



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK EARLY

Interventions supporting **livelihoods, education, civil documentation, housing, land, and property rights** are vital for laying the groundwork for durable solutions. Humanitarian actors play a key role in boosting IDPs' self-reliance from the onset of the crisis.



People want dignity, agency – the ability to look after themselves and their families. To be safe, to have hope for the future.

Independent review of the humanitarian response to internal displacement, March 2024

This section focuses on interlinked IASC framework criteria, that serve as priority entry points for Protection Clusters to engage in from the **early stages of displacement and to establish the foundations** for solutions planning.

IASC Criteria: Long-Term Safety, Security and Freedom of Movement

To achieve a durable solution IDPs must have effective protection by national and local authorities.

They must be able to leave an area free of danger, reach a safe location, and not be forced back to places at risk. They must not be the subject of attacks, sexual exploitation and abuse, harassment, intimidation, or persecution and should be protected from risks created by landmines or other threats to personal security.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- Develop a **protection analysis** that includes:
 - **Conflict dynamics** in areas of return, relocation, or local integration (permanent or temporary)
 - Potential social cohesion challenges, including tensions between displaced and host communities
 - Immediate responses and **root cause analysis** to ensure long-term solutions.
- Engage national authorities, armed forces, and international partners to raise awareness of IDP risks, advocate for the **centrality of protection** in IDP response, and contribute to developing the HCT protection strategy.
- Promote and support **social cohesion and peace-building programmes** and approaches, strengthen relationships between IDPs and host communities and foster dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Support documentation of human rights violations by sharing protection analysis and related information with national NGOs, Human Rights Institutions, and OHCHR¹, ensuring protection actors actively monitor and report abuses.
- Support and advocate for the **(re)establishment of freedom of movement** throughout the country as conditions permit by:
 - Engaging with security forces, authorities, and other sectors to dismantle security checkpoints, repair transportation infrastructure, and encourage public and private transportation links.
 - Ensure IDPs can conduct informal assessment visits before deciding to return to their places of origin.
 - Enable IDPs to maintain connections between those who choose to return early and those who remain temporarily or permanently in areas where they were displaced.
- Supports IDP's **full and equal access** to domestic law enforcement, legal institutions, legal identity, property rights, and administrative services and advocate for legal reforms to remove barriers

preventing IDPs from exercising their rights.

- When possible, **embed protection activities in national systems** at the national and local levels by strengthening the capacity of national and local actors, including law enforcement and armed forces, to ensure the safety, security, and freedom of movement of IDPs.
- Ensure protection by presence through national and local partners, especially national human rights commissions, and local protection networks.
- Empower and build the capacity of national and local actors to lead protection responses over time and seek transition funding to:
 - Support national protection systems.
 - Ensure continuity of essential services after humanitarian funding decreases.

HOUSING LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP) AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS²

IASC Criteria: Access to adequate standard of living, especially adequate housing; Access to effective mechanisms that restore or compensate housing, land and property.

Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights are central to durable solutions. They serve as key entry points for Protection Clusters, supporting IDPs' **self-reliance** and help them prepare for durable solutions.

Securing HLP rights from the onset of the crisis, particularly **access to land** and **adequate housing with security of tenure**, is key to progress toward more safety and security, access to a more sustainable livelihoods or employment opportunities, and improving access to an adequate standard of living, including adequate healthcare, education and public services. Sustainable housing solutions can also contribute to better integration and **participation of IDPs in public affairs**.

Conversely, inadequate housing and lack of security of tenure can lead to forced evictions, renewed displacement and increased exposure to protection risks. It undermines access to protection and a wide range of services, preventing IDPs from improving their living conditions and finding durable solutions.

MENU OF OPTIONS

Key solutions entry points for Protection Clusters and, *more specifically HLP AoRs* (when there is one) in humanitarian crises are:

- Assess and provide an analysis of **specific HLP related protection risks** such as: **Impediments and/or Restrictions to Access to Legal Identity, Remedies and Justice, and Theft, Extortion, Forced Eviction or Destruction of Personal Property** (collaborating with **CCCM and Shelter Clusters** in joined up analysis), ensuring a comprehensive understanding of HLP needs, including through: HLP assessments, inclusion of HLP issues in multisectoral assessments, area-based assessments and urban and neighbourhood profiling.
- Review and analyse **legal and institutional frameworks** related to housing, land and property rights and **identify gaps and inconsistencies** in national laws and policies that may hinder IDPs' ability to access, claim, or retain property.
- Work with **CCCM and the Shelter Cluster** to identify and analyse shelter options for IDPs, including in public, private, or communal buildings or lands and shelter offered by host communities.
- In partnership with CCCM and the Shelter Cluster, **advocate for access to land and properties beyond shelters**, including **land for agriculture**, livestock and domestic animals, access to communal resources, properties for **commercial activities** and **accessible and safe public and communal spaces**.
- In partnership with CCCM and the Shelter Cluster, support the development of HLP **due diligence guidance** to prevent harm caused by shelter assistance or the creation or relocation of IDP sites, whilst

ensuring that land tenure security is considered in shelter interventions.

- **Prepare the ground for return, restitution and compensation**, including through safeguarding HLP documentation, providing technical support and advocacy for strengthening or establishing restitution and compensation mechanisms and clearing land of explosive hazards.
- Advocate for and support IDPs' access to legal aid, justice, and dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation and arbitration.
- **Prevent and address forced evictions:**
 - Monitor and document forced evictions to track trends and protection risks.
 - Advocate for legal and policy reforms to prevent unlawful evictions.
 - Strengthen accountability mechanisms to ensure that IDPs are protected from arbitrary displacement and property seizures³.

IASC Criteria: Access to and Replacement of Personal and Other Documentation

During displacement IDPs often **lose essential documentation required to access rights and social benefits**. In some cases, people may have **never possessed such documents** before their displacement. Key documents include **ID cards and passports, birth and marriage certificates, title deeds and property ownership records, diplomas and professional certifications**. These documents are often required to vote, access healthcare and education, inherit or repossess property, or obtain employment.

Authorities should facilitate the issuance and replacement of such documentation for IDPs to ensure their full participation in society and access to services.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- Assess documentation needs, including integrating questions on documentation in multisectoral assessments or profiling, and analyse and document the impact of lack of documentation on safety, security, and service access and, therefore, on durable solutions.
- Raise awareness among IDPs, national and local authorities, and CSOs about the **importance of civil documentation for protection and rights** and the risks of violence, exploitation, abuse and service exclusion for citizens without documentation.
- Advocate for legal reforms to remove barriers to issuing civil documentation to IDPs, allow documentation to be issued **outside of their area of origin or birth** and ensure documentation is available **at minimal or no cost**.
- Work with relevant national and local authorities such as the Ministries of Interior and Justice and local institutions to improve their **capacity to issue or replace civil documents for IDPs and host communities**.
- Train law enforcement personnel on the specific challenges IDPs face obtaining documentation and ensuing vulnerabilities and the need for protection, information provision, and potential referrals to legal aid services.
- Set up or **strengthen the capacities of legal aid services**, especially through local and national NGOs specialising in **legal support to IDPs** and host communities for accessing necessary civil documentation.

The GPC Task Team on Law and Policy developed a project on legal aid in a humanitarian setting, and support can be provided upon request.

IASC Criteria: Access to Justice, and Effective Remedies.

Effective Remedies for displacement-related violations include **access to justice, reparations and information about the causes of violations.**

Access to justice and effective remedies are crucial components of durable solutions as they:

- Restore IDPs' trust in institutions.
- Prevent renewed displacement caused by unresolved grievances.
- Facilitate reconciliation and social cohesion.
- Ensure long-term peace and stability through transitional justice mechanisms.

Transitional justice is particularly important in post-conflict settings and can include measures such as restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, truth-seeking commissions, public acknowledgement of violations, apologies, or judicial actions against perpetrators.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- Reinforce/support legal aid services to strengthen the protection environment for IDPs and lay the groundwork for re-establishing the rule of law, even in areas with de facto authorities and pave the way for more sustainable transitional and permanent justice systems.
 - Establish **thematic coordination platforms** within and **ad-hoc working groups** within the Protection Cluster.
- Support legal aid services to provide assistance in securing key documents that are and will be key for the progression towards durable solutions: ID cards and birth registration, family booklets, marriage and divorce registration, property ownership documents (e.g. title deeds, inheritance claims, registration of abandoned / destroyed property).
- Use legal aid frameworks to document **rights violations and safeguard property documentation through digitisation and registry systems** to strengthen the foundation of transitional justice systems.
- Advocate for and provide technical support for the development of **transitional justice mechanisms** (e.g. restitution and compensation frameworks, truth-seeking commissions to document displacement-related violations, and judicial actions against perpetrators of human rights abuses).

1. Protection risks and human rights violations are profoundly correlated. However human rights language and considerations are more consistent with standards, criteria and language used by actors critical to durable solutions, such as development actors. The [Human rights analysis matrix](#) provides a practical tip sheet to better integrate human rights into protection analysis and communicate protection analysis findings to human rights and other actors

2. Within the humanitarian response, HLP rights are commonly understood as having a home free from the fear of forced eviction and a place that offers shelter, safety and the ability to secure a livelihood. The concept of HLP includes the full spectrum of rights to housing, land and property held according to statutory or customary law or informally – both public and private. HLP rights are held by owners, tenants, customary land tenure owners and users, and informal settlement occupants. The Global Protection Cluster [HLP Area of Responsibility](#)

3. Taken from Housing, Land and Property Solutions to Resolve and Prevent Displacement, Policy directions, UN-HABITAT, Global Land Tool Network, 2024.