



BUILDING CLEAR SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS

This building block refers to nationally developed durable solutions strategies that help define government priorities, establish key principles and standards, and outline necessary actions to address vulnerabilities across all displacement-affected populations¹.

IASC Principle: Under no circumstances should IDPs be encouraged or compelled to return or relocate to areas where their life, safety, liberty, or health would be at risk.

Overarching Questions Does the **security situation** allow for the **return/relocation** of IDPs to the targeted areas? For example, does the security situation present a heightened risk of gender-based violence for women and girls? Or does it increase the risk of forced recruitment of men and boys?

Have safety and security² concerns been **discussed with displaced persons** to reach a **common understanding** of risks and mitigation strategies?

In this respect, Protection Clusters play a key advisory role in ensuring that national authorities and development actors adopt protection-centred approaches in durable solutions planning.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- Ensure Protection Cluster representation in **UN national coordination mechanisms** to integrate IDPs' specific protection risks and vulnerabilities into protection analysis (referenced in the Protection Analysis Updates), HCT protection strategies, and inter-agency and long-term planning processes (See info-graphic in [Annex 1 online](#) to better understand and situate the Protection Cluster in the durable solutions coordination).
- Develop a **strong narrative** linking protection risks to durable solutions to illustrate how they impact progression toward solutions and entry points for Protection Clusters in overcoming these risks. A support tool is available in [Annex 2](#): "Solutions Support Tool: Protection Risks, Obstacles and Entry Points for Protection Clusters" which can be found [here](#).
- Utilise **protection monitoring and risk assessments**³, incorporating both **qualitative and quantitative data**, to provide a reliable protection analysis to the **HCT and development partners**, with a comprehensive overview of all 15 protection risks, vulnerabilities and obstacles related to areas of displacement, return, and relocation.

Note: Protection Clusters can draft specific notes and recommendations for categories of the displaced population at risk, targeting the HCT or other relevant actors depending on the context.

- Establish linkages and ensure **regular information sharing** and advisory roles with the **Solutions Working Group**. If the group is formed early, advocate for Protection Cluster presence for the first 6-12 months.
- Coordinate with/contribute to the **Inter-agency IDP Protection Risk Assessment Tool**⁴ to analyse protection risks (based on IASC safety and security criteria) and develop safeguards in the context of government-led solutions initiatives. Refer to the *Focus Box* on page 19 of the full Guidance for additional details on the Protection Risk Assessment Tool, and consult [Annex 3](#) in the corresponding materials [online](#) for the complete tool.
- Share critical and up-to-date protection analysis and practical recommendations to members sitting in **Solutions Working Groups** and at **HCT/UNCT** (for integration into durable solutions strategies and multi-year strategic efforts on internal displacement).
- Collaborate with the solutions advisor at the **RCO**⁵ and **UNDP** to ensure that protection analysis and advocacy inform government solutions strategies/action plans and that there is a continuity through protection monitoring, analysis, and activities.
- Advocate for and contribute to developing **mitigating measures** and an **advocacy strategy** with **multisectoral partners**, building on existing relationships with national and local authorities. Develop alternative options

such as local integration, relocation and interim solutions before return is possible.

- **Promote training and discussions on protection safeguards** with durable solutions actors, members of the Solutions Working Group, and government officials at the national and regional levels.
- Support the **development of inter-cluster, context-specific guidelines on standards and principles** applicable to return, relocation, and local integration under government leadership (if feasible). **Note:** [Annex 4 \(here\)](#) proposes a list of non-exhaustive and indicative items to be included in such guidance. Push for a joint (inter-cluster) operationalisation of these guidelines at the HCT level to ensure joined up and coordinated implementation across sectors.

IASC Principle: Ensure that IDPs have **safe, unimpeded and timely access** to all actors supporting the achievement of DS, including non-governmental and international humanitarian or development actors.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- At the **local level**, particularly in early solutions processes, ensure that the immediate protection and assistance needs in return and relocation areas are considered and addressed, especially vulnerable groups including boys and girls, adolescents, pregnant women, female-headed households, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Identify, when possible, the most acute protection risks associated with these needs to mitigate vulnerabilities effectively.
- When conditions for return or relocation are deemed conducive, and IDPs choose this option, develop **joint technical guidance**, with IDPs, on:
 - Information and preparation for return or relocation.
 - Organisation of movements (departure, transit, arrival)
 - First contact with communities who remained in areas of origin.
- Ensure specific attention to protection and assistance needs while in transit particularly for:
 - Children, adolescents, pregnant women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities:
 - Essential services during transit, including:
 - Food and water
 - Shelter
 - Sanitation facilities
 - Family Unity
 - Emergency medical care, including sexual and reproductive health service
- From the onset of planning, ensure that community members representing the IDPs are trained and equipped to **conduct basic protection risk monitoring** and remain in contact with cluster members for basic assessments, online surveys (via mobile phones), and follow-up calls.
- Advocate at the local level for protection actors' **full access** to all sites of IDP return, local integration, or relocation in another part of the country, where the Protection Cluster is still operational.
- Establish protection by presence through Protection Cluster members, local partners, and/or the national human rights commissions to **mitigate protection risks** and the likelihood of **rights violations** through **monitoring visits** in return and relocation locations.
- Advocate for the **creation of joint Community Resource Centres** at the local level for returnees and host communities to access information on available services and ensure referrals to protection assistance.

1. 2025 Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement - due to be launched in early 2025

2. The definition of safety and security here is based on the IASC criteria long term safety and security and freedom of movement (See the section on this criterion in the chapter on "Laying the Groundwork Early" page 23). To achieve a durable solution IDPs must enjoy effective protection by national and local authorities.

3. More precisely the quarterly risk severity assessment. Consider presenting regular results from protection and other monitoring mechanisms to subnational Protection Cluster partners for [joined-up analysis](#) workshops, to jointly assess the [protection risks severity](#) according to common [criteria](#).

4. The referenced Tool can be found in [Annex 3](#) in the corresponding material of this guidance

5. The Solutions Adviser Facility, administered by UNDP and integrated within the Hub, aims to strengthen UN and national capacities to address internal displacement by providing temporary capacities (up to three years) to Resident Coordinators (RCs) in the form of RC Office Solutions Advisers