



Part VI

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

*Photo Sven Torfinn/IOM 2006
IDPs going back home in South Sudan.*

Durable Solutions

1. What are durable solutions in the internal displacement context?

“Displacement shall last no longer than required by the circumstances”

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Achieving a durable solution to internal displacement means that displaced persons enjoy their full spectrum of human rights and, as a result, they are able to rebuild their lives.

A solution to internal displacement can be achieved through one of three choices:

- **return** to the place of origin;
- **local settlement** in the area where displaced persons have taken refuge; or
- **settlement elsewhere in the country.**¹

But solutions can only be considered to be “**durable**” if a number of conditions are fulfilled.² These conditions include enjoying the protection of the State of nationality (citizens) or residence; the voluntariness of the decision to return or settle elsewhere; the prevalence of safety and security in areas of settlement or return; real prospects for restitution of or compensation for lost property; no discrimination in the enjoyment of their rights, and equal access to public services and economic opportunities.

Indeed, in some cases, it may be several years before internally displaced persons can achieve a durable solution. Political and security related factors, such as ongoing, armed conflict, will often hamper some durable solutions and may lead to protracted internal displacement. Whether conditions are ripe for achieving durable solutions will differ significantly in situations of protracted conflict and displacement compared to situations where peace and law-and-order have been restored. In general, finding out whether durable solutions to internal displacement have been achieved in a specific country requires a thorough analysis of the context, including by examining objective conditions and the process itself, and doing so for all segments of the internally displaced population.³

The fact that most displaced persons have returned or settled in safety and dignity in parts of their country does not mean that *all* internally displaced persons have found a durable solution. Ascertaining the individual achievement of a *durable* solution requires a similar analysis, but *on an individual level*, to verify whether a person is able to enjoy the full spectrum of human rights.

¹ The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* refer to *two* solutions: “return” and “resettlement” in another part of the country. The latter option refers to settlement elsewhere in the country other than one’s place of origin. It encompasses the option of IDPs settling permanently in the locality where they first arrived while displaced as well as the possibility of moving to another part of the country altogether. Given that the term “resettlement” has a very specific meaning in the refugee context, as it refers to relocation *outside the country of asylum*, this Handbook refers to, and would generally recommend, that in contexts of internal displacement, the terms “local settlement” and “settlement elsewhere” be used instead.

² Cf. UNDG Guidance Note on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons (refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees), UNDG Programme Group, October 2004.

³ OCHA, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, UNDP and UNCHR are developing guidance for Country Teams on how to undertake such analysis. This work is planned as a follow-up to the IASC Working Group decision of March 2007 to pilot the framework for Durable Solutions.

2. A solutions-oriented approach

Supporting durable solutions to internal displacement can never begin too early. Indeed, humanitarian action, including in the area of protection, must be inspired by this goal from the outset of any operation.

Humanitarian actors have an important role to play in post-conflict peace-building. Countries emerging from conflict and war often go through a phase of fragile and tenuous peace. Humanitarian interventions must contribute to support reconciliation between former warring parties and to support ongoing efforts to establish national reconciliation initiatives to bolster any fledgling peace process.⁴

Solutions for IDPs also need to be viewed and pursued in the context of overall economic development and broad-based approaches benefiting communities as a whole.⁵ Early implementation of development activities and close collaboration between governments, humanitarian and development actors is critically important to improve the living standards and the level of enjoyment of human rights of the population as a whole as well as the displaced. It will also equip and better prepare IDPs to fully make the transition to a durable solution through their eventual return home or settlement elsewhere in the country.

Development actors include not only those at the international level, such as UNDP, FAO, ILO, the bilateral development agencies, the World Bank and international NGOs, but also national development actors, including all those government ministries and other entities engaged in planning and delivery of social services.

Ensuring that the concerns of internally displaced persons are explicitly integrated into national and international post-conflict reconstruction efforts and long-term development plans is one key venue for building effective partnerships with development actors. Strategic tools in this context are *Common Country Assessments*, the *UN Development Assistance Framework* and *Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers*. Humanitarian actors should familiarize themselves with these tools and work through their respective country teams to ensure that the displacement perspective is incorporated in national reconstruction and development plans.

Supporting national authorities to establish and develop reliable national protection systems should also be a top priority of humanitarian actors in their efforts to reinforce the search for durable solutions. This may include support to human rights capacity-building efforts, support for judicial systems, setting up national human rights institutions, and providing technical cooperation to establish mechanisms for property restitution, compensation or other forms of reparation.⁶

The **Guidance Note on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons**, (October 2004),⁷ prepared by the UN Development Group, recognizes the failure in the past to take an integrated approach to recovery and development plans, fully incorporating needs of displaced people. More worryingly, displaced persons have at times been presented as a burden, hampering the process toward development, rather than as a potential asset. However, this *Guidance Note* highlights that the return and integration of displaced persons reinforces peace processes and helps create stable and secure conditions that are essential for development objectives to be met. The Note

⁴ The Peace-building Commission, established by the General Assembly and Security Council, proposes integrated strategies for post-conflict peace-building and recovery and strengthens partnerships among national governments, the UN, civil society, the private sector and donors. (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/180, 30 December 2005, the Peace-building Commission.)

⁵ See *When Displacement Ends*, pp. 87-89 (Ibid note 4),

⁶ Cf. Part IV of this handbook. See also: *Implementing the Collaborative Response to Situations of Internal Displacement: Guidance for United Nations Humanitarian and/or Resident Coordinators and Country Teams*, IASC, 2004, pp. 35-63.

⁷ UNGD Guidance Note on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons (refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees), October 2004.

includes a useful checklist of activities, which an inter-agency Humanitarian/Development Country Team should consider when trying to link short-term humanitarian relief with longer-term development strategies (see Annex 1 to part VI).

Ultimately, durable solutions to situations of internal displacement are linked to addressing the root causes of the conflict and displacement.⁸ Internal displacement is often a symptom of deeply rooted national problems. It is by addressing the root causes of conflict through political means and the promotion of justice, security and equality for all citizens that displacement is fully addressed.⁹

In order to address the causes of displacement it is important that all sectors of society, including the Government, international agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations, civil society and internally displaced persons be active participants in the process. To this end, the humanitarian and development community should engage in *transition strategies* focusing on peace building objectives, which aim at a balance between immediate and long-term needs, supporting increased national leadership and ownership of the recovery and reconstruction process. The *UN Transitional Strategy Guidance Note* provides guidance to Country Teams in this context.¹⁰

3. Operationalizing the *Framework for Durable Solutions*

A *Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*¹¹ has recently been developed to provide guidance in defining and realizing an end to internal displacement. Rather than aiming to determine whether an individual or a group no longer require protection or assistance, the Framework seems to place greater emphasis on areas where specific support may still be required for the achievement of durable solutions. The Framework suggests the analysis of both the *process* through which a solution needs to be pursued and the actual *conditions* that need to be fulfilled with respect to the individuals or groups who have returned to their area of origin, or settled elsewhere in the country (see Annex 2 at the end of the handbook).

Sections 3.1 and 3.2 below contain suggestions on ways in which humanitarian actors may contribute to support national actors both in achieving those *conditions* as well as establishing and implementing those *processes* respectively.

3.1 The *conditions* for achieving a durable solution

National responsibility for addressing internal displacement involves the duty to establish the conditions enabling durable solutions. This is affirmed in Principle 28 of the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*.

⁸ *Finding Durable Solutions for IDPs: Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and International Experiences of Voluntary Return, Resettlement and Reintegration*. Statement by Gimena Sanchez-Garzoli, (The Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement). Seminar/Workshop on Return Resettlement and Reintegration of IDPs in Colombia. Bogotá, Colombia, December 3, 2003.

⁹ *Profiles in displacement: Follow Up Mission to Colombia* by Francis M. Deng, Report of the RSG, UN Commission on Human Rights, UN Doc. E/CN.4/2000/83/Ad.1, 11 January, 2000, p. 31 and Statement Concerning the Proposal for a Law on Internal Displacement in Peru, by Francis M. Deng, RSG on IDPs, July 4, 2003.








¹⁰ The *UN Transitional Strategy Guidance note* should be used in parallel with the IASC Early Recovery cluster's note of guidance on Early Recovery. See www.humanitarianreform.org

¹¹ *When Displacement Ends, Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, Brookings Institution University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, May 2007*. Annexed to this Handbook. Produced following a request from the Emergency Relief Coordinator and produced as the result of joint efforts by various academic, human rights institutions and NGOs who undertook extensive and broad-based consultations. The process was led by Susan Martin, the Brookings Institution, and completed under the guidance of the RSG on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Mr. Walter Kaelin. The Framework was welcomed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Working Group in 2007, which recommended its dissemination and use among humanitarian actors as a pilot initiative to be field-tested and revisited in one or two years.

Competent authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, to allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. Such authorities shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled internally displaced persons.

However, what constitutes these necessary enabling “conditions” for durable solutions is less clear. In an attempt to define them, the **Framework for Durable Solutions** has identified, based on the *Guiding Principles*, a **set of conditions that, when fulfilled, marks the achievement of a durable solution**. Guidance on how to achieve these conditions, which requires a wide ranging and multi-sectoral response, is provided in earlier chapters of the Handbook noted below.

Durable solutions to internal displacement will be achieved when persons formerly displaced have either returned home, settled locally or settled elsewhere in the country and:

- **do not suffer attacks, harassment, intimidation, persecution or any other form of punitive action upon return to their home communities, in their place of local integration or settlement in another location** (see Part V.3, Life, Safety and Security); 
- **are not subject to discrimination for reasons related to their displacement**
- **have full and non-discriminatory access to national and sub-national protection mechanisms, including police and courts** (see Part V.10, Access to Justice); 
- **have access to personal documentation, which is usually required to access public services, to vote and for administrative purposes** (see Part V.2 on Civil Status and Statelessness); 
- **have access to mechanisms for property restitution or compensation, regardless of whether they return or settle in the area where they found refuge or a new location** (see Part V.11, Land and Property); 
- **enjoy, without discrimination, an adequate standard of living, including shelter, health care, food, water and other means of survival** (see Part V.13, Shelter; V.15 Health; V.18 Food; V.19 Water and Sanitation; V.16 Livelihoods); 
- **have been able to reunite with family members if they choose to do so** (see Part V.9, Family Unity);  and
- **are able to exercise the right to participate fully and equally in public affairs** (see Part V.12, Political Participation). 

3.2. The processes for achieving durable solutions


In addition to assessing the conditions of displaced persons, the *Framework for Durable Solutions* emphasizes the need to think about the process through which solutions are pursued.

The State is responsible for providing an environment in which internally displaced persons can make **informed decisions about their choice** for a specific path which will take them to a durable solution. Regardless of whether a displaced person chooses to **return home, settle locally or settle elsewhere in the country**, the State has a responsibility to create the necessary conditions enabling this solution. It should also provide the required support for return or settlement in **safety and dignity**, including reintegration assistance.

The following matrix lists the process considerations identified in the Framework and suggests how the humanitarian and development community can support these processes.

BENCHMARKS
RELATING TO
PROCESSSUGGESTED ACTIONS TO SUPPORT THESE PROCESSES TOWARDS
DURABLE SOLUTIONS

IDPs are able to make an informed decision as to whether to return to their home communities, remain where they are, or settle elsewhere in the country.

- Always advocate for the maximum number of options for durable solutions to be made available to IDPs, not simply the choice to return.
- Ensure that IDPs have access to objective, accurate information on the prevailing conditions in areas of potential return or settlement, and that this information reaches all members of the IDP community, including those with no formal role in the power structures of the community, such as women, youth, older persons and children, as well as IDPs in different locations, including camps and non-camp settlements, rural and urban areas.
- Employ a variety of methods to disseminate information through mass-information campaigns, such as through radio and TV broadcasting, pamphlets, posters, and street drama. Be sure that this information is in a language and format that all IDPs, even illiterate persons, can understand. (see Part IV.6). 
- Monitor information campaigns, whether formal or informal, by national and/or local authorities and even IDP community leaders, and take immediate and decisive measures to counteract inaccurate public statements that are politically manipulative, such as those suggesting that IDPs have no choice of solution, or could raise false expectations, such as concerning conditions in the different locations or on the assistance to be provided. Before taking action, consider the implications of such approaches for the safety of IDPs and staff. Measures to be taken can include:
 - interventions with the local authorities or media;
 - discussions with the community on the objective situation in the areas concerned;
 - distributing pamphlets in the IDP settlements concerned that provide objective information.
- Obtain, in advance, a sense of the attitude and possible concerns of receiving communities. Ensure that IDPs are made aware of the situation and possible concerns of their respective receiving community. Support measures to address these concerns and build confidence among the community and returning or newly arriving IDPs.
- Ensure that decisions are made individually by all adult members of a family and that older persons' and children's views are heard as well. This can be achieved by undertaking surveys for return or relocation, dropping the use of the term "head-of-family" for assistance and opinion surveys, and ensuring that support to families is granted on the basis of consensus.

To the extent possible, arrangements have been made for IDP representatives to visit and assess conditions for return or settlement elsewhere.






- Ensure that visits to assess conditions for return or settlement elsewhere are organized by the local authorities well in advance so that IDPs can meet with key stakeholders and members of the communities where they wish to return or settle.
- Advocate with and provide support to the relevant institutions to ensure that IDP representatives, including persons of different ages, sex or backgrounds who wish to take part in such visits have access to the necessary documentation, means of transport and any other support that might be required for them to undertake such visits. This may involve measures such as day care for children whose parents wish to take part in the visits and appropriate meeting facilities for persons with disabilities.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for including representatives of receiving communities in the preparations for IDPs' visits to start fostering local ownership of the return or settlement and reintegration process. • Encourage discussions during the visits about identifying possible areas of settlement that meet the minimum conditions of protection and basic services. • Promote and ensure, to the extent possible, a humanitarian presence during the visits to foster discussions among all parties about what support IDPs and other affected communities might require for their (re-)integration. <i>(see Part IV.2).</i>  • Ensure in particular the early involvement of humanitarian and development actors is where IDPs wish to return to areas where the State or non-State actor in control might not be in a position to provide basic services or where returnees might not have immediate access to income-generating activities. Discussions should involve the Humanitarian Coordinator and leaders of relevant coordination structures, such as the Protection Cluster/Sector and Early Recovery network. <i>(see Part I.3).</i>  • Organize, to the extent feasible, informal exchanges between children from the IDP communities and communities of return or settlement, such as sporting or cultural events, to promote confidence and reconciliation among the communities.
<p>IDPs, including women, minorities and others who might not have representation, participate fully in the planning and management of return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure participatory planning that includes women, minorities, youth and older persons, and that all their views, which might vary widely, are considered <i>(see Part III.2).</i>  • Ensure that the results of participatory assessments relating to durable solutions are incorporated into national and international planning <i>(see Part III.1).</i>  • Support a dialogue between authorities (national and local) and IDP representatives to ensure that development plans take into account the views and (re-)integration needs of displaced populations. • Initiate programmes specifically designed to explain the return or settlement process to children, addressing their concerns, fears and expectations, and develop programmes to address these concerns both before and after return or settlement. • Ensure dialogue with the local communities, including representatives of religious institutions, women's groups and education committees, about concrete actions to make the planning and management of return/settlement as collaborative as possible between IDPs and receiving communities <i>(see Part III.1).</i>  • Promote transparency and accountability of national authorities and humanitarian agencies, through information-sharing and joint evaluations, regarding the programmes and budgetary allocations for durable solutions. <i>(see Part III.3).</i> 





No coercion (including physical force, harassment, intimidation, denial of basic services, or closure of IDP camps or facilities without an acceptable alternative) has been used to induce or to prevent return, local settlement or settlement elsewhere.






- Ensure that IDPs are informed of their right to voluntary return or settlement (see Part IV.6). 
- Monitor how durable solutions are promoted by the authorities, local communities, IDP leaders and the media, and are implemented, ensuring there is no coercion or pressure on IDPs (see Part IV.1). 
- Advocate assertively and in a timely manner against any cases of potential or actual forced return or settlement (see Part IV.3). 
- Advocate and intervene against the suspension of assistance in areas of displacement when it results in putting undue pressure on IDPs to opt for a particular solution against their will. Assistance in this case is not limited to food, but also education and vocational training (see Part IV.7). 
- Confirm voluntary return/settlement by ensuring the establishment of a system in which all adult IDPs sign a form attesting that their movement is voluntary prior to receiving transport assistance by national authorities and/or the international community.
- Provide space for individuals or groups to express their views about their chosen solution, particularly for those who do not agree with the view of the majority, including youth who, especially in protracted situations, often prefer to settle locally rather than return, as their parents might want. This is particularly important in highly politicized settings, where the issue of available durable solutions can be manipulated and misrepresented by different interest groups.
- Ensure that individuals who opt for different solutions than the majority in their community are protected and supported in their choices, including by ensuring they have access to accurate information on the support that will be available, and negotiating with local authorities to maintain existing support structures until those durable solutions are realized.
- Ensure the protection of IDPs' right to claim restitution of their land or property in areas of return, or compensation for its loss if restitution is not possible. Information on this right should be provided to all IDPs, concerned communities and the authorities through legal-advice activities or public-information programmes (see Part V.11). 

National authorities, with the support of the international community, when necessary, have taken appropriate measures to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, to enable IDPs to return voluntarily in safety and with dignity, locally integrate or settle voluntarily elsewhere in the country and to facilitate their (re)integration.




a. Establishing an enabling environment for solutions

- Advocate for measures to address the root causes of displacement, including the resolution of conflict. Where feasible, encourage actors with expertise in conflict resolution to promote dialogue between the different parties.
- Support the incorporation of the issue of solutions to displacement in peace negotiations and other political agreements.
- Ensure that the authorities have established effective law and order mechanisms in places of IDP return/settlement to prevent and respond rapidly to any incidents of violence or unrest. When required, support training for relevant authorities, including police and military, to manage such incidents in non-violent ways (see Part V.3). 
- Monitor IDPs and other affected communities' access to justice and national/local protection mechanisms. Provide support and guidance on how to access these mechanisms, including national human rights institutions (see Part V.10). 





- Support the restoration of local civil registries and other registries, if damaged or destroyed, that relate to IDPs' civil and legal status and their titles to land and other property. Doing so is critical to facilitate potential reintegration, family reunification, access to public services, and recovery of or compensation for land, housing and property. It will also contribute to the resolution of cases of statelessness (*see Part V.2*). 
- Support national authorities in developing and implementing mechanisms for restitution of or compensation for land and property. Ensure that national authorities deal with property disputes in a neutral, fair matter that also takes into account the needs and rights of the secondary occupiers. The utilization of local conflict resolution techniques to address such circumstances has proven to be effective in such situations (*see Part V.11*). 
- Support reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, including of damaged housing and vital infrastructures for public services and livelihood support. Undertake advance planning with relevant IASC clusters/sectors, including early recovery, protection, food security/agriculture, and education, regarding specific areas of support that are vital at the early stages of reintegration and anticipate possible bottle-necks in or obstacles to essential support (*see Parts V.15 to 19*). 
- Arrange in advance for the rapid re-enrolment of returning/settling IDP children in local schools. Be sure that they are able to access education in a language they understand and that any educational achievements during displacement will be recognized. If required, help the schools cope with the new arrivals through food or cash-for-work programmes to increase the number of teachers, classroom facilities and improve sanitation (*see Part V.17*). 
- Help strengthen health centres, particularly to attend births, ensure uninterrupted treatment for chronically ill persons, provide emergency assistance, such as for injuries caused by landmines or other unexploded ordnance, and to provide psycho-social support (*see Part V.15 and IV.11*). 

b. Return to the area of origin/settlement in conditions of safety and with dignity




- Pre-position staff, transport, shelter materials and other supplies to support the return or settlement and (re-) integration of IDPs. To the extent possible, rely on local human resources and acquire local material and supplies to support local labor and businesses (*see Part IV.7 and V.16*). 
- In advance of return/settlement, support de-mining efforts by ensuring that mine surveys and de-mining activities are implemented, particularly along main roads, areas to be used by children on their way to and from school, and by women in their search for firewood, water or livelihood, and that mine-awareness programmes are offered to returning/settling IDPs (*see Part V.6*). 
- Support advance planning for the return of households with their productive asset, such as livestock, agricultural tools and equipment (*see Part V.16*). 
- Where Governments have developed a formal 'recognition' or documentation system for IDPs, ensure that no displaced person, including if never formally recognized or documented, is excluded from assistance to achieve durable solutions until the person has fully recovered from displacement and is once again a secure and self-sustaining productive citizen in society.
- Develop rapid-response mechanisms to assist those returning or settling spontaneously, to the extent possible.



- Monitor and, when safe to do so, accompany the return or settlement of IDPs to ensure the movement is voluntary and occurs in conditions of safety and with dignity. Where this is not the case, report the facts to the authorities and, if unresolved, to the international community (see Parts IV.1 and 2, and Part V.1) 
- Promote and support efforts to maintain family unity and to ensure family reunification throughout and after the return or relocation movements, while respecting the personal choice of adults who do not wish to remain or to reunite with their partners (see Part V.9). 

c. Facilitate (re) integration

c.1 Livelihood, early recovery and development

- Advocate the incorporation of support to IDP reintegration and to areas of return/settlement in development plans (CCA/UNDAF, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, national development plans).
- Stress the importance of prioritizing interventions aimed at achieving self-reliance, not only of IDPs but within the local community, including the most vulnerable, and advocate for development assistance for vocational and skills training, and technical assistance to develop small businesses, micro-finance schemes, etc (see Part V.16). 
- Promote the use of gender-sensitive, local labor-based methods to develop infrastructure so that cash is injected into the local community (see Part V.13). 
- Ensure that emergency assistance continues to be delivered at the same time as plans for development go forward (see Part IV.7). 
- Create a clear strategy and funding mechanisms for transitional programming.


c.2 Peace-building and promoting peaceful existence

- Support the establishment of national reconciliation initiatives, making sure there is national ownership to the process and that it involves all relevant stakeholders.
- In consultation with IDPs and the local community, support the design and implementation of programmes and activities that promote dialogue, peaceful coexistence and common goals among returning/settling IDPs and receiving communities.
- Enhance the capacity of local authorities to prevent and resolve inter-communal conflicts through peaceful means, such as arbitration or mediation, when receiving communities are opposed to the return or settlement of IDPs.
- Identify possibilities for immediate and medium-term multi-sectoral recovery and rehabilitation projects in previously damaged or politically marginalized areas where forced displacement has taken place and in return-impacted areas.


c.3 Capacity-building (see Part IV.4)

- Encourage development actors to enhance the capacity of all relevant central, regional and local authorities to carry out their long-term responsibility to support the (re-)integration of IDPs.
- Support the assessment of possible institutional options to manage IDP returns, relocations and reintegration regimes (dedicated ministry or department within existing ministry) and promote the creation of an inter-ministerial / departmental taskforce for reintegration.







- In collaboration with relevant international and national actors, encourage efforts to strengthen the rule of law in areas of IDP return/settlement, enhance the capacity of legal and judicial institutions, through technical and material support, and train local police and municipal authorities on freedom of movement and choice of residence as well as on the implications of the principle of non-discrimination.
- Support needs for strengthening civil society organizations as well as IDP and other affected communities in key areas of displacement and return (see *Part IV.10*). 
- Promote the inclusion of IDPs in local governance structures. Ensure that IDPs can exercise their right to political participation in areas of return/settlement.
- Support efforts by the national authorities and humanitarian and development actors to improve infrastructure and public services, such as schools, health facilities, public utilities and transportation, using labor-based approaches in receiving communities through Quick Impact Projects.

c.4 Ensuring reintegration support for groups with particular needs

- Support national institutions to identify specific needs within the returning or relocating population well in advance of the respective movements in order to develop targetted reintegration programmes in a timely manner.
- Advocate with development actors to establish sustainable support mechanisms for persons with specific needs, such as female-headed households, youth, the elderly, older persons, persons with disabilities and minorities, with the aim of improving their immediate well-being and promoting self-reliance.
- Ensure that the psycho-social needs of returning/settling IDPs, including children, are addressed (see *Part IV.11*). 
- Ensure that there are effective demobilization and reintegration programmes for former combatants, and work with receiving communities, including IDPs, to avoid stigmatization and exclusion. When necessary, ensure that children formerly associated with armed groups are given support for reintegration.
- Promote communication among different countries that have undergone similar IDP return/ settlement processes to exchange lessons learned and best practices.

National authorities grant and facilitate safe, unimpeded and timely access of humanitarian organizations and other relevant actors to assist IDPs (in achieving durable solutions)

- Advocate with national and other relevant authorities for safe, unimpeded and timely access by humanitarian, human rights and development actors, domestic as well as international, to areas of IDP return, settlement and reintegration (see *Part IV.2*). 
- Offer assistance, technical and material, to the authorities in planning, managing and implementing IDP return/settlement and reintegration projects, including in undertaking joint needs assessments (see *Parts IV.7, IV.4 and III.1*). 
- Indicate to the authorities to what extent and in what specific areas international assistance could be available to support IDP return/settlement and reintegration (see *Part IV.7*). 
- Ensure that IDPs have access to humanitarian organizations and other appropriate actors such as development agencies. Monitor any impediments they may face in this context (see *Parts IV.1 and IV.2*). 



References

- *Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*, Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, May 2007. Annexed at the end of the handbook.
- *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, English (original) plus translation into 40+ languages, available at: http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/gp_page.htm. Annexed at the end of the handbook.
- *Implementing the Collaborative Response to Situations of Internal Displacement: Guidance for United Nations Humanitarian and/or Resident Coordinators and Country Teams*, IASC, 2004, pp. 35-63.
- *Guidance Note on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons* (Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Returnees), UNDG Programme Group, October 2004.
- *UN Transitional Strategy Guidance Note*, March 2007, available at www.humanitarianreform.org
- *IASC Early Recovery Cluster's note of guidance on Early Recovery*, available at www.humanitarianreform.org
- *Protection of conflict induced IDPs – Assessment for Action*, www.humanitarianreform.org
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/180, 30 December 2005, the Peace-building Commission.

Annex 1

UNDG Guidance Note on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons (Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Returnees)

UNDG: New York, www.undg.org, 2004

POPULATIONS AND TARGET GROUPS

- Rapid development of demographic (age, gender, place of origin, ethnicity, etc.) and socio-economic profiles (professions, trades, skills, education, assets, etc.) of prospective returnee populations in neighbouring asylum countries, within Iraq and outside the region;
- Articulation of reintegration profiles of the returning population of working age (urban, rural, professional, skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled, women, men and youth); and
- Identification of particular vulnerabilities and disabilities within the returning population that may hinder reintegration.

PROBABLE RETURN AND REINTEGRATION DYNAMICS

- Formulation of probable scenarios for and quantification of return movements of refugees and IDPs (both spontaneous and assisted) to the northern, central and southern regions for the next 6, 12 and 36 months;
- Identification and profiling of populations considered most likely to move rapidly and spontaneously, and anticipation of seasonal surges (pre- and post-winter); and
- Broad assessment of absorption capacity in main anticipated areas of return and key challenges for immediate, short- and medium-term reintegration requirements in essential sectors (shelter, water, sanitation, food assistance, employment, health, education, winterization, etc).

INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Overall assessment of existing national, governorate, and local institutions, resources and capabilities to manage the refugee and IDP return and reintegration process;
- Examination of possible institutional options to manage a refugee/IDP return and reintegration regime (dedicated ministry or department, lodging within existing ministry, e.g. Ministry of the Interior) and creation of an inter-ministerial/departmental task force for reintegration;
- Assessment of policy formulation capabilities and analytical skills and knowledge of refugee and displaced persons and of refugee and international humanitarian law within the existing public administration (central, governorate and local levels) and civil society;
- Identification of capacity development, infrastructure/hardware requirements and training needs at institutional, systemic and individual levels within existing and possibly new public institutions for: immediate return processing (documentation, permits, licenses, registration, etc.) and reintegration (protection, legal issues, mass information, communications and monitoring); and
- Evaluation of public management capabilities for designing, implementing and monitoring large relief, urgent rehabilitation and recovery programmes for returning displaced populations and assessment of short-term technical and material-assistance needs.

REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMING

Sectoral and thematic

- Assessment of key sectoral needs (shelter, water, sanitation, food assistance and security, employment, health, education, winterization, etc.) at the local level in identified areas of high return over the next 6, 12 and 36 months;

- Assessment of capacities and needs (technical, financial and human) to manage and address key protection issues (physical security and welfare, including threats from mines and unexploded ordnance, legal mechanisms and resources to recover land and property, family tracing and reunion, sensitive political affiliations, confessional and ethnic sensitivities, vulnerabilities and disabilities);
- Assessment of local economic, environmental and natural resource situation and additional needs in key return locations (urban and rural labour markets, state of local infrastructure (productive, marketing, energy, communications, sanitation and social), state of social services (health, education and welfare); and
- Assessment of development needs for strengthening civil society organizations and social capital at community level in key areas of displacement and return.

Intervention strategy and programme design

- Assessment of policy options for designing dedicated interventions for return- and displacement-affected areas and for mainstreaming return and reintegration concerns into national programmes;
- Assessment of possibilities for a public investment programme to create new or improve existing productive asset base (economic and social infrastructure) to build livelihood possibilities and social protection in return-impacted areas (north, centre and south) for returning refugees, IDPs and local populations;
- Assessment of possibilities for launching community-driven development programmes enhancing reintegration prospects through local governance and management of small-scale, community-level micro-projects in areas of high return;
- Identification of possibilities for immediate and medium-term multi-sectoral recovery and rehabilitation projects in previously damaged or politically marginalized areas where forced displacement has taken place;
- Assessment of labour-intensive emergency employment programmes, including affirmative action targeting policies to include returning refugees, IDPs and return-impacted areas;
- Assessment of the establishment of micro-finance institutions, savings and credit lines to support micro, family, and small enterprises in return areas;
- Assessment of the need for public safety nets, subsidies and food distribution among vulnerable returning and host community populations over the coming 6, 12 and 36 months;
- Assessment of needs to support an accessible justice programme (infrastructure, running costs for personnel and training) giving returnees and IDPs affordable access to legal advice centres for assistance with land and property recovery, civil problems, etc.; and
- Assessment of the public investment programmes for vocational and employment training and skills-development programmes for youth populations among returning refugee and IDPs.

Management arrangements, cost projections and budgeting

- Identification of optimum arrangements and requirements (organizational, personnel and technical assistance requirements) for the management and coordination of public investment programmes (labour-intensive works, infrastructure and area-based rehabilitation) at the governorate and local levels in return-impacted areas;
- Identification of locally based mechanisms and needs and external support (training and technical assistance) to develop and manage community-driven development programmes (micro-projects, community investments, credit, micro-finance and savings) in areas of high displacement and return; and
- Cost projections for both operating (personnel, salaries, expendable and non-expendable equipment, utilities, communications, etc.) and investment (capital inputs, materials, credit lines, training, etc.) for programmes outlined above in return-affected areas.