



ENSURING IDPs DRIVE DECISION-MAKING

IASC Guidance: Ensure IDPs are in a position to make an informed and voluntary decision on the durable solution they would like to pursue.

Overarching Questions Have **all IDPs**, women and girls, men and boys, elderly people, and persons with disabilities, been provided with **adequate, reliable, and up-to-date information** on conditions and infrastructure in their places of origin, integration, or resettlement?

Have consultations on durable solutions taken place with the **affected populations**, especially **women and girls**, but also **youth, the elderly, members of minorities, and persons with disabilities**?

MENU OF OPTIONS

- Collaborate with national and local authorities (when possible) and other sectors (clusters) to provide multisectoral, timely, up-to-date, and reliable information to IDPs on the conditions (protection situation and access to services) in areas of return or potential relocation. This includes:
 - **Conditions in their places of origin:** the security situation, the presence of mines, the condition of their homes and land, local roads and infrastructure, availability of livelihood opportunities, schools for children, available GBV services, and health facilities (4/5W, service mapping).
 - Specific **forms of assistance available to IDPs** for return/relocation, including eligibility criteria, deadlines, and conditions for applying for them.
 - Safety and security considerations, in collaboration with UNDSS and INSO.

Ensure that information is accessible to all, using **languages and dialects** spoken by the IDPs and host communities. Disseminate information through **radio, television, mobile phones, social media, community meetings** etc.

*Note: Most intention surveys and durable solutions multisectoral surveys conducted by humanitarian actors indicate that IDPs **lack reliable and clear information** on security, access to services, housing, land and property rights, and available assistance---hindering their ability to make informed choices. **Protection and return monitoring** and analysis and **multisectoral assessments** in areas of return or relocation are critical sources of such information.*

⚠️ *In politically sensitive contexts, national/local authorities may oppose the dissemination of certain information if it does not align with their strategy. In such cases, HC/RC/HCT support and joined-up advocacy may be required.*

- **Promote and ensure awareness-building** among IDPs, National Human Rights Institutions, protection NGOs, and CSOs on durable solutions standards, principles, rights and obligations, and applicable laws and policies. Ensure accessibility by providing information in **languages spoken by IDPs and host communities** and expand outreach through awareness sessions in schools and with/for youth, persons with disabilities, members of minorities, and women's associations.
- Advocate for, conduct, or support **protection-oriented intention surveys, IDP profiling, and multisectoral solutions need analysis** involving relevant clusters as part of multisectoral and joined-up analysis:
 - Analyse the intentions and aspirations of IDPs regularly in a thorough manner using **context-specific surveys**, ensuring IDPs are provided with all the information available about assistance and conditions in areas of return/relocation to ensure they can give informed answers.
 - Identify **obstacles to solutions** and the capacities and needs of IDPs to overcome these barriers¹.
 - Identify the most **critical protection risks** and assess their severity in the areas of origin and in the areas of return or relocation, ensuring that IDP perspectives are taken into account, in particular

for the risks of:

Discrimination and stigmatisation; Denial of resources, opportunities, services and/or humanitarian access; Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement; Siege and forced displacement; Theft, extortion, forced eviction or destruction of personal property; Impediments and/or restrictions to access to legal identity, remedies and justice.

- Ensure that IDPs and host communities are involved in **planning and implementing surveys** and that **results are presented to them**. Make information accessible in languages spoken by the IDPs and host communities.
- Use the **information gathered through complaint desks, feedback boxes, hotlines, focus group discussions, perception surveys, protection monitoring, return monitoring, durable solutions monitoring and research initiatives** to:
 - Collect information about IDPs' intentions and aspirations
 - Identify the main obstacles they foresee
 - Understand the solutions they envision
- ⚠️ Ensure that assistance is not used to influence the choices of IDPs regarding return or relocation. Return should never be coerced through the threat of discontinuation of assistance to IDPs who do not go back to their homes of origin.
- Depending on the phase of the crisis and the presence of actors at the local level, advocate for, support, or organise **go-and-see visits**, ensuring participation is inclusive of men, women, youth, children, members of minorities, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.
- Support the development of **context-specific and joined-up guidance, policy notes, position papers and/or advocacy** as early as possible to; define **standards and principles** underpinning durable solutions processes; ensure free, informed, and voluntary choices; prevent forced return or relocation. This should be targeted to different audiences including national/local authorities and humanitarian and development partners.
- In **protracted situations** or where the conditions are not yet conducive to return, balance the return-only option by advocating for/constructively discussing **alternative solutions** with authorities, such as **local integration or relocation**, be it permanent or not.
- Promote/advocate for **durable solutions discussions** to be included in **ICCG meetings** every **three or six months**, depending on the context or situation.

IASC Guidance: IDPs participate in the planning and management of the durable solution so that their needs and rights are considered in recovery and development strategies.

Overarching Questions Have IDPs' **capacities to participate in planning** their durable solutions been strengthened? Do competent authorities and supporting actors actively seek to involve IDPs in **designing protection and assistance programming** to support return, local integration, or relocation to another part of the country?

In certain contexts, it is imperative to provide separate opportunities for vulnerable or at-risk individuals and groups to express their preferences and concerns. This includes specifically taking into account the views of women, children, and persons with disabilities.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- Map², empower, and enhance the capacities of **existing participatory mechanisms**, including IDP-led and minority-led organisations, community-based protection systems, and local CSOs, to:

- Ensure that affected populations can contribute to decisions affecting their lives and participate effectively in their durable solutions, including strategies, planning, implementation, and monitoring. This includes children, women, people with disabilities, older people, and youth.
- Provide empowerment and training on human rights, durable solutions standards and principles, and national laws and policies for all IDP representatives and CSOs.
- Consult/promote early consultations with all **IDP representatives**, including children and community-based structures, on their **intentions, aspirations, own solution plans, and multisectoral needs** for durable solutions.
- **Ensure IDPs' voices are heard** at the **ICCG, HCT and local and national level decision making platforms** by **reflecting their perspectives in briefings** on protection risks / PAUs, needs analysis, solutions planning etc. Consider alternative and sensitive ways to facilitate direct communication between displaced communities (including voices of women, men, youth, older people etc.) and authorities to amplify IDP perspectives at local and national levels.
- Advocate for, or technically support the development of **locally led area-based community action plans** in displacement-affected areas and encourage cluster members to work with **existing community-based structures** and mechanisms and local authorities.
- Support and advocate for the active participation of **IDPs, host communities, local CSOs and human rights institutions** in inclusive law and policy development processes.
- Include **IDP-led, local CSOs**, including **women-led organisations**, in the **HNRP**.
- Strategically **prepare for transition** by strengthening partnerships with local organisations.
- Identify **potential transition funding** to enable national and local services, local CSOs, and **IDP-led organisations** to sustain protection activities and advocacy beyond humanitarian funding.
- Advocate for and support IDPs' rights to vote and participate in national, local and community decision-making and consultative processes.
- Advocate for and support IDP inclusion in **peace agreements and peace-building processes** and **local conflict resolution efforts**.
- Support, promote, and advocate for **social cohesion programmes** to rebuild and strengthen social ties in displacement-affected communities and to **prevent and mitigate tensions** between IDPs and host communities.

1. The Inter-agency durable solutions indicators library and related guide based on the 8 IASC durable solutions criteria are helpful tools with that respect, especially in protracted situations: <https://www.jips.org/tools-and-guidance/durable-solutions-indicators-guide/>

2. This may already exist as part of the Protection Cluster service mapping or 5W.