

# Durable Solutions in Practice: Examples From Area-Based Approaches in Somalia and Ethiopia

## *Background note to the event Supporting the engagement of the UN RC system on internal displacement and Durable Solutions*

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### **How can RC/HCs deliver on the broader priorities, while simultaneously devising common strategies to address the specificities of internal displacement?**

#### **1. Mainstreaming durable solutions into the development agenda: Adaptation of the IASC framework through a multi stakeholder approach and investing in common understanding and programing principles**

- Displacement is fundamentally a development issue with humanitarian aspects. It is important to first invest in a common understanding and narrative, adapting the existing IASC framework to national and local needs and realities while [linking](#) durable solutions outcomes to sustainable development planning. For example, the [Somali National Development Plan 2020-2024](#) - informed by durable solutions analyses – prioritizes solutions to displacement as a cross cutting imperative for targeting and prioritizing development interventions.
- Durable solutions are multifaceted and need work at multiple levels and with a diverse range of actors forging new partnerships between UN, NGOs and authorities, investing in capacity development and developing common programing principles to guide collective action towards durable solutions. In Somalia the Office of the Resident Coordinator worked with ReDSS and other UN agencies, NGOs and the government to develop and adopt the [common programing principles](#). This achievement required leadership, passion and dedication of key leaders within the government, the UN, the NGOs and the donor community – group of good will actors to work together – example of UNRCO Somalia/ DSI - MoPIED DS strategy – together with ReDSS, World Bank, EU, Swiss, Danida, FCDO.

#### **2. Strengthen/ create spaces to collectively learn and reflect, to agree on joint analysis and common priorities**

- Displacement and durable solutions programs should incorporate processes for learning and adaptation, based on an approach that takes the complexity of durable solutions processes as its starting point. Develop relationships and build trust to engage in difficult conversations.
- For example, in Somalia and more recently in Ethiopia, the creation of durable solutions working groups at both federal and local levels has been essential to bring stakeholders (practitioners and policy makers, humanitarian, development and peace actors) together to support joint planning and peer learning. Such collaboration on the production and use of evidence is a critical success factor in developing a common narrative and subsequently a coherent planning approach with authorities.
- Regional actors such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)<sup>1</sup> are also playing an essential role, as a convener, bringing states together to discuss these issues- to support peer learning

#### **3. Invest in joint planning and collective outcomes based on evidence**

- Where different actors contribute to collective outcomes in the same location, addressing different components to complement and leverage each other expertise. For instance, ReDSS has developed and piloted [area-based training tools](#) in Somali Regional State in Ethiopia to support joint solutions planning processes.

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<sup>1</sup> IGAD is a state membership regional organization created to assist and complement member state efforts through cooperation to achieve food security and environmental protection, promotion of and maintenance of peace and security and humanitarian affairs and economic cooperation and integration. It has 8-member states: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

- While the use of the IASC framework is useful to frame a common understanding, need to go beyond it to measure DS programming impacts - really interesting initiatives to develop collective tools to measure progress exist like the [Local \(Re\) integration Assessment](#) tool developed by Danwadaag Consortium in Somalia, led by IOM with NGOs.

**4. Maintain displacement affected communities at the centre:** critical to adopt a 'displacement affected communities' approach- displaced and host communities, to make solutions lasting, locally relevant and supportive of social cohesion to avoid doing harm.

- Community participation in local planning processes are key. It ensures communities are directly involved in determining their own solutions centred on their rights, protection and needs. For example the South West State of Somalia adopted a community action plan into an integrated development plan to be funded the local government.

**What should we focus on moving forward to support nationally owned durable solutions processes?**

**1. Invest in area-based and locally led processes:** Invest and support nationally owned and locally led coordination and area-based planning processes bringing together humanitarian, development, peace building and private sector actors, linking durable solutions programming to district and municipal development plans based on agreed upon standards and approaches.

- Investing in the capacities of humanitarian actors to navigate complex political environment while at the same time maintaining a principled humanitarian response.
- And to have interest and capacity of development actors to engage on displacement and solutions issues at local levels.

**2. Operationalise the humanitarian-development-peace and state building nexus to support durable solutions processes:** from policy to practice:

- Recognise it is possible to mainstream solutions-oriented activities in all types of programming
- Sequence and calibrate investments to incentivise and enable solutions to displacement, prioritisation of limited resources
- Provide greater clarity as to where the specific needs of displacement affected communities fall across the remits and competencies of humanitarian, development, peacebuilding actors.

**3. Measuring and targeting: support consensus between practitioners and authorities on what to measure and how:** - theories of change measuring realistic pathways towards inclusion and integration

- To inform more efficient targeting and sequencing of investments
- To use political economy and conflict analyses to inform better context understanding and targeting - particularly important in situations of forced displacement, where challenges are not only humanitarian or developmental, they are often first and foremost related to ensuring the rights and protections of displaced people, and solutions therefore must also be negotiated at the political level.

**4. Displacement financing:** rethink the displacement financing architecture to support nationally owned and locally led durable solutions processes and the inclusion of displacement related vulnerabilities into national development and poverty reduction programming.

- Opportunities to calibrate financing instruments to support solutions-oriented outcomes.
- In Somalia, a Durable Solutions Marker has been introduced to the government Aid Flow Mapping tool, enabling the identification of investments contributing to durable solutions and linking them to the strategic objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP).

**About ReDSS:** ReDSS is a secretariat of 14 NGOs working together to advance durable solutions in the East and Horn of Africa. ReDSS seeks to improve joint learning and programming, inform policy processes, enhance capacity development and facilitate coordination in the collective search for durable solutions.