centered approach. In order to be sustainable, pre-conditions to durable solutions must be met, related to safety and security of the IDPs in the place of return/relocation/local integration, sufficient peace and reconciliation progress, adequate justice and accountability.

Government-led

Interventions support the GoE in exercising its responsibility for facilitating durable solutions for displacement-affected communities, leading and coordinating across sectors and all tiers of government based on national development plans and other relevant government frameworks. Interventions support national, federal and local government offices in planning, coordinating, delivering and monitoring services and programmes.

⁸ These principles were developed by Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) and the UN Somalia in 2019 and are also considered to be appropriate for the Ethiopian context.



Participatory and Community-Based

Interventions enable displacement-affected communities, including IDPs, returnees, and host communities/communities of return, relocation to actively participate in the selection, planning, implementation and monitoring of activities. Interventions help communities define their own priorities and facilitate reconciliation and social cohesion among its members through inclusive processes.

Area-based

Interventions target 'displacement-affected communities', including IDPs, returnees, and those relocated or locally integrated, host populations and communities of origin, in a defined area and respond to the specific living conditions, risks and opportunities of the local context. Partners working in the same area aim at achieving coherence and greater impact through joint analysis, planning and coordination and through the creation of referral pathways.

Recognition of unmet humanitarian needs

The DSI recognizes the need for independent and impartial humanitarian aid. The DSI does not seek to lead or integrate humanitarian assistance for IDPs but rather work in complementarity. Attention and funds to address both durable solutions and humanitarian needs to be balanced. Any development assistance should be accompanied by the gradual reduction of humanitarian assistance, in a carefully managed and principled way.

Collective and Comprehensive

Interventions do not need to address all aspects of durable solutions but should contribute to a long-term and comprehensive approach to internal displacement across sectors by humanitarian, development, human rights and peace/state-building actors. Partners work towards collective outcomes jointly pursued by government and non-governmental actors, including civil society, affected individuals themselves, the private sector, research/academia and the international community.



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Sensitive to Social Inequalities caused by Sex, Age, Disabilities and Marginalization

Interventions give special attention to the specific concerns and perspectives of women through direct representation, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and marginalized groups and take into consideration mechanisms of exclusion that present barriers for accessing rights, services and equal opportunities in a non-discriminatory manner.

Sustainable

Interventions facilitate locally-led solutions by the government, civil society/affected communities, the private sector and communities themselves. They strengthen the GoE's role through systematic capacity development to support institutional processes and frameworks enabling durable solutions at all levels.

Interventions prioritize full recognition of IDPs' rights as citizens or habitual residents of their country, and as such seek to ensure access to existing government and community structures rather than establishing displacement-specific services structures.

Interventions are conflict sensitive and contribute to sustainable peacebuilding and development by respecting and going beyond Do No Harm. Interventions are based on long-term planning, multi-year time frames and budgets and can respond to changing dynamics through flexible and adaptive programming.



WHO IS INVOLVED?

The Durable Solutions Initiative is a new way of working and a joint endeavor by the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations, international and national NGOs and donors to provide a platform bringing together relevant actors engaged in supporting durable solutions.

The Ministry of Peace, together with the federal level Durable Solutions Working Group members, chaired by NDRMC and co-chaired by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), is responsible for supporting its implementation.

A UN team on durable solutions has been established under the auspices of the federal level Durable Solutions Working Group to ensure a common UN response. The team is currently chaired by the RCO and co-chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is supported by a Durable Solutions Secretariat.

The DSI-Ethiopia will benefit from the support of Professor Walter Kaelin, Special Advisor on Displacement to the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator.

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