



ENSURING ROBUST GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

IASC Principle: The primary responsibility to provide durable solutions for IDPs needs to be assumed by the national authorities.

Overarching Questions Have **national crisis response systems** and **mainstream services** been reinforced to serve IDPs and host communities over the long term, contributing to their progression to durable solutions?

Do IDPs have **equal access** to protection and services on par with other citizens?

Have the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and/or the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (Kampala Convention) been incorporated into national law as necessary¹?

Are displacement and IDPs included in **national and local development and ministries' sectoral plans**, strategies, and associated budgets?

IDPs are citizens or habitual residents of their countries and, therefore do not have a displacement-specific legal status according to international law. **National authorities are responsible for their protection** and for leading solutions to displacement in line with international standards and national laws and policies. While international support may be required, governments must remain in the lead.

Whenever possible, Protection Clusters should **avoid creating parallel systems**. Instead, they should **support national and local authorities** in ensuring IDPs' access to strengthened national and local systems and services. These services should be reinforced and improved to serve both newly displaced persons and host communities.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- **Support in Strengthening Laws, Policies and Strategies to Better Protect IDPs Over the Long Term**
 - Advocate for and support the development of specific **law and policy frameworks** or strategies on internal displacement and/or durable solutions, as relevant.
 - Advocate for the **creation or capacity strengthening of IDP focal point institutions** at national and local levels to enhance institutional framework for national IDP responses.
 - Consider initiating or supporting a review of national legislation to identify gaps, obstacles, and entry points that affect IDPs' access to rights. This can help Protection Clusters and partners identify strategic interventions.
 - Engage with relevant ministries to advocate for and support the inclusion of displacement and IDPs in development and sectoral plans, and related budgets, particularly in areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, documentation, housing, social protection, health, agriculture, and electoral processes.
- **Strengthen National and Local Capacities to Respond to Displacement Crisis and Lay the Ground for Solutions**
 - **Assess existing crisis response systems** and capacities at the national, local, and community levels and how they have been impacted by humanitarian and displacement crises:
 - Collaborate with national and local actors and protection and development partners to strengthen those systems and services instead of creating parallel humanitarian structures. Strengthening local capacities benefits not only IDPs but also **host communities** while **enhancing social cohesion**.

- Identify and, depending on the context, engage with relevant national and/or local authorities (or local leaders such as district leaders or mayors) **early on** and develop an advocacy strategy to engage in constructive dialogue on:
 - The **definition, options, standards and principles** of durable solutions.
 - The necessity of building on IDPs' **dignity, choice, agency, needs, and capacities** as soon as possible to lay the ground for solutions work.
 - Discussing the three settlement options (and local integration as a mid-term/long-term plan) should not be considered a taboo or a threat to national authorities or other partners.
- Offer **capacity strengthening** on durable solutions standards to national and local authorities to meet their responsibility toward their citizens/constituencies.
- Provide **Durable Solutions sessions**² in the induction/protection training curricula for Protection Cluster members, national and local authorities, and other relevant partners on the ground. A good starting point is to speak the same language and agree on concepts, definitions, and standards. Topics should include **definitions, principles, long-term multisectoral approaches, HDP processes, and IASC criteria**.
- Consider developing a “**localisation strategy**” to identify and reinforce the capacities of local actors in protracted situations or contexts where parallel systems have been created but face funding shortages over time.

1. Whether this is done through IDP- specific law and policy frameworks, or through amendments to national legislation.
2. The GPC has created some Presentation Slides that can be used for such training / induction sessions on Durable Solutions - which are available at: <https://globalprotectioncluster.org/publications/2153/training-materials/presentation/introduction-durable-solutions-training-materials>