

# TECHNICAL GUIDANCE & STANDARDS

## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

This section covers:

- An introduction to durable solutions, and key global guidance
- Role of CCCM actors in durable solutions
- Role of a CCCM Cluster in durable solutions, and examples from country CCCM Clusters

### WHAT IS A DURABLE SOLUTION<sup>1</sup>?

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 achieved through:

- Sustainable reintegration at the place of origin (“return”);
- Sustainable local integration in areas where internally displaced persons take refuge (local integration);
- Sustainable integration in another part of the country (settlement elsewhere in the country)

The primary responsibility to provide durable solutions for IDPs needs to be assumed by the national authorities. International humanitarian and development actors have complementary roles. National and local authorities, humanitarian and development actors need to work together to effectively support IDPs and set up a rights-based process so that:

- IDPs are in a position to make an informed and voluntary decision on the durable solution they would like to pursue;
- They participate in the planning and management of the durable solution so that their needs and rights are considered in recovery and development strategies;
- They have safe, unimpeded and timely access to all actors supporting the achievement of durable solutions including non-governmental and international humanitarian or development actors;
- They have access to effective mechanisms that monitor the process and the conditions on the ground
- In situations of displacement resulting from conflict or violence, they are at least indirectly involved in peace processes and peacebuilding efforts and such efforts reinforce durable solutions.

Processes to support a durable solution should be inclusive and involve, on the basis of full equality, all parts of the displaced population, including women, children (in accordance with their age and level of maturity), persons with special needs and persons who are potentially marginalized.

A number of criteria determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved. IDPs who have achieved a durable solution will enjoy without discrimination:

- Long-term safety, security and freedom of movement;
- An adequate standard of living, including at a minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, health care and basic education;
- Access to employment and livelihoods;
- Access to effective mechanisms that restore their housing, land and property or provide them with compensation.

It might also be necessary for IDPs to benefit, without discrimination, from the following:

- Access to and replacement of personal and other documentation;
- Voluntary reunification with family members separated during displacement;

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<sup>1</sup> IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, 2010

- Participation in public affairs at all levels on an equal basis with the resident population;
- Effective remedies for displacement-related violations, including access to justice, reparations and information about the causes of violations.

## GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS & GUIDANCE

**Key global standards** (see Related Resources below)

- **IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons** – outlines what durable solutions are, key principles, steps of a rights-based process, and criteria to determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved
- **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** – drawing on existing international law, the right of internally displaced persons to a durable solution is articulated in Principles 28-30

The UN Secretary General's [Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#) (2022) was put in place as a follow up to the report and recommendations made by the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement (2019 – 2022). It will inform the UN's approach to durable solutions at global and country level. The Action Agenda has three goals – on durable solutions, protection and assistance, and prevention of new displacement crises. For durable solutions it outlines: necessity of ensuring strong and inclusive participation of IDPs and local communities; leadership by national and local authorities (emphasizing that the state is the primary duty-bearer to facilitate sustainable solutions); UN engagement on solutions, with strengthened engagement of development actors and UN Resident Coordinators responsible for ensuring coordination of solutions efforts at country level; improved systems for data on internal displacement; financing; and engagement of the private sector.

The **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** (sometimes referred to as the 'triple nexus') is a collective effort by humanitarian, development and, where relevant and appropriate, peacebuilding actors to recognize the interaction between the three components. It encourages actors to work together across silos to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities, and to work towards 'collective outcomes'<sup>2</sup>.

**For CCCM actors**

- ❖ See **Camp Management Toolkit Chapter 7 Camp Setup and Closure**, and mention of Site Management Agency role in durable solutions throughout
- ❖ See **Minimum Standards for Camp Management**, for role of Site Management Agency in durable solutions advocacy, access to information for the site population, and support to participation

## ROLE OF CCCM ACTORS

### INTRODUCTION

IDP sites are an option of last resort; IDPs turn to sites either because they were already vulnerable prior to being displaced, or because they have exhausted all other viable alternatives. For decades, humanitarian actors have found themselves providing basic assistance in these sites for prolonged periods, while acknowledging that this cannot be considered a long-term solution. **Planning for durable solutions for affected individuals and communities is at the heart of the fundamental principles of CCCM.**

While CCCM activities have always been informed by solution-oriented thinking, the sense of urgency, scope and implementation modalities have varied, and the lack of common understanding and funding channels remain major obstacles. The concepts and principles of durable solutions are considered throughout global CCCM tools

<sup>2</sup> [UN-IASC Collective Outcomes Light Guidance](#), 2020 and UN-IASC Background Paper on HDP Nexus, 2016. The HDPN was also institutionalized in the *2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN System Operational Activities (QCPR) Resolution* adopted on 21 December 2020 General Assembly QCPR Resolution [A/RES/75/233].

and guidance. This document identifies some of the benefits CCCM actors can bring in contributing to and advocating for durable solutions – but non-exhaustively.

Throughout the **Camp Management Toolkit** you can find guidance on the role of Camp/Site Management Agencies in contributing to the identification of durable solutions, including incorporation in strategic planning and advocacy, exit strategy and camp closure planning, support to community participation, data collection, and disseminating information and communicating with the community concerning durable solutions.

CCCM guidance (including in the Camp Management Toolkit) stresses the key role of **livelihood activities and recovery** in assisting displaced populations to find sustainable return, local integration or relocation. Such activities foster the development of skills that enhance the well-being and self-reliance of the displaced population both while they are displaced, and upon return, local integration or relocation.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & INFORMATION-SHARING

Solutions planning starts with those affected by the crisis themselves. This includes populations living in the sites, host communities, Civil Society Organisations and authorities; as well as those who have been able to return to their areas or homes or origin or identify other viable solutions. It is also important to engage with the other clusters, as well as development actors working in the area, to ensure synergies.

The **Camp Management Toolkit** underlines the importance of ensuring community participation in site management and in identifying and working towards durable solutions and developing the capacities and dignity of site residents and affected host community based on solid **evidence-based data**.

Planning for solutions must be guided by the humanitarian principles, realistic and inclusive ensuring the full participation of everyone in the community and consider the **interests, skills, education, socio-economic profile and capacities of persons** to design their solutions whether to return or remain in the area of displacement or identify other viable and innovative possibilities. With their responsibilities for community participation, representation, and accountability to affected people, CCCM actors are well placed to support and advocate for the participation of IDPs in identifying and working towards durable solutions.

## DATA-DRIVEN APPROACHES

Information on IDPs' **intentions, motivations and expectations** are vital to inform durable solutions planning. Assessment questions on these can be integrated into existing multi-sectoral site assessments run by CCCM actors, reducing need for additional standalone assessments, or a standalone intention survey to be carried out. See [Toolkit Section 3. Needs Assessment & Analysis](#) for more information on intentions surveys.

CCCM actors can also support data-driven approaches to durable solutions planning through other methods, such as identifying “push” and “pull” factors linked to the site environment – including site management, assistance, and protection – is understood through focus group discussions with site residents.

## SITE CLOSURE & SITE TRANSITION

Achievement of durable solutions for families living in displacement sites is intrinsically linked to site closure. In many – or most – cases, families will leave displacement sites to either return or resettle, with the site then closed. However, in some cases, **the site may not close, but rather become a permanent settlement integrated into existing municipal services**, with humanitarian assistance and services phased out. The transition of the site from a place of displacement to one of recovery requires particularly good coordination between CCCM and the authorities and local community, as well as other clusters and development stakeholders.

## ROLE OF A CCCM CLUSTER

A CCCM Cluster has a vital role in promoting durable solutions for collectively displaced populations. Generally, a CCCM Cluster is well-positioned to lead on discussions for durable solutions for these populations, including at inter-cluster and HCT forums and other coordination structures related to solutions.

**CCCM Cluster coordination teams, in coordination with other relevant clusters, should develop with their members CCCM Cluster specific solutions-oriented transition plans (overall at national level and site level) as relevant to the context.** Consider using localization guidelines and methodologies such as the CCCM Area-Based Approach (ABA) to support this.

CCCM Clusters should work to support durable solutions for IDPs living in displacement sites and communities supported by CCCM actors, as is appropriate and relevant to the context. The exact role and contribution of a CCCM Cluster and Cluster coordination team towards the wider durable solutions agenda will depend on the context, including on any coordination structures that are established, and may evolve over time.

It might include to:

- ✓ Initiate discussions with state actors or national authorities on solutions from the onset of displacement
- ✓ Keep the humanitarian community and other stakeholder informed on the trends in the IDP sites that will inform solutions programming
- ✓ Contribute to systematic analysis of needs, profiling and joint data collection
- ✓ Facilitate direct collaboration with development and peace actors
- ✓ Pro-actively engage in Durable Solutions or Returns Working Groups
- ✓ Contribute to the development of durable solutions strategies
- ✓ Collaborate with the Protection Cluster and other relevant clusters on analysis and strategic planning
- ✓ Develop site-specific durable solutions approaches, including solutions-oriented transition or closure plans

Any **solutions-oriented transition plans should encompass guidance to partners on** work and community-led projects on peaceful coexistence, housing land and property (HLP) issues, return, relocation and reintegration. You should also consult IASC and CCCM Cluster localization guidelines.

### TIPS FOR LOCALIZATION

A CCCM Cluster coordination team should:

- ✓ Promote inclusion/engagement of local and national actors at all stages. This is of particular importance with regards to evictions when engagement with local leaders/authorities is paramount, local organisations at all stages and particularly with regards to the site hand-over process;
- ✓ Ensure capacity transfer to local authorities and local organisations especially when applying the area-based approach
- ✓ Ensure that consultations with the local community are held specifically in the context of identification of needs and local integration projects. The community in sites should also be specifically consulted with regards to their intentions in all stages of the site life however specifically essential with regards to evictions, relocations and generally solutions they may deem as most desirable.

## EXAMPLES

See **CCCM Case Studies**

- [CCCM Case Studies 2020 Chapter C.2 Somalia – Barwaaqo Relocation Project](#) – development of a public site where IDPs who were facing eviction could relocate, as a long-term durable solutions initiative
- [CCCM Case Studies 2020 Chapter C.3 Nigeria – Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus initiative](#)
- [CCCM Case Studies 2021-2022 Chapter A.1 Somalia](#) – building consensus on when IDP status ceases IDP site transition into permanent settlement
- [CCCM Case Studies 2021-2022 Chapter A.2 Iraq](#) – Collaboration of CCCM Cluster and CCCM partners with durable solutions coordination mechanisms, particularly on solutions for IDPs living in informal sites

## **IRAQ – COORDINATION & DATA PROVISION INFORMING DURABLE SOLUTIONS PROGRAMS**

In the transitional context of Iraq where new, conflict-induced displacement ceased and displacement is protracted in nature, the CCCM response in camps and informal sites progressed from life-saving response activities to transition towards return, relocation, and reconstruction efforts. The CCCM Cluster worked with the Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – where non-humanitarian actors were active members - and its sub-groups to develop meaningful linkages between CCCM information, community engagement and coordination and the durable solutions response interventions.

In both camps and informal sites, data on the population's areas of origin and future intentions to depart or remain in the location was regularly collected and shared through Camp Profiling and Informal Site Profiling Assessments carried out by REACH for the CCCM Cluster.

Through existing community engagement, CCCM partners also obtained an understanding of the reasons why people are where they are, and thus what barriers need to be overcome for them to resolve their displacement. This family- and community-level understanding positioned CCCM with valuable information to support planning and implementing durable solutions programs.

Based on this, the CCCM Cluster engaged with the DSTWG to utilize CCCM data for durable solutions actors to design and target their facilitated voluntary returns programming to support families living in informal sites.

## **NIGERIA – APPLYING A NEXUS APPROACH AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

Nigeria was selected as a pilot country by the global CCCM cluster for rolling out the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Initiative. Through a joint analysis of transversal risks, needs and limitations that was carried out in Borno State, Mafa Town was identified as one of the few areas where the Nexus approach could be developed, designed and effectively implemented, based on the strength of local operational coordination. Moreover, the Mafa Government Girls' Arabic Secondary School (GGASS) Camp presented an opportunity for a coordinated approach, linking Humanitarian, Development and Peace initiatives.

The peacebuilding actor in the consortium organized coordination meetings between relevant host community and IDP community leaders, as well as humanitarian, government and military actors. These monthly Local Government Area (LGA) coordination meetings increased the flow of information among all participants and stakeholders. It enabled community leaders and humanitarian actors to gain a greater understanding of the local security context, and to share information about upcoming activities, to contextualise them, and to gather feedback.

A Stakeholder's Dialogue Platform was developed as a community governance platform and led by an international NGO to bring together all stakeholders for Mafa coordination. This platform served as a forum for discussions to foster peaceful co-existence between the civil-military groups and between the host and camp communities. Members of this platform included security forces such as the army, police, Civil Defence, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF); all partner representatives; camp leadership representatives and the host community leadership and government representatives including the Bulamas District Head and local government chairperson. The main topics discussed in the Platform were community-led initiatives, sanctions to societal nuisance, needs and gaps, multisectoral approaches to solving issues and conflict resolution.

## **AFGHANISTAN – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES**

Community representation and self-governance can be directly linked to solutions, especially for people living in displacement sites in urban areas. In one project in Afghanistan, a CCCM agency was working in informal sites in urban areas. The program used an area-based approach, due to its urban location and complex population consisting of IDPs/ returnees and vulnerable resident community. Neighbourhoods were targeted according to high numbers and density of returnees and/or IDPs and gaps in humanitarian assistance.

The approach supported the community to set up a governance structure through an electoral process and established a two-way communication pathway for the identification and referral of vulnerable persons in need of assistance. In addition, the project's inclusive and participatory method supported community capacity building, coordination and referral mechanisms to health clinics and other essential services. The

IDP committees communicated directly with the CCCM agency and service providers via coordination meetings that gave committee members the ability to discuss needs, gaps, and solutions.

The governance structure prioritized women’s participation through dedicated women committees. The displaced population of the informal settlement already faced many challenges with access to potable water, education services and health clinics prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. These challenges were further increased by the pandemic, as residents had to walk miles to the public hospital, presenting many risks particularly to women and girls. A majority of the IDP families were unable to pay for transportation costs or afford to go to private clinic and hospitals. With these gaps in lifesaving information and access to services, the CCCM agency worked with women, men, girls, and boys of the displacement-affected communities to address their concerns, build their capacity and enhance their participation in decision-making roles.

### **SOMALIA – IDP SITE STATUS & TRANSITION INTO PERMANENT SETTLEMENT**

Throughout 2021, the country saw heightened political tensions and continued military offensives. The resulting conflict and insecurity were the main drivers of internal displacement in 2021, forcing almost 540,000 people to flee their homes. Most displaced people have self-settled in over 2,400 sub-standard and unplanned IDP sites on privately owned land in urban, semi-urban and rural areas across the country. A large percentage of displaced persons have experienced perpetual cycles of displacement due to a combination of root causes. One root cause is a lack of land tenure policy, which causes high eviction risk for IDPs.

Based on the context, the need to revisit the IDP site definitions has become increasingly important. According to the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, more than 2,400 IDP sites exist, with 263 sites having less than 50 HHs (households). Clan tensions have driven larger IDP sites to split into smaller groups, resulting in a large number of small IDP sites. This stretches the available humanitarian resources and limits effective and equitable service provision, as well as empowers a ‘gatekeeper economy’ and inadvertently supports frequent movement of IDPs.

The CCCM Cluster built a common consensus on when an IDP site status phases out and ultimately closes or transitions into a permanent settlement. To seek agreed standards, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MOHADM), in collaboration with the CCCM Cluster, organised a process of consultative workshops at the federal level with respective government ministries, NGOs and UN agencies. These forums aimed at reviewing existing site definitions, finding consensus on IDP site definition and drawing up guiding principles on a standard definition of IDPs. Site-specific guidance principles were rolled out across different states and regions with directions for IDP sites viable for transitioning into permanent settlements or conditions for phase-out or closing of IDP sites. See [Toolkit Section 8.2 Site Typologies](#).

### **IRAQ – FACILITATED VOLUNTARY RETURN**

The CCCM Cluster collaborated with durable solutions actors working on facilitated voluntary movement. The Cluster and CCCM partners working in informal sites provided data to inform programmatic planning to facilitate facilitated movements and returns for IDPs living in camps and in informal sites. The CCCM Cluster and Protection Cluster contributed to the development of technical guidance.

See [Iraq Durable Solutions Toolkit – Volume 1 Facilitated Voluntary Returns](#), IOM 2021.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Toolkit resources**

Title	Type	Language	Date
<a href="#">IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs</a>	Guidance	English	2010
<a href="#">Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement</a>	Guidance	English	2004
<a href="#">Example - Informal Sites Durable Solutions Prioritization Matrix, Iraq</a>	Example	English	2022
<a href="#">Example – Note on Status of Informal Sites, Iraq</a>	Example	English	2022
<a href="#">Example – Land tenure in IDP sites, Somalia</a>	Example	English	2021

## References & further reading

- Brookings, IDMC & NRC, *IDPs in protracted displacement: Is local integration a solution?: Report from the Second Expert Seminar on Protracted Internal Displacement*, 19-20 January 2011, Geneva.
- *Camp Closure Guidelines*, 2014 - Planning Camp Closure, Page 9
- *Camp Management Toolkit*, 2015
- IASC (2010) *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*
- IASC (2015) *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery*
- IASC (2020) *Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes*
- IASC (2023) *IASC Guidance Note : Advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach through IASC global clusters | IASC (interagencystandingcommittee.org)*
- IASC (2023) *IASC Checklist for advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach | CCCM Cluster*
- *Minimum Standards for Camp Management*, 2021
- United Nations, *The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement*, June 2023
- IASC (2023) *IASC Guidance Note : Advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach through IASC global clusters | IASC (interagencystandingcommittee.org)*
- IASC (2023) *IASC Checklist for advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach | CCCM Cluster*
- 2022
- United Nations (2004) *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*
- World Bank (2015) *Sustainable Refugee Return: Triggers, constraints, and lessons on addressing the development challenges of forced displacement*
- Video: IASC, *Haiti Camp Management Camp Coordination*, 2012. 11:18.
- Global Protection Cluster (2020) *Guidelines for dignified departure following an eviction*

## Other Online Resources:

- GP2.0 (2022) *Compilation of National Practices to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement* (November 2020)
- UNHCR (2019) *Policy on UNHCR's Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement* (UNHCR/HCP/2019/1)
- UNHCR (2019) *Guidance Package for UNHCR's Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement*, September 2019
- UNHCR (2020) *Unlocking Solutions for the Internally Displaced, Additional Submission to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement*, September 2020