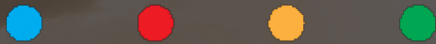




Global Protection Cluster

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

**ROLE OF PROTECTION
CLUSTERS IN
DURABLE SOLUTIONS
FOR INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS**



Cover Image: © UNHCR/Nana Kofi Acquah
Burkina Faso, 2022: Koumkoukli (part of Sector 6),
Kaya, an area that hosts both local residents and
displaced communities, mostly IDPs.

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For feedback or suggestions on improving this publication, please contact the Global Protection Cluster Operations Cell via the contact details listed on the GPC website.



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ABBREVIATIONS

AoR	Area of Responsibility
BAY	Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe
CCA	UN Common Country Assessment
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DS	Durable Solutions
DSI	Durable Solutions Initiative
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General
DSWG	Durable Solutions Working Group
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDP	Humanitarian Development Peace
HLP	Housing Land and Property
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HNRP	Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
INSO	International NGO Safety Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IRC	International Rescue Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSA	Office of the Special Adviser
PC	Protection Cluster
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
SG	Secretary General
SMI	Solutions and Mobility Index
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

INTRODUCTION

Main Goal	The primary goal of this guidance is to define the role of the Protection Cluster and its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) in durable solutions processes to ensure that protection remains central to solutions planning and programming.
Target Audience	This guidance is intended for Protection Cluster and AoR Coordinators , and Protection Cluster members , where applicable.
Specific Objectives	Equip Protection Clusters with practical entry points to engage in durable solutions processes from the onset of displacement crises , ensuring a smooth transition toward sustainable solutions for and with displacement-affected communities. Strategically leverage existing protection data, analysis, advocacy, and partnerships to anchor solutions processes in protection standards and principles.

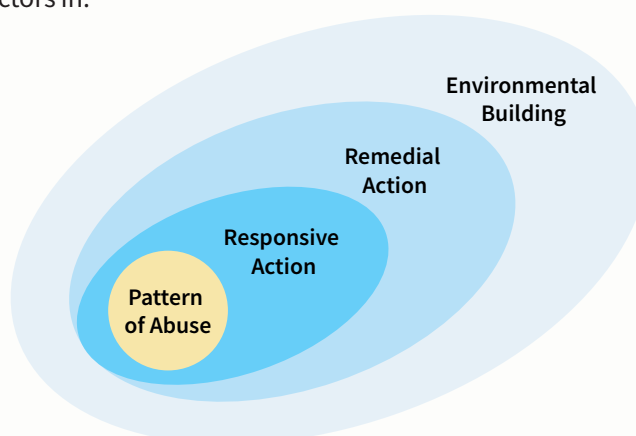
Key Messages

- Durable solutions are fundamentally about **restoring rights** and, therefore, represent the ultimate protection outcome. IDPs cannot achieve durable solutions if they are not protected.
- Solutions initiatives must be **inclusive** - they must not leave segments of the population further behind or create new protection risks. Many protection interventions can also be aligned with progressive solutions-oriented approaches.
- Durable solutions must be embedded from the **onset of displacement crises**, with humanitarian actors, especially protection actors, playing a crucial role in **laying the groundwork** for solutions.
- Protection actors have a key role in ensuring **protection, participation, and agency** of people affected by displacement remain at the centre of solutions processes.
- Humanitarian actors, including Protection Clusters, should **not create parallel systems**. Instead, they should **support national and local authorities** in ensuring IDPs have access to national or local services. These systems should be strengthened and improved to benefit both **newly arrived displaced persons** and **host communities**.

The widely recognised **Egg Model** strategically frames protection response into **three spheres of activities**, ensuring a comprehensive and long-term approach to protection. These activities range from **responsive actions** to **environment-building efforts**¹, reinforcing the sustainability of protection interventions.

The Egg Model highlights the role of Protection actors in:

- Creating a conducive environment for durable solutions.
- Integrating protection efforts with development and peace-building initiatives.
- Ensuring a holistic approach that addresses immediate protection risks while fostering long-term stability and resilience².



GUIDANCE PRINCIPLES AND IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

Minimising Additional Workload

- This guidance **does not aim to impose additional burdens** on already stretched Protection Clusters and partners.
- The proposed entry points for engagement in durable solutions processes are fully aligned with the core functions of Protection Clusters and existing protection response efforts.
- In most cases, implementation requires only minor adjustments or slight shifts to help lay the groundwork for solutions.

A Flexible and Context-Specific Approach

- The proposed entry points are structured as a **menu of options**, providing **indicative rather than prescriptive** guidance.
- Selection of entry points should be context-driven, based on feasibility and country-level Protection Cluster priorities.

Engagement Limitations in Challenging Contexts

- In countries where **governments are unwilling/unable to uphold the rights** of all citizens/residents, including IDPs, or are complicit in displacement, the role of Protection Clusters in government-led solutions initiatives should be limited to:
 - **Protection monitoring** in displacement, relocation, and return sites.
 - **Advocacy** on protection standards and durable solutions principles.

Bridging Humanitarian and Development Efforts

- This guidance focuses on how Protection Clusters can support both **humanitarian and development actors** in durable solutions processes.
- From **day one**, short-term humanitarian actions and medium- to long-term development investments must integrate protection as a core element of the response.

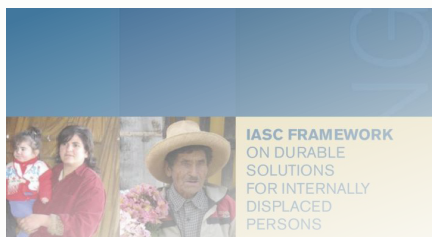
Many of the factors that drive protracted displacement are beyond the control of the humanitarians. Unfortunately, the difficulty of finding solutions for displaced people in protracted conflict and insecurity has often meant that humanitarian organisations have not done the things that are in their control to improve the situation. Too often the approach has been ‘aid until the money runs out’, rather than thinking about what could be done to help with agency, sustainability and reinforcing people’s capacities, even in protracted displacement.

Independent Review of the Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement, March 2024

1. See the Protection Analytical Framework (<https://globalprotectioncluster.org/field-support/Protection-Analytical-Framework>) to know more about its operationalisation.
 2. See Slim, H. and Bonwick, A. (2005) ‘Protection – an ALNAP guide for humanitarian agencies. ALNAP, p. 52

PROTECTION-GROUNDED DURABLE SOLUTIONS

IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs



The first internationally agreed-upon definition of durable solutions was developed by the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)** in its [Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs](#), launched in 2010.

This framework is widely recognised as the **authoritative guidance document** for national and international actors across the humanitarian, development, and peace-building sectors. It is an IASC endorsed, rights-based entry point for advocacy, planning and implementation of durable solutions.

Key Guiding Elements from the IASC Framework

What is a Durable Solution for Internally Displaced Persons?

Protection is at the core of the internationally recognised definition of durable solutions.

A durable solution is achieved when displaced persons:

- No longer have protection and assistance needs related to their displacement
- Have access to their rights without discrimination based on their displacement

The IASC framework and its definition recognise the specific protection and assistance needs of IDPs, ensuring their right to access the full spectrum of human rights without discrimination. These include safety and security, access to livelihoods, education, health care, voting rights, personal documentation, adequate housing, land, and property rights etc.

Non-discrimination is central to durable solutions. There should be no discrimination between IDPs and non-IDPs, nor should there be discrimination among IDPs themselves.

Key Considerations: Displacement does not end simply with time. There is no set time-frame for achieving durable solutions. Durable solutions are a long-term process involving integration or reintegration and equal access to rights alongside other citizens.

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions provides insights into the role of protection actors in ensuring that durable solutions processes are grounded in protection standards such as **safety, dignity, empowerment, and access to rights**.

How Should a Rights-Based Process for Durable Solution Be Organised?

A **rights-based approach** to durable solutions ensures 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;
- IDPs have access to effective mechanisms that monitor the process and conditions on the ground;
- In situations of displacement resulting from conflict or violence, IDPs are at least indirectly involved in peace processes and peace building efforts.

KEY PRINCIPLES - Guiding the Search for Durable Solutions, IASC Framework

- The primary responsibility to provide durable solutions for IDPs needs to be assumed by the **national authorities**.
- **Rapid and unimpeded access** should be granted to humanitarian and development actors that assist IDPs in achieving durable solutions.
- The **needs, rights and legitimate interests** of IDPs should be the primary considerations guiding all policies and decisions.
- IDPs have the **right to make an informed and voluntary decision** on what durable solution to pursue, and to **participate in the planning and management** of durable solutions.
- A person opting for local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country **does not lose the right to return** once return becomes feasible.
- 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**.
- IDPs seeking a durable solution **must not be subject to discrimination** for reasons related to their displacement.
- Likewise, populations and **communities that (re-)integrate IDPs** and whose needs may be comparable, **must not be neglected**.
- IDPs **continue to be protected by national and international human rights** and, where applicable, international humanitarian law, even after they have achieved a durable solution.

8 CRITERIA - for Durable Solutions to be achieved.

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

The **IASC Framework's Principles and Criteria** serve as a robust, agreed-upon foundation for constructive advocacy with partners, including national authorities. This guidance aims to offer practical entry points to progressively move closer to their adherence and achievement while integrating new durable solutions frameworks, such as the **Action Agenda on Internal Displacement**.

ACTION AGENDA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

In 2022, the UN Secretary General developed the [Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#) to prioritise and improve the global response to internal displacement. It calls for a shift toward a more concerted and **integrated approach across the HDP nexus** under the leadership of the HC/RC to support government-led, development-oriented solutions. One of its key outputs is the upcoming release of the **2025 Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement**¹, which identifies **seven building blocks for solutions pathways** (Figure 1) that can also be considered potential **entry points** for the Protection Cluster.

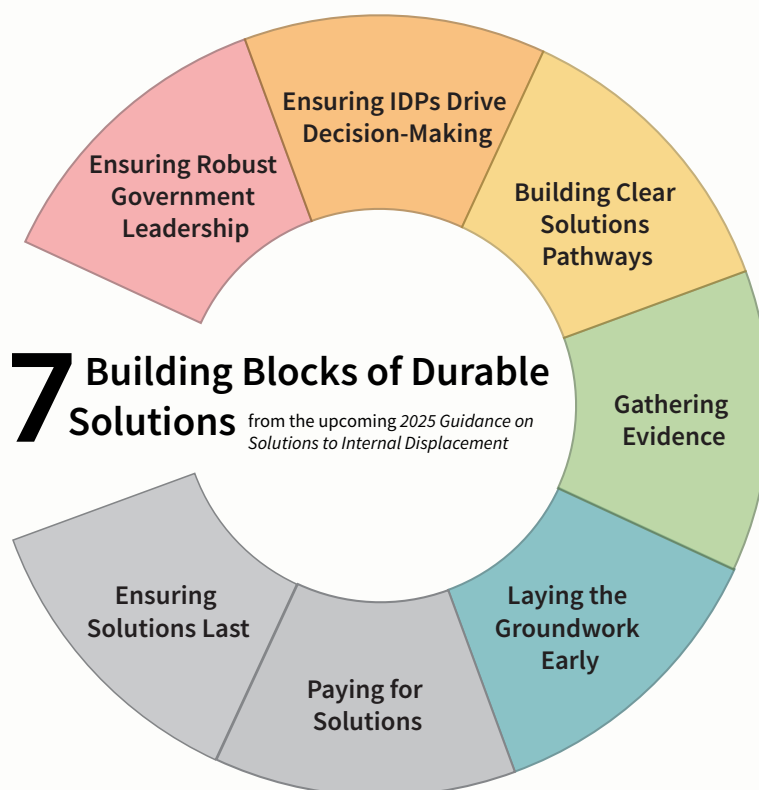


Figure 1: Diagram Illustrating the Seven Building Blocks of Durable Solutions

ENTRY POINTS FOR PROTECTION-CENTRED DURABLE SOLUTIONS

The **IASC Framework** and the building blocks outlined in the upcoming **2025 Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement** provide essential **entry points** for protection actors to support progressive solutions processes. These entry points should be utilised from the onset of the crisis, ensuring that protection considerations guide key steps in solutions planning.

This guidance is structured around **five proposed entry points**, utilising **five of the seven building blocks**² from the upcoming **2025 Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement**, and linking them with the corresponding **Principles and Criteria** from the **IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs** (outlined on pages 4-5).

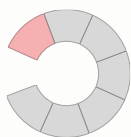
It focuses on **six of the eight interlinked IASC Criteria**, which are particularly relevant for Protection Clusters. While recognising the interdependence of all eight criteria, the guidance emphasises the importance of **protection mainstreaming** and a **multi-sectoral approach** as essential to establishing long-term solutions for displaced persons. The guidelines emphasise **joined-up assessments, analysis and planning in partnership with other sectors and clusters**.

The following table illustrates how the IASC Framework principles and criteria interact with the protection-relevant building blocks in the 2025 Durable Solutions Guidance, forming a **working framework** for **protection actors and clusters**.

Building Blocks <i>from the 2025 Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement</i>	IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs
ENSURING ROBUST GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP	IASC Principle: The primary responsibility to provide durable solutions for IDPs needs to be assumed by the national authorities .
ENSURING IDPs DRIVE DECISION-MAKING	<p>IASC Principle: IDPs have the right to make an informed and voluntary decision on what durable solution to pursue, and to participate in the planning and management of durable solutions.</p> <p>IASC Rights-Based Approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • IDPs have access to effective mechanisms that monitor the process and the conditions on the ground. • IDPs are at least indirectly involved in peace processes and peace building efforts. <hr/> <p>IASC Criteria: Participation in public affairs at all levels on an equal basis with the resident population.</p>
BUILDING CLEAR SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS	<p>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.</p> <hr/> <p>IASC Guidance: IDPs have safe, unimpeded and timely access to all actors supporting the achievement of durable solutions including non-governmental and international humanitarian or development actors.</p>
GATHERING EVIDENCE for Protection-Informed Durable Solutions	<p>IASC Guidance: IDPs have access to effective mechanisms that monitor the process and conditions on the ground; They participate in the planning and management of durable solutions so their rights and needs are considered in recovery and development strategies.</p>
LAYING THE GROUNDWORK EARLY	<p>IASC Criteria: Long-term safety, security and freedom of movement.</p> <hr/> <p>HLP Rights and Durable Solutions covering IASC Criteria: Access to adequate standards of living and access to effective mechanisms that restore their housing, land and property or provide compensation.</p> <hr/> <p>IASC Criteria: Access to and replacement of personal and other documentation.</p> <hr/> <p>IASC Criteria: Access to justice and effective remedies.</p>

1. A special Advisor was appointed to jump-start and drive implementation of the Action Agenda with a focus on solutions. The Office of the Special Adviser issued the referred guidance. This guidance is currently being finalised (March 2025) and is due to be released soon.

2. These guidelines will address only five of the seven building blocks, as “Paying for Solutions” and “Ensuring Solutions Last”, albeit crucial for solution planning, are not within the immediate realm of Protection Clusters. Both aspects are mainstreamed into other sections to simplify clusters' work and make this guidance as practical as possible.



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.

Focus: Law and Policy on Internal Displacement

Laws and policies on internal displacement present key opportunities to elevate IDP protection and solutions on the political and national agenda and to establish a solid framework for protection and solutions programmes. Protection partners’ law and policy support can range from technical assistance and capacity-building (e.g. clarifying key concepts, principles, and standards) to strategy development, legal analysis, and support for participatory and inclusive drafting processes. This includes engaging IDPs and other displacement-affected communities, as well as all relevant national and local authorities, which is essential to agree on roles and responsibilities to respond to the displacement crisis. Protection clusters can collaborate with cluster lead agencies, National Human Rights Institutions, and other legal and policy actors, and request support from the GPC.

In Africa, the ratification and domestication of the Kampala Convention through the development, adoption, and implementation of national IDP laws is a critical entry point for protection actors. Ensuring that relevant sectoral legislation aligns with international standards and the Kampala Convention (and is harmonised with existing IDP law where one exists) is essential.

For example, the GPC Task Team on Law and Policy has supported Protection Cluster members in Mali and Mozambique to analyse national legislation across selected IDP response sectors, such as the issuance of individual documents, access to healthcare, civil documentation, housing, land, and property rights.

In **Chad**, the government committed to domesticating the Kampala Convention at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum. UNHCR, IOM, and ICRC financially and technically supported the government in incorporating the Convention into national legislation. The national Law on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs in the Republic of Chad was adopted³ in 2023.⁴ The Protection Cluster was instrumental in the development and adoption of this law in:

- Identifying and prioritising the need for a legal framework to better protect IDPs in Chad and reviewing the existing laws applicable to IDPs.
- Identifying relevant and key stakeholders and their role in supporting the national authorities in domesticating the Kampala Convention.
- Organising two key workshops to review the draft law and its validation.
- Formal and informal lobbying and advocacy.

Niger was the first country in Africa to adopt a national law on internal displacement, domesticating the Kampala Convention, which it ratified in 2012. In December 2018, Niger enacted the Law on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons. This law includes a provision on access for IDPs to civil status registration. Additionally, the 2019 Civil Status Law stipulates that: civil registration centres are to be located closer to affected populations; in case of mass displacement, new civil registration centres may be created in locations receiving IDPs, managed by IDP representatives; and in emergencies, there is an extended timeline of six months for civil status registration.⁵

The Protection Cluster contributed through:

- Advocating for the law's development by providing the Government with regular protection updates, which highlighted the need for the law, as well as a holistic operational response to internal displacement more generally.
- Ensuring IDP participation in the law-making process by organising, in collaboration with local authorities, focus group discussions with IDPs and host community members to share their concerns, the type of assistance they needed, and what they would like to see in the new law.
- Reinforcing the capacities of relevant stakeholders by translating the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into the local language and holding five training sessions for the development Steering Committee and military cadres on IDP protection-related topics.
- Acting as an international observer during the validation process of the draft law.

More information is accessible [here](#)⁶.

In 2023, in **Honduras**, the President approved the enactment of the Law for the Prevention, Assistance, and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons that was voted at the National Congress a year before⁷. The Protection Cluster contributed to the development and implementation of the country's first comprehensive framework to respond to internal displacement caused by violence in the context of organised crime through:

- Supporting an inclusive and participation approach by:
 - Conducting consultation sessions in different regions of the country.
 - Engaging civil society and displaced persons in contributing to the content of the Law and its regulations.
- Joint advocacy to position the issue of forced displacement on the public agenda and align the law with international standards.
- Strengthening State Capacities:
 - Developing training tools to improve institutional responses and strengthen the coordination of 29 institutions that comprise the National Response System for Internally Displaced Persons.

In **Ukraine**, the Humanitarian “Social Services” Review was conducted by UNHCR and UNICEF with the support of the Protection Cluster, at the request of the Ministry of Social Policy⁸. The review provides insights into the role of humanitarian actors in supporting Ukraine’s social protection system during times of crisis. The findings illustrate how national and international humanitarian organisations, including charitable foundations, can support and integrate with state services, enhancing sustainability and localisation in the long term⁹.

Also in **Ukraine**, in 2024 the National Coordination Centre (under the Ministry of Justice), UNHCR and the Protection Cluster co-organised a forum on quality of legal aid, bringing together legal aid practitioners from the Government, universities and the humanitarian sector. The forum captured challenges, good practices and suggestions to inform the development of standards to ensure enhanced access to quality legal aid for IDPs and host communities¹⁰.

In **Iraq**, the Protection Platform, created after the protection cluster was deactivated, conducted an analysis on Access to Legal Aid Services for Ethnic and Religious Minority Groups in the Kurdistan Region using the Legal Aid Analysis Framework developed by the GPC. The results were used to develop a specific advocacy strategy with a strong focus on access to documentation. The whole process involved mostly national and local actors¹¹.

In **Mozambique**, the subnational Protection Cluster in Cabo Delgado developed a localisation strategy, including a roadmap for protection partners to implement and integrate clear and realistic localisation activities and approaches in their work under four pillars: inclusion and equitable partnership, financing and funding, capacity strengthening, and coordination¹².

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>

3. Its implementing decrees have not been adopted at the time of finalising this guidance.

4. <https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/2023/fr/59840>.

5. UNHCR-GPC Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement, 2022, p. 42.

6. <https://reliefweb.int/report/niger/niger-consultative-process-adopting-national-law-internal-displacement>

7. See ICMPD, Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of IDPs in Honduras, 2023 for more information: <https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2023-IDMC-Good-Practice-idps-in-honduras-extended-version.pdf>

8. Under the PeReHID Initiative: a multi-stakeholder initiative to support the transition of parts of the humanitarian caseload into an inclusive, shock-responsive national social protection system.

9. <https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/humanitarian-social-protection-nexus-ukraine-situational-analysis-and>

10. <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/news/stories/legal-aid-serves-crucial-lifeline-thousands-ukrainians-midst-full-scale-war>

11. <https://globalprotectioncluster.org/publications/1568/reports/report/legal-aid-analysis-framework-access-legal-aid-services-ethnic-and>

12. <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/protection-cluster-cabo-delgado-protection-planning-workshop-2024-4-5-december-2023>



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.

In **Mozambique**, under the leadership of the Protection Cluster and within the ICCG, humanitarian actors in Cabo Delgado developed a systematised approach to [community consultations](#)² on intentions (return, relocation, or integration) and IDPs' desired conditions for voluntary return. The community consultations aimed to analyse IDP intentions, protection risks associated with settlement options, and the capacity requirements for IDPs to achieve durable solutions based on the 8 IASC criteria. The methodology combined intentions surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observation visits. Consultations were conducted at the district level and enabled in-depth discussions with communities. They informed and enabled the Humanitarian Country Team to advocate for key rights and needs expressed by internally displaced communities.

In 2022, the Protection Cluster in **Cabo Delgado** also developed Standard Operating Procedures for Go-and-See visits in the context of IDP relocation. It is accessible [here](#)³.

In **Somalia**, the findings of the IDP collaborative profiling exercise initiated by the Protection Cluster and supported by JIPS in Mogadishu, were one of the main elements that contributed to putting solutions for IDPs on the political agenda and led to the inclusion of IDPs in the National Development Plan⁴.

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

- Map⁵, 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.

In **Ukraine**, IDP Councils are advisory bodies to authorities at local (*hromada*), district (*rayon*) and regional (*oblast*) levels. They are comprised of IDP, civil society, and host community representatives. They advocate for the rights and interests of IDPs in local governance and support their effective integration. Their presence at the local level allows for the consideration of needs specific to each location and informs the development of policies and strategies relevant to IDPs in local administration. In November 2023, the first All-Ukrainian Forum of IDP Councils took place in Kyiv to facilitate dialogues between IDP representatives, government, civil society, and international organisations. From summer camps for host and IDP children to the right to vote and participate in local decision-making processes, some good practices have been compiled by the GPC and can be accessed [here](#).⁶

The Protection Cluster in **Ukraine** also published recommendations on cooperation between humanitarian organisations and IDP councils that can be accessed [here](#).⁷

In **Niger**, the development of the national IDP law was an excellent opportunity to involve people affected by displacement and ensure the law responds to their needs. Local authorities, in collaboration with the Protection Cluster and the Danish Refugee Council, held focus group discussions with more than a thousand IDPs and host community members who shared their concerns, the type of assistance they needed and what they would like to see in the new law. The Danish Refugee Council and the Nigerian Agency for the Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency (Agence Nigérienne pour le Traitement de la Délinquance Juvénile – ANTD) selected the participants in consultation with traditional leaders, seeking to ensure that participation was as inclusive as possible, including women, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

In **Iraq**, the Protection Cluster worked closely with the CCCM cluster and HCT on advocacy and practical measures to ensure IDPs could vote for the 2018 Council of Representatives' elections and for IDPs' security during elections. In addition, operational guidance notes were issued to partners before the election. They coordinated with relevant authorities to monitor access and the ability of IDPs to vote freely and safely and provide updates on campaign violations using an incident tracking matrix to share with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) Office of Election Assistance. With the support of UNHCR, the Protection and CCCM Cluster partners distributed official voter education material produced by the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) in and out of camp locations such as community centres. More on this example can be read on p.12 [here](#).⁸

Focus: The Role of the Protection Cluster in Supporting IDPs' Right to Vote

The Protection Cluster can play a critical role in ensuring IDPs can exercise their right to vote by addressing legal, administrative, and practical barriers. Key areas of support can include:

- Identifying legal or administrative barriers that prevent IDPs from voting and advocating for necessary revisions or policy changes.
- Supporting the organisation of election facilities to ensure IDPs have access to polling stations.
- Advocating for and supporting the simplified issuance and/or waiver of fees for IDPs to replace lost voter registration cards or supporting identity documents required for voting.
- Supporting the establishment of temporary centres in displacement areas to replace identity documents needed for voter registration.
- Monitoring IDPs' access to voting and identifying violations of their voting rights, including discriminatory practices or restricted access to election campaigns⁹.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS GUIDANCE FOR PROTECTION CLUSTERS

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. <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/protection-report-community-consultations-durable-solutions-mozambique-cabo-delgado-chiure-district-november-2023>
3. <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/standard-operating-procedures-go-and-see-visits-context-idp-relocations-august-2022-enpt>
4. <https://www.jips.org/uploads/2018/10/JIPS-Somalia-Mogadishu-profile.pdf>
5. This may already exist as part of the Protection Cluster service mapping or 5W.
6. https://globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/idp_best_practices_eng.pdf
7. <https://globalprotectioncluster.org/publications/1862/communication-materials/key-messages/recommendations-cooperation-between>
8. <https://globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/public-and-political-participation-of-idps.pdf>
9. See the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons on the right of internally displaced persons to participate in electoral processes, particularly the right to vote and to stand in elections: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/right-internally-displaced-persons-participate-electoral-processes-particularly-right-vote-and-stand-elections-ahrc5024-enarruzh>



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** 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"** in the corresponding material for this guidance document.
- 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 for additional details on the Protection Risk Assessment Tool, and consult **Annex 3** in the corresponding materials of this guidance document 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 **RCO⁵ 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** 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.

BEST PRACTICES

The Protection Cluster in **Somalia** was pivotal in initiating the Mogadishu IDP joint profiling exercise that identified IDP-specific issues and protection risks. This joint and collaborative exercise resulted in recognising the complex challenges of protracted and urban displacement in Somalia and promoting a shift in how displacement was addressed. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) launched the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) in early 2016. The DSI is based on the premise that durable solutions to displacement can only be attained through strong government leadership and collective efforts from humanitarian, development, and state-/peace-building partners, including displacement-affected communities. In 2018, durable solutions were considered as a development priority and included in the resilience chapter in the National Development Plan. Additionally displacement related issues were mainstreamed into several other pillars, further strengthening the integration of durable solutions into national frameworks.

The Protection Sector in **Borno State in Nigeria** produced key messages on Solutions to Internal Displacement across the States of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY), in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement which can be found [here](#).⁶

In **Chad**, the Protection Cluster's involvement in the law and policy process that led to the adoption of the national IDP law, cemented the link between the Protection Cluster and other durable solutions actors, including the solutions advisor at the RCO. It enabled the cluster to advocate for the inclusion of civil documentation (identified as a key protection issue for IDPs) in the development of the national durable solutions strategy.

In **Afghanistan**, protection actors provide training sessions on protection for solutions to members of the DSWGs at the regional levels.

In 2021, the Protection Cluster in **Cabo Delgado, Mozambique**, produced a position paper to provide key recommendations for drafting action plans and/or strategies that will address durable solutions for IDPs in Mozambique under the HC/RC's leadership. *Accessible [here](#).*⁷

Focus: What is the IDP Protection Risk Assessment Tool?

A joint tool that aims to ensure safeguards in solutions initiatives going forward. Under the leadership of the RC and as a service for the UN country team, the tool is intended to be initiated in a consultative way by UNHCR, with substantive inputs from key actors – especially those engaged in durable solutions processes/mechanisms, such as Solutions Working Groups. The tool assesses protection risks and major gaps in the protection environment that are directly relevant to solutions initiatives and generates recommended mitigation/safeguard measures. To guide the data collection, it references the Protection Analysis Framework (PAF) and existing guidance on the use of the 15 protection risks monitored by the GPC. Thus, the Protection Clusters' coordinated PAUs, the protection risk prioritisation and other relevant updates on protection risks are instrumental to the process and informing the recommendations.

The tool relies on *existing* data and analysis, including those produced by Protection Clusters and consultation with communities and protection monitors in the field in countries with significant presence and protection monitoring in place. The tool provides a suggested methodology that can be adapted for different contexts.

Protection Data Monitoring and Analysis

In **Afghanistan**, the Solutions Working Group used protection data monitoring and analysis developed by the Protection Cluster to pilot the protection risk assessment tool to inform durable solutions planning. It was piloted at the same time as the “centrality of protection process” that led to the development of the HCT protection strategy. This was identified as a good practice and resulted in forced displacement and durable solutions being identified as one of the three protection priorities in the strategy.

IASC Principle: Ensure that IDPs have **safe, unimpeded and timely access** to all actors supporting the achievement of durable solutions, 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. They must not be the subject of attacks, harassment, intimidation, or persecution and should be protected from the risk created by landmines.

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

6. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/key-messages-solutions-internal-displacement-across-states-borno-adamawa-and-yobe-bay-engagement-office-special-adviser-solutions-internal-displacement-may-2023>

7. https://globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/pc_key_protection_messages_principled_returns_8_sept_2021_final.pdf



GATHERING EVIDENCE

IASC Guidance: IDPs must have access to **effective mechanisms** that monitor the process and the conditions on the ground; They **actively participate** in the planning and management of the durable solution so that their rights and needs are considered in recovery and development strategies.

Overarching Questions Does the Protection Cluster promote a coherent and coordinated primary and secondary **data collection system** to inform response and durable solutions?
Does protection data and analysis **contribute to inform policy-making** and solutions planning?
Does protection data contribute to assessing IDP's access to their rights and the protection obstacles to their durable solutions?

By systematically collecting, analysing, and disseminating agreed upon and coherent protection information, the cluster can influence policy decisions, guide strategic planning, and highlight the risks and resulting needs of displaced populations.

MENU OF OPTIONS

- Ensure protection data is **operationally relevant** by integrating findings from **protection risk assessments, intention, other relevant surveys and research** and multi-sector needs assessment (consolidated under the Protection Analytical Framework) to support crucial evidence-based advocacy, identification of critical protection risks, related vulnerabilities, and barriers to durable solutions. (See previous sections on building clear solutions pathways).
- Contribute, when needed or requested, to the **mapping of existing data on solutions** and the identification of gaps in the type of data needed to inform solutions planning and processes¹.
- Advocate for improved displacement data collection, leveraging existing national systems, to include displacement in national statistics using the **International Recommendations on IDPs Statistic (IRIS)**², in support of the work of the RC/RC, UNCT and HCT.
- Advocate for or support requests for external resources such as **JIPS for IDP/durable solutions** profiling to push the IDP agenda and/or inform policy and planning for solutions.
- Actively promote the continuous engagement of IDPs in reflection, interpretation and definition of results from protection data collection and analysis, establishing, when possible, common entry points for consultation for multiple data collection mechanisms.
- Assist in ensuring data protection and **ethical standards** are in place for handling sensitive protection information³ and promote adherence to:
 - International data protection principles.
 - Do No Harm and informed consent approaches in protection data collection and use.

The Protection Cluster in **Somalia** developed an Information Sharing Protocol⁴ that establishes a common framework and clear approach, standards, roles and responsibilities for responsible data and information sharing in relation to operational data management activities in the Somalia humanitarian response. It also presents a set of shared principles to serve as a normative guide for responsible data management and applies to all humanitarian actors present in and supporting response activities in Somalia. It was developed through a collective exercise led by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and the Somalia Information Management and Assessment Working Group (IMAWG), aligned with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Operational Guidance on Data Responsibility⁵.

1. [The Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement \(DSID\) Taskforce has developed a diagnostic tool](#) allows UNCTs and associated coordination fora to map existing data on solutions and identify gaps in the type of data needed to inform solutions planning and processes.
2. <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>
3. See Chapter 7 Professional Standards for Protection Work 2024: Fourth edition for more information: <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/professional-standards-protection-work-fourth-edition>
4. https://globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/210921_som_information_sharing_protocol.pdf
5. IASC Operational Guidance on Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action (2021): <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/operational-response/iasc-operational-guidance-data-responsibility-humanitarian-action>



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 IDPs' **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.

BEST PRACTICES

In **Ukraine** a smart phone application called “your app” provides information and legal advice to IDPs and survivors of gender-based violence. It also explains what documents and procedures are required by law to travel across the contact line between government-controlled areas and non-government-controlled areas. As such, it helps to dispel rumours and reinforces people’s knowledge of their rights, confidence, and freedom of movement. The application, initially created by UNDP as part of the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding programme, was handed over to the Ministry of Justice’s Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision, reinforcing the sustainability of the project.

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.

In **Somalia**, forced eviction was identified as one of the most pressing protection risks faced by IDPs, as well as one of the most critical obstacles to durable solutions. NRC, which is part of both the protection cluster (HLP AoR) and the DSWG, worked closely with national and local authorities on the development of National Eviction Guidelines⁴ in 2019 and carried out advocacy at the local level leading to eviction moratoriums in certain cities. In Somalia, forced eviction and security of tenure are crucial entry points into durable solutions planning and programming.

In **South Sudan**, the HLP AoR has developed land tenure security guidelines to provide practical, field-level guidance to policymakers and practitioners involved in the implementation of HLP programs, including guidance on how to exercise due diligence. The guidelines draw from the cumulative experience of HLP actors under the leadership of the HLP AoR, and secondary sources on HLP rights and durable solutions in South Sudan. The guidelines adopt a protection-centred approach to land tenure security, meaning that they focus on protection and work in partnership with vulnerable individuals and their families.

In addition, the HLP AoR in **South Sudan** has been active in pushing for the adoption of the National Land Policy, which has been in the making since 2006. The HLP AoR has provided technical support in the push for its adoption by the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly. When adopted, the policy will lead to better legal frameworks, especially in Registration of land titles and succession.

In **Northwest Syria** the Land and Property (HLP) AoR, in close coordination and consultation with Shelter/NFI, CCCM, and Protection clusters, developed a due diligence guidance. This document aims to ensure HLP due diligence is carried out by humanitarian actors prior to implementing Shelter/NFI and CCCM interventions, where the issue of land ownership and rights to use may be affected by the interventions⁵.

In 2024, in **Northwest Syria**, the HLP AoR coordinated with partners to roll out a documentation safeguarding process aimed at protecting ownership documents from loss and damage and to preserve ownership records for future restitution claims within transitional justice mechanisms. Access to this service provides a tangible first step towards eventual engagement in restitution and transitional justice processes for IDPs and host communities. More information [here](#)⁶.

In **Ukraine**, in 2024 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) reduced the number of beneficiaries of an IDP allowance that all IDPs were receiving since 2022. With a view to assessing the impact of such a change on protection, the Protection Cluster, with its partners, launched a monitoring tool. One of the main protection risks reported was that IDPs who were not eligible for the continuation of the allowance anticipated they would not have sufficient financial means to pay rent. The Protection Cluster, along with local NGOs, drafted a rental subsidy project managed by the Ministry of Social Policy. As a result, in October 2024, the CMU adopted the resolution as an experimental project for paying rental subsidies to IDPs⁷.

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).

In **Northwest Syria**, based on a legal strategy developed by the HLP AoR, the Protection Cluster and AoRs, supported by partners, established a legal network comprised of 131 lawyers who provide legal services (awareness, counselling, assistance, and representation) on Child Protection, GBV, HLP and protection related issues. All partners are provided with a legal package developed by the AoR comprised of legal assistance guidance, intake and counselling forms and a fees matrix to guide the provision of cash for legal services that includes the coverage of transportation, administrative and stamp related fees. A legal dashboard was created to reinforce learning and advocacy⁸.

Empowering Women Community Paralegals to Support Access to Rights (IRC Cameroon): In areas affected by displacement, IRC developed a detailed legal training curriculum for women identified and trained to become community paralegals.

After 4 years of implementation of the programme, positive outcomes included:

- Strengthened access to justice: increased awareness of legal rights, with many community members receiving sensitisation on birth certificates, early marriage and land rights; direct support to families and children through assistance with document filling, obtaining birth certificates, and accompaniment to legal services; and referral of complex cases to IRC for legal support.
- Positive influence on social norms: including in reducing early marriage through direct dialogue and training of local customary chiefs on protective laws.
- Stronger linkages between formal and informal justice actors and their communities resulting in increased trust towards formal and informal mechanisms⁹.

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.

4. National Eviction Guidelines, 2019: <https://www.regionaldss.org/e-library/national-eviction-guidelines>

5. [HLP TWG Due Diligence Guidance Nov 2023 \(English\) | Shelter Cluster](#)

6. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/nws-hlp-documentation-safeguarding-concept-note-and-qa-enar>

7. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/update-changes-payment-idp-allowance-cmu-resolution-332-enuk>

8. Reference docs [Legal Package | ReliefWeb Response](#); and [Legal Dashboard 2024 | ReliefWeb Response](#)

9. Global Protection Cluster 2024 // [Strengthening legal aid and access to justice in humanitarian settings](#)

COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Effective **coordination mechanisms** are essential for laying the groundwork for durable solutions in humanitarian settings. The following are **key coordination platforms** that can support solutions-oriented planning and implementation.

Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)

The ICCG plays a crucial role in ensuring an integrated, multisectoral approach to durable solutions. Key actions include:

- **Conducting joint assessments** on IDPs' protection risks, durable solutions aspirations and obstacles using the IASC framework on durable solutions.
- Ensuring durable solutions remains a priority by including them as a **standing agenda item in ICCG meetings** every three to four months.
- Promoting localisation and inclusion of IDPs in national systems across all sectors, when feasible.
- Developing joint durable solutions guidance and advocacy and operationalisation plan.
- Participating in access working group to ensure that IDPs can safely access assistance and services.

Working Groups Supporting Durable Solutions

- Encourage Protection Cluster representation in Solutions Working Groups at the technical level.
- Establish clear information channels and accountability through UNHCR between the Protection Cluster and personnel involved in Solutions Working Groups and solutions planning processes.
- Promote humanitarian-development-peace coherence, strengthening collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in solutions planning.
- Engage with UN Missions, to ensure that peace-building efforts integrate protection-sensitive durable solutions, and foster collaboration between humanitarian, development, and peace actors.

KEY PROCESSES AND JOINT HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

The following joint humanitarian and development processes and frameworks serve as key entry points for Protection Clusters to inform and provide protection data and analysis, advocate for the protection of IDPs and host communities, and integrate a protection lens to assessment and planning processes.

Joint Humanitarian and Development Frameworks	Role of Protection Clusters and AoRs.
HNRP	<p>Ensure that protection aspects of solutions strategies are reflected and integrated into HNRPs.</p> <p>Promote solutions-oriented strategic objectives in the HNRP, and outcomes such as building self-reliance among IDPs and supporting durable solutions from the outset.</p>
Centrality of Protection Analysis under the Leadership of the RC/HC	<p>Ensure that Protection Cluster data and analysis informs HCT protection strategy development, with specific protection risks linked to displacement and documented obstacles preventing IDPs from achieving durable solutions.</p>
IDP Protection Risk Assessment Tool to be used in Government-Led Solutions Initiatives to advance the objectives of the Action Agenda	<p>The Protection Cluster should contribute, together with a wide range of actors, to ensure joint ownership of the tool, whilst leveraging UNHCR’s cluster leadership. Data and analysis that will be used to complete the tool include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection Cluster analysis / reports and existing UNHCR background documents. • Results of monitoring and reporting mechanisms and UNHCR country guidance/position papers. • Advocacy notes and background documents produced by Protection Cluster, publicly and not publicly available. • Global Protection Cluster country updates.
IDP and Solutions Data	<p>Protection actors should ensure that a protection component is integrated into relevant questionnaires, including DTM and the different tools of the Solutions and Mobility Index¹, which are often used to carry out intention and other multisectoral surveys.</p> <p>Implementation of the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Initiative: Protection Cluster actors can support in-country mapping of the data landscape on solutions² to internal displacement and ensure protection data are included in data sets used to inform durable solutions planning.</p>

Joint Humanitarian and Development Frameworks	Role of Protection Clusters and AoRs.
<p>Diagnostic Tool to assess (local) governance capacity to implement a solutions approach to internal displacement</p>	<p>Protection Clusters can contribute by providing information and protection-oriented guidance to UNDP in countries/areas where they have conducted service/CSO mapping or have worked with national/ local authorities on internal displacement.</p>
<p>Durable Solutions Strategies and Roadmaps: Part of the Action Agenda’s implementation Key Enablers.</p>	<p>Protection analysis and a protection lens are vital in developing such strategies. Protection Clusters should participate in their development through engaging with Solutions Working Groups, maintaining communication with staff sitting at the technical level of the Solutions Working Group, and/or regular contacts and exchange with solutions advisors sitting at the RCO.</p> <p>IDP protection response should reflect elements articulated in the joint HCT/UNCT multi-year strategic approach to internal displacement, which identifies the short-, medium-, and longer-term investments required to support pathways to solutions³.</p>
<p>Common Country Assessment (CCA)</p>	<p>With a view to “leave no one behind”, the Protection Cluster has a key role to play in ensuring that IDPs’ protection risks, specific vulnerabilities, and obstacles to achieving durable solutions, feature in CCAs.</p>
<p>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)</p>	<p>This is the most important instrument for planning and implementing the UN development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The UNSDCF should feature durable solutions, and the protection lens/analysis highlighting the most vulnerable categories of IDPs should be included. Likewise, IDPs should have the opportunity to contribute to its development.</p>
<p>National and Local Development Plans and Sectoral Policies</p>	<p>Protection Clusters, in coordination with development actors, can work with and reinforce the capacities of relevant ministries and support the integration of displacement solutions into their national and local development plans and sectoral policies.</p>

1. <https://dtm.iom.int/fr/node/18436>

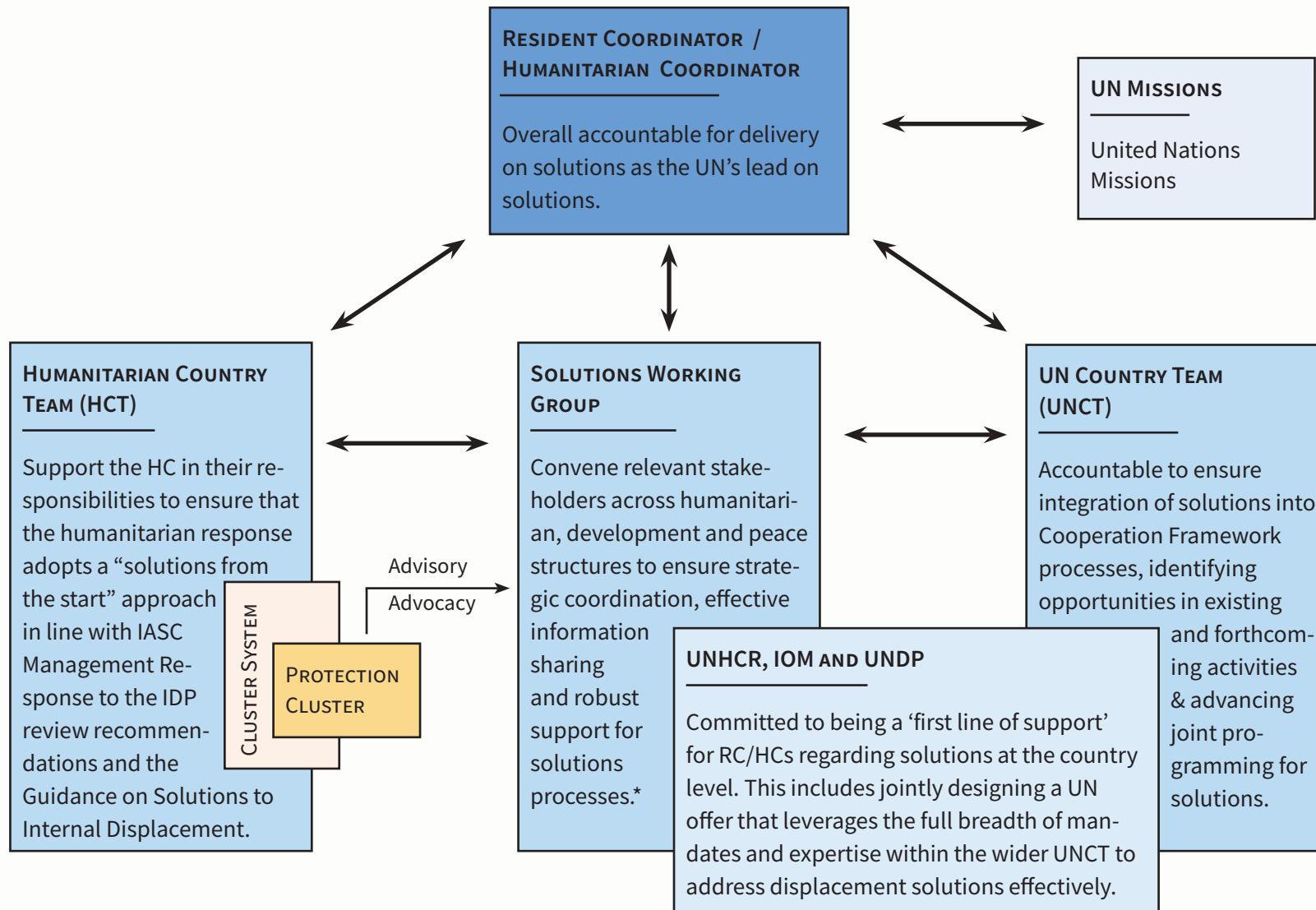
2. DSID diagnostic tool: <https://ee-eu.kobotoolbox.org/x/cbSw1b7k>

3. See Management Response to the IASC review of the humanitarian response to internal displacement.

ANNEX

- ANNEX 1:** The Protection Cluster and the Durable Solutions Coordination Mechanisms at country level. *p.34*
- ANNEX 2:** Solutions Support Tool: Protection Risks, Obstacles and Entry Points for Protection Clusters *p.35*
- ANNEX 3:** IDP Protection Risk Assessment Tool in Government-led Solutions Processes *p.45*
- ANNEX 4:** Guiding Principles and Standards to be included in Joint Durable Solutions Guidance at national or local level. *p.48*

ANNEX 1: The Protection Cluster and the Durable Solutions Coordination Mechanisms at country level.



*The Solutions Working Group should operate under the guidance of an overarching strategic approach and be integrated into existing coordination mechanisms to prevent silos and enhance coherence. It is a joint space between the UNCT and HCT that reports to the RC/HC and complements the work of humanitarian clusters and UNCT results groups. It is institutionally docked into the UNCT structure and can be asked to brief HCT and UNCT on progress and challenges.

ANNEX 2: Solutions Support Tool: Protection Risks, Obstacles and Entry Points for Protection Clusters

This tool is designed to help Protection Clusters effectively contribute to durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) by providing an example of aligning protection risk analysis with durable solutions frameworks. It accompanies the Practical Guidance on the Role of Protection Clusters in Durable Solutions. Below is a summary of key aspects of the tool:

Purpose:

- Support Protection Clusters in linking protection risk analysis with durable solutions processes.
- Facilitate engagement with durable solutions actors using aligned language and communication approaches.
- Provide examples on how to leverage protection risk analysis to remove obstacles to durable solutions.


Key Components:


- **Protection Risks as Obstacles to Durable Solutions:**
 - Protection risks are fundamental barriers to durable solutions, often stemming from systemic violations and institutional challenges.
 - Addressing these risks is essential for ensuring the safety, dignity, and long-term reintegration of IDPs.
- **Strategic Use of Protection Risk Reduction in Solutions Planning:**
 - Demonstrates how mitigating a specific protection risk can shape and inform durable solutions strategies.
 - Offers a practical example of how Protection Clusters can use their expertise to drive solutions-oriented approaches.
- **Part 1: Reference Table:**
 - Outlines 15 protection risks monitored by Protection Clusters.
 - Identifies how each risk presents an obstacle to durable solutions.
 - Provides entry points for Protection Clusters to use their analysis to inform solutions pathways.
- **Part 2: Example from Ukraine**
 - Provides an example of an action plan utilising this methodology to address the threat of eviction or destruction of personal property in Ukraine.


How Protection Clusters Can Use This Tool:


- **Align Analysis with Solutions Language:** Ensure that protection risk discussions resonate with durable solutions actors by framing them in terms of solution-oriented interventions.
- **Engage Strategically:** Use the reference table as an example to identify where protection risks obstruct solutions and how they can be mitigated.
- **Support Policy and Programmatic Actions:** Provide evidence-based recommendations to inform durable solutions strategies at national and local levels.


PART 1: 15 Protection Risks, Related Obstacles and Entry Points for Protection Clusters


	ABDUCTION & DETENTION Abduction, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks of abduction and detention in their place of origin or relocation creates a considerable obstacle to solutions, especially when local integration is not possible. • Displaced persons often lose access to their traditional and community protection frameworks. They may also lack personal documentation, face discrimination or suffer persecution based on their origin, race, or ethnicity, making them particularly vulnerable to arbitrary arrest and detention. Fees and procedures for their release and the psychosocial impact of detention can have a serious impact on their progression toward solutions. • The fear of arrest, detention, abduction, or forced disappearance restricts IDP's freedom of movement, limiting their ability to find livelihood opportunities, reclaim property, or access services necessary for durable solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate specific abduction and detention risks affecting IDPs, including root causes (e.g. discrimination, persecution, lack of documentation) • Advocating for the role of national and local authorities, including law enforcement actors, in ensuring that IDPs receive effective protection without discrimination. • Ensuring IDPs have access to national and local protection mechanisms, including police, courts and national human rights institutions. • Advocating against returning IDPs to areas where their life, safety, liberty or health are at risk. 	
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Safety and security Access to justice and remedies → SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	


	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings, and attacks on civilian objects	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of safety and security, including attacks on civilians in places of origin, is a major obstacle to return and durable solutions when risks persist without an alternative option. • Lack of safety and security in the place of displacement prevents access to basic needs and progression toward resilience and solutions, it can lead to multiple displacement that considerably hinders the capacities of IDPs to bounce back and find durable solutions to their displacement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the civilian character of IDP camps and settlements, and protection from attacks • Ensuring safe relocation of IDP camps and settlements when under threat of attack, which is part of the protection responsibilities of national / local authorities. • Ensuring IDPs are not the subject of attacks, harassment, intimidation, persecution or any other form of punitive action upon return to their home communities or settlement elsewhere in the country. 	
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Safety and security → SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	


	DISCRIMINATION Discrimination, and stigmatization denial of resources, opportunities, services and/or humanitarian access	
	<p style="text-align: center;">OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination is a major obstacle to IDPs’ access to rights and progression towards solutions, especially regarding access to services, livelihood and employment opportunities, HLP rights in the place of displacement, local integration, return or relocation. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing durable solutions actors about structural or circumstantial discrimination faced by displaced populations to guide DS planning. • Reaffirming that IDPs, as citizens of their country, must have equal access to rights and related services on par with other citizens, including essential services, national and local protection mechanisms, law enforcement, courts, national human rights institutions and national disaster management services. • Advocating that IDPs are able to exercise the right to participate in public affairs at all levels on the same basis as the resident population, without discrimination owing to their displacement. • Specific attention should be given to displaced minorities in societies with deeply rooted discrimination or hierarchical social structures.
<p>IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs</p>	→ IASC criteria: DS definition Safety and security Participation in public affairs → SDG 10 reduced inequality SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions	




	DISINFORMATION Disinformation and denial of access to information	
	<p style="text-align: center;">OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of accurate, up-to-date, and transparent information, or biased information and disinformation, on the safety and security situation in return areas. • Without trustworthy information on conditions in places of origin or relocation (e.g., protection, access to services, humanitarian and development assistance), IDPs cannot make informed, voluntary decisions about their decision to return or relocate. • Misinformation can lead to premature returns, secondary or multiple displacement, and increased vulnerability. • IDPs require clear and accurate details to plan and prepare for their return or relocation and maximize their chance to progress towards DS. Information such as return packages and allowances, access to land, property, repair assistance, education, livelihoods, health services, law enforcement etc. are crucial. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring national and local authorities, as well as humanitarian and development actors provide IDPs with clear, unbiased and reliable information about durable solutions. • Protection actors should collaborate with national and local authorities (where possible) to monitor protection conditions, conduct risk analysis in areas of displacement, return and potential relocation and ensure IDPs have access to reliable information. • Protection clusters should regularly assess IDPs’ information needs, identify gaps, and report cases of disinformation or denial of access to information. • Information should be accessible to all IDPs in a language they understand, ensuring inclusivity across diverse displaced populations.
<p>IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs</p>	→ IASC framework principle → SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	


	FAMILY SEPARATION Child and forced family separation	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS		ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk of family separation is acute during displacement crises. • Protections risks linked to family separation, particularly child separation, can have significant and long-term impacts on resilience and the ability to progress toward solutions. • Family provides a structured and stable environment for displaced persons and serves as a unique source of protection and solidarity, both during and after displacement. Ensuring family unity is a priority for solutions. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and activities for families separated by displacement to be reunited as quickly as possible, particularly when children, older persons or other vulnerable individuals are involved. • Informing support to national child protection systems to respond to the protection needs of separated and unaccompanied children, including conducting best interest determinations in the context of durable solutions. • Ensuring factors contributing to the separation of IDP families, especially the separation between parents and children, are assessed and responded to. • Ensuring return or relocation does not lead to forced family separation. • Advocating for national and de facto authorities to cooperate pragmatically (e.g. through humanitarian actors or other impartial intermediaries) in divided territories to allow for family reunification despite obstacles such as closed boundary lines. • Ensuring measures to prevent family separation are included in disaster prevention and management plans.
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Family reunification	


	FORCED RECRUITMENT Forced recruitment and association of children in armed forces and groups	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS		ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement crises increase the risk of forced recruitment into armed forces, particularly among children. There is increased incidence of child abductions and forced recruitment in and around IDP camps and informal settlements. • Forced recruitment harms victims and their families, hindering their resilience and ability to progress towards solutions. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the civilian character of IDP camps and settlements, and protection from forced recruitment and training of or for armed forces. • Integrating monitoring and reporting of forced recruitment risks in areas of displacement, return and relocation into planning and response efforts. • Prevention, demobilization and reintegration programs are critical to ensure the safety, security and resilience of IDPs, which are essential for durable solutions.
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Safety and security Access to justice and remedies → SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	



	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement and related vulnerabilities put IDPs, especially women and girls, at heightened risk of all forms of GBV, including physical and psychosocial harm. This significantly affects their ability that of their families and communities to progress towards solutions. • Protracted displacement further increases the risk of gender-based violence. • Women face discrimination in accessing their rights critical to their progression towards solutions such as HLP rights, education, health and legal identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse GBV risks, trends and dynamics in displacement affected areas. • Include a GBV component in protection assessments in areas of displacement, return and relocation, ensuring risks are well documented and integrated into durable solutions planning. • Assess and document gender discrimination in access to HLP, personal documentation, education, health and other services. • Ensure internally displaced women and girls have access to reliable information, legal protection, and decision-making processes related to their rights and durable solutions. 	
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → IASC criteria: Safety and security Access to justice and remedies → SDG 10 reduced inequality SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions 	

	LEGAL IDENTITY Impediments and/or restrictions to access to legal identity, remedies and justice	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs often lose essential documentation (e.g. ID cards, passports, birth and marriage certificates, title deeds, academic records) making it difficult to access rights, social benefits and essential services. • Without proper documentation, IDPs face barriers in reclaiming property, accessing education, employment, healthcare, and legal remedies, and voting. • Lack documentation increases IDPs' risk of unlawful/arbitrary arrest and detention, abduction and forced disappearance, forced recruitment, gender-based violence, forced marriage, theft and eviction, trafficking, forced labour and slavery-like practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with authorities to facilitate the issuance or replacement of personal documentation for IDPs. • Protection actors should assess IDP needs for documentation, analysing and communicating on the related protection risks, and advocate for legal and policy reforms that remove bureaucratic obstacles. • Protection actors can also work in collaboration with and support Ministries of Justice and Interior to ensure conducive laws and policies for issuing documentation. • Legal aid services should be strengthened to assist IDPs in securing documentation without imposing unreasonable conditions (e.g., requiring return to their place of origin). 	
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → IASC criteria: Access to and replacement of personal documentation → SDG 10 reduced inequality SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions 	

	MARRIAGE Child, early or forced marriage	
	OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement increases the risks of child, early, and forced marriages, which limit education and economic opportunities. • Failure to progress toward solutions further exacerbates the risk of early marriage, as families adopt it as a harmful coping mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document and communicate the risks and root causes of forced marriage as a critical protection concern. • Develop a prevention and response strategy including remedial actions (e.g. alternative livelihood programs) and environment building initiatives to reduce forced marriage risks.
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Access to and replacement of personal documentation → SDG 4 Quality education SDG 10 reduced inequality SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	
	MOVEMENT & DISPLACEMENT Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege, and forced displacement	
	OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions on freedom of movement hinder livelihood opportunities, employment, access to services, and participation in public affairs, all of which are essential for of durable solutions (e.g. encampment policies, administrative restrictions). • Premature, forced or uninformed return / relocation to areas with movement restrictions increase vulnerability, trigger multiple displacements, and reduced resilience. • The best durable solution is preventing displacement in the first place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for IDPs to be able to freely leave their areas of settlement, as well return or relocate with undue restrictions. • Protection actors should identify & advocate for the removal of barriers, including encampment policies and administrative restrictions on IDPs freedom of movement. • Advocate for IDPs’ rights to freely choose their place of settlement. • Ensure that any limited and temporary movement restrictions due to security or disaster scenarios are not arbitrary or discriminatory.
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Long-term safety, security and freedom of movement Access to adequate standards of living Access to employment and livelihoods Participation in public affairs at all levels on an equal basis with the resident population → SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	
	PRESENCE OF MINES Presence of mines and other explosive ordnance	
	OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landmines and other explosive ordnance are major obstacles to return and can endanger IDPs’ safety in their places of origin. • Freedom of movement is severely restricted when access to agricultural land, roads, or other essential infrastructure remains unsafe due to landmines. • Landmine clearance does not automatically ensure safety- other security risks must be assessed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve a DS, IDPs must receive effective protection from national and local authorities without discrimination, including protection from explosive hazards. • There should be no return in areas where their life, safety, liberty or health are at risk. • Mine clearance alone does not mean that safety and security is ensured in the areas or return or relocation. Post-clearance safety assessments and risk education must be prioritized.
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Long-term safety, security and freedom of movement Access to employment and livelihoods → SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	


	PSYCHOSOCIAL Psychological/emotional abuse or inflicted distress	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement is a deeply traumatic experience impacting the well-being of IDPs. Loss of home, work, land, livelihood, school, family, friends, communities and other support networks creates emotional distress. • All protections risks associated with displacement compound psychosocial trauma, undermining resilience, coping capacity and progress toward solutions. • Pressure to return, threat of forced evictions, lack of information, and misinformation further undermine IDPs' mental health and resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support IDPs in making free and voluntary choices about their future through access to accurate information, participation in decision making processes and agency in choosing solutions. • Advocate for and support the conducting of surveys to assess the psychosocial needs of IDPs, ensuring their concerns are reflected in policy responses. • Protection actors can advocate for the deployment of psychosocial services in areas of return, relocation and displacement, and support related programmes as part of development priorities. 	
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → IASC criteria: Long-term safety, security and freedom of movement Access to employment and livelihoods → SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions 	

	THEFT & EVICTION Theft, extortion, forced eviction or destruction of personal property	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS	ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced eviction, property destruction, and illegal occupation are major barriers to durable solutions. It not only prevents IDPs from returning home, but also puts them at heightened risk of violence, exploitation and abuse and hampers their ability to access livelihood and employment, services and to participate in public affairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights are central to durable solutions. Protection Clusters and HLP AoRs play a key role in ensuring IDPs' property rights. • HLP initiatives to support IDPs' self-reliance and help them prepare for durable solutions should include assessments and surveys, analysis of Housing Land a Property Rights, access to documentation, including property deeds and other HLP-related documents, HLP guidelines, due diligence processes and preparing the ground for restitution and compensation mechanisms. See page 23 in the corresponding Guidance for more detailed entry points. • Specific attention should be given to minority groups who have historical or cultural ties to land as recognized under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala Convention. 	
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → IASC criteria: access to adequate standards of living access to effective mechanisms that restore or compensate housing, land and property Access to personal documentation. → SDG 1 No poverty! SDG 9 on resilient infrastructures SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions 	

	TORTURE & CRUELTY Torture or cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS		ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, can face heightened risks of torture or cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment. • Minorities, women, children and people with political (or attributed) affiliations in specific situations are at particular risk. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends of documented and reported incidence of such treatment targeting IDPs included in analysis. • Advocacy and support for victims to be assisted with health, legal aid and psychosocial support and for specific prevention and protection measures by national authorities, who are accountable for preventing and prosecuting such crimes.
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Long-term safety, security and freedom of movement → SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions	
	TRAFFICKING & LABOUR Trafficking in Persons, Forced Labour or Slavery-Like Practices	
OBSTACLES FOR SOLUTIONS		ENTRY POINTS FOR ANALYSIS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs face increased risk of exploitation, trafficking, and forced labour due to lack of resources, documentation, and support networks. • IDP camps and settlements can be particularly vulnerable to trafficking networks. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of trafficking risks among IDP populations and support to local / national actors in preventing and responding to trafficking. • Advocacy for Ministries of Justice and Interior to be equipped to address trafficking and strengthen law enforcement. • Specific attention should be paid to minorities in societies with discriminatory and/or hierarchical social structures. • Advocate for ratification and implementation of the international Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
IASC FRAMEWORK ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND SDGs	→ IASC criteria: Long-term safety, security and freedom of movement → SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions	

PART 2: Example from Ukraine: Protection Action Plan to Address Eviction or Destruction of Personal Property in Ukraine

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) has provided a monthly allowance to many IDPs. Since 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers has progressively shifted from a blanket approach to a more targeted system by restricting the eligibility criteria for IDP allowances.

 THEFT & EVICTION Theft, extortion, forced eviction or destruction of personal property		
TYPE OF ACTION	ACTIVITIES	SYNERGIES WITH DEVELOPMENT / OTHER ACTORS
RESPONSIVE <i>(Preventing, mitigating or alleviating immediate effects of protection risks, including resulting needs)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of information on the new law and related procedures Strengthening of legal aid services Advocacy with humanitarian actors and MoSP Development of a monitoring tool to assess impact of the targeted approach. 	Protection Cluster (at national and local levels) and sectoral partners in support to MoSP.
REMEDIAL <i>(Restoring people’s dignity and living conditions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental subsidies Advocacy with authorities to strengthen employment schemes and referrals to social protection mechanisms 	MoSP with the support of the Protection Cluster and its national members.
ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING <i>(Fostering an environment that enables or encourages full respect for individual rights)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy to expedite the implementation of long-term programmes offering a holistic package for rental and employment support, to prevent IDPs from falling back into the humanitarian caseload” Development of social housing schemes, including for IDPs Strengthening of restitution and compensation mechanisms 	Development actors such as UNDP and the World Bank, as well as national actors at the sectoral level and donors

Considering the significance of these legislative changes and their potential impact on IDPs, including the increased risk of negative coping mechanisms or forced return to unsafe areas, the Protection Cluster, in collaboration with Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, has taken several measures to mitigate these risks and contribute to evidence-based advocacy:

1. The PC, along with MoSP and national NGOs, developed and disseminated information materials for IDPs and social protection entities.
2. The PC launched a call to its partners to monitor the situation of IDPs following the legal amendments, enhance awareness-raising efforts among IDPs regarding the changes and their eligibility, and provide protection counselling and legal aid for IDPs whose applications were rejected.
3. The PC raised awareness about the implications of the amendments for wider humanitarian programming and engaged at the operational level to support local actors in addressing issues related to the IDP allowance at the regional level.
4. To ensure inclusion of vulnerable IDPs into the eligibility criteria for payment of the IDP allowance, the PC and national NGOs engaged in successful advocacy efforts with MoSP. As a result, five additional vulnerable groups of IDPs were added to the eligibility criteria by the Cabinet of Ministers.
5. Finally, to support and systematize protection partners’ data collection efforts on the impact of the legal amendments, the PC launched a thematic Kobo monitoring tool.

One of the main protection risks reported in surveys was eviction from rented accommodation¹. IDPs who were deemed ineligible for continued IDP allowance payments anticipated that they would no longer have sufficient financial means to pay rent. In response, the PC, along with national NGOs (including PC partners), actively participated in drafting the rental subsidy programme managed by MoSP. As a result, in October 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a resolution establishing an experimental rental subsidy program for IDPs.

The next step, led by development actors, is to develop the social housing offer in displacement affected areas to meet the needs of both host communities and displaced persons. Additionally, efforts will focus on ensuring effective and efficient property restitution and compensation mechanisms for displaced persons.

ANNEX 3: IDP Protection Risk Assessment Tool in Government-led Solutions Processes

Purpose: The purpose of this note is to provide a methodology for developing a joint protection risk assessment tool for use by the RC and the UN CT/HCT in the context of government-led solutions processes for IDPs. The objective of the tool is to identify particular risks related to solutions initiatives, including groups that may be left behind, and to recommend mitigation measures. It is not meant to be a comprehensive overview of the protection environment in a country or duplicate the essential analysis of the Protection Cluster and protection actors.

In line with the [recommendations](#) of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the Secretary-General’s [Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#) emphasizes the importance of adopting government-led, development-oriented approaches to solutions. As part of this, the Special Adviser to the SG on Solutions to Internal Displacement identified the creation of a protection risk assessment tool to apply in the context of government-led solutions efforts as a concrete deliverable to help advance the objectives of the Action Agenda.

Achieving solutions is the ultimate protection outcome.¹ Nonetheless, the pursuit of solutions can lead to protection risks, while humanitarian protection activities do not necessarily generate lasting outcomes. There is a need to ensure that solutions initiatives do not leave segments of the population further behind or create new protection risks, just as there is a need to orient protection interventions toward achieving progress on solutions.

The Protection Risk Assessment Tool is meant to result in a short document (no more than three pages) in table format that presents information in a manner that is accessible to protection specialists and non-specialists alike. The exercise requires contributions from a wide range of both protection and development actors to ensure “joint ownership” of the resulting analysis and suggested ways forward that are both principled and pragmatic.

N.B. The methodology herein is dynamic and will be updated and refined as more countries continue to test the tool and gather experiences/ lessons.

Methodology:

Under the leadership of the RC and as service for the UN country team, the tool is intended to be initiated in a consultative way by UNHCR, with substantive inputs from key actors – especially those engaged in durable solutions processes/mechanisms. It is intended to focus on areas relevant to proposed or ongoing solution initiatives and the communities that will be impacted, either directly or indirectly. The following methodology serves as a baseline for completing the template below and can be adapted based on context.

1. Conduct a light [desk review](#) with available information and data to look at identified protection risks, as well as major gaps in the protection environment that are directly relevant to solutions initiatives.² The desk review should draw from existing protection monitoring and reporting but also bring in other core material related to development, peace-building and governance. Review material such as:
 - Government documents, including laws and policies on internal displacement; Solutions strategies, plans, and frameworks; national and local development plans; peace agreements/strategies (if applicable); UPR submissions, etc.
 - Existing protection analysis and reporting, starting with Protection Cluster products (in contexts where clusters are activated), including:

- Protection Analysis Updates that are informed by a multi-partner analysis process, including quarterly protection risk prioritisation for specific population groups;³
 - Advocacy notes and briefing documents produced by the Protection Cluster and protection actors (such as UNHCR protection briefs), that are both public and non-public, and Global Protection Cluster country updates;
 - Broader available reporting, including by OHCHR and various Special Rapporteurs (including but not limited to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons), UN Security Council reports, and reports by civil society groups and advocacy organisations (e.g., Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Refugees International, etc.).
 - Development strategies such as UNSDCFs, UN Common Country Analysis, MDB country strategies – such as World Bank Country Partnership Frameworks, WB ESF, UNDP Conflict and Development Analysis, etc.
2. Meet with and gather input from civil society groups and other relevant actors, including protection actors such as national human rights institutions, as well as development actors, including UNDP, Multilateral Development Banks, government donors, etc.
 3. Utilize available information from consultations with communities and carry out additional consultations, if needed, to validate or adjust key findings of the analysis, ensuring the views of displaced people and local communities are at the center.
 4. Use relevant themes to guide analysis in identifying key protection risks in the context of solutions initiatives, including, first and foremost, whether government-led solutions efforts are based on *free* and *informed* choices, in conditions of *safety* and *dignity*, and in close *consultation* with displacement-affected communities. Key themes include, but are not limited to: safety and security, legal safeguards, civil documentation, housing, land and property rights, gender and child protection, discrimination against certain groups. (See box below table for specific questions to consider for each relevant theme.)
 5. Based on the findings and analysis, complete the IDP Protection Risk Assessment Table below. This table is meant to present risks for specific IDP groups (whether based on location and/or specific identity, vulnerability, etc.) related to solutions initiatives, along with recommended mitigation measures. It is important to *link mitigation measures to applicable law/policy frameworks, as well as local institutions*, as relevant. This is a baseline template to be adapted and refined for usability and applicability for different contexts.

1. [IASC Policy on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons](#), 2024, page 11.

2. Utilize the [Protection Analytical Framework](#) for reference, as well as these [commonly used definitions of protection risks](#) and [related human rights consideration](#) to guide the collation of information.

3. GPC, [Protection Cluster Approach to Joined-Up Protection Analysis Guidance](#), 2024.

Template - IDP Protection Risk Assessment Table

Solutions Initiative	Population group(s) of concern	Risk(s)	Causes & Consequences	Relevant National/Local Institutions, Laws & Policies, Initiatives, etc.	Recommended Risk Mitigation Measures: By whom, to whom, & how
<p><i>Indicate the solutions initiative that has the potential to increase harm if it moves forward without mitigation measures (i.e., ‘safeguards’) in place.</i></p>	<p><i>Indicate the specific group(s) of IDPs of concern (e.g.. in certain locations/ from typically marginalized backgrounds); list multiple groups per initiative as relevant.</i></p>	<p><i>Explain the risk(s) that the IDP group faces if the initiative moves forward; utilize the analysis by theme to inform explanation of the risk.</i></p>	<p><i>Indicate the various causes of the risk and consider the potential consequences if the risk occurs, again utilizing the analysis by theme.</i></p>	<p><i>Identify relevant law and policy frameworks, national/local level institutions or initiatives that may be applicable to mitigation measures and/ or that need strengthening.</i></p>	<p><i>List the recommended mitigation measures here and identify who is responsible for carrying each one forward – with particular consideration for the role of government/local actors -- such as the national ministry or equivalent administrative body responsible for IDPs (if there is one), judiciary, parliament, human rights institutions, etc. -- and applicable national and local laws and policies.</i></p> <p><i>Consider both proactive and reactive measures. Proactive measures are actions implemented based on identified causes of the risk (i.e. addressing the threats). Reactive measures are executed after a risk event occurs, thus addressing the consequences of the risk event occurring (i.e., by reducing vulnerabilities and/ or increasing capacities).</i></p>
<p>[Ex. Government-led camp closures with the intention of “resettling” IDPs to their home areas.]</p>	<p>[Ex. IDPs in protracted situations in X living in camp setting.]</p> <p>[Ex. IDPs from minority group living with local community.]</p>	<p>[Ex. Camp/site closures without viable alternatives are likely to increase vulnerability and suffering and limit progress toward solutions.]</p>	<p>[Ex. Cause: Consultations with communities were conducted but failed to inform policies/planning/decisions Consequence: Solutions initiative carried forward that is not durable and increases vulnerability of displaced communities.]</p>	<p>[Ex. National Human Rights Institution with strong advocacy track records; Local IDP Consultative Bodies (such as IDP Councils) established but not active.]</p>	<p>[Ex. RC, in collaboration with the NHRI, to advocate with local and national authorities to conduct camp closures in line with established guidelines (including X’s national IDP policy and commitments as a signatory to X convention) and involving meaningful participation by IDPs in decision-making.</p> <p>UNCT to mobilize support (such as through training, capacity building) for the active engagement of local IDP consultative bodies to inform gov policies/plans on internal displacement.</p> <p>Donors/development actors engaged to support urban planning and development to allow for local integration/access to services for IDPs in X.]</p>

ANNEX 4: Guiding Principles and Standards to be included in Joint Durable Solutions Guidance at national or local level.

These are indicative examples of crucial elements that could be included in a joint/inter-sectoral durable solution guidance that the Protection Cluster could take an active part in developing.

Sections	Content	Tips
Key Concepts	IDP Definition	As defined in the guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the Kampala Convention (or national laws and policies, if in line with these international standards).
	Durable Solutions Definition	IASC framework definition or national/local definition (if in line with international standards).
Common Objectives	Ensure IDPs' protection and facilitate the achievement of DS for IDPs to sustainably resume a normal life in safety and dignity in their place of origin or other areas.	
Principles	National Responsibility	Possibility to use IASC framework's principles
	Voluntariness	IDPs can make a free and informed choice
	Safety	Three safeties: Physical, legal and material safety
	Dignity	At the IDP's own pace, preservation of family unity, non-discriminatory...
	Inclusive and participatory processes recognising the agency of displacement affected communities and their rights to raise their concerns and participate in any decision affecting their lives.	
Process and Conditions	Joint commitment to prevent, advocate and act against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forced returns, - Forced evictions - Premature returns, camp closure or relocation 	
	Alternatives to return, interim or permanent local integration or relocation for IDPs unwilling or unable to return	
	8 IASC criteria	According to the rights-based approach of the IASC Framework, a mere physical movement does not on its own constitute achieving a durable solution. Durable solutions are about the restoration of rights for IDPs, outlined by the eight criteria in the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions that can be used "to determine the extent to which a durable solution has been achieved." The returns/relocation, local integration should be a starting point for a sustainable reintegration and reacquisition of access to basic human rights.
	Continuous support through presence and humanitarian assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of assistance shelter/housing rehabilitation, mine clearance and risk education, legal assistance, civil documentation, HLP issues. • Protection monitoring and protection by presence

Sections	Content	Tips
Specific Risks and Vulnerabilities	<p>Specific and contextualised risks: GBV, insecurity and/ or presence of armed groups, disasters, absence of basic services and critical infrastructures, HLP damage, destruction, occupation, explosive hazard contamination, disputed territories, perceived affiliation of certain community members.</p> <hr/> <p>Populations at risk.</p>	
Peacebuilding/ Development and Implication of IDPs	<p>If applicable.</p>	
Actors and Coordination	<p>Actors Leadership Priority areas Who does what?</p>	<p>Potential coordination mechanisms, leadership etc.</p>



Global Protection Cluster

