

Tool

PROCEDURAL STEPS FOR DEVELOPING AN IDP RESPONSE STRATEGY

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Endorsed by IASC Principals

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Based on humanitarian risk analysis and/or early warning assessments, the Country Team and HC need to be aware of all factors that could potentially lead to displacement or cause a change in an existing crisis of internal displacement. Pursuant to existing policy, all Country Teams in countries experiencing internal displacement should have in place a comprehensive strategic action plan for meeting the protection and assistance needs of IDPs. If this is not yet the case, or if a new displacement situation develops or changes significantly, the following steps should be followed in a prompt and timely manner:

1. HC/RC alerts the ERC, who in turn may alert donors and IASC Principals, to an evolving or changing crisis of internal displacement.



2. HC/RC ensures **consultations** with the UNCT, other international organisations, the Red Cross movement, NGOs (hereafter “agencies”) and organises, as far as possible, a **joint needs assessment** ensuring inter-agency participation. The assessment should cover all relevant sectors and geographical locations, include consultation with the IDPs themselves and should take into account the capacity and willingness of the government to respond and fulfil its obligations.



3. HC/RC and agencies develop a **Strategic Action Plan to respond to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs**, prioritising the main activities deemed necessary for responding to the identified needs. The IDP Unit may be requested, if necessary, to assist in the development of a strategic action plan.



4. HC/RC consults with all agencies to **identify which actors have the expertise and capacity in the country to respond** in the ways identified with appropriate activities. The **role of the government** must be supported and complemented wherever possible. The proposals reflect the roles of national and local government authorities, international agencies, and NGOs. Agencies should consult with their respective headquarters on their responsibilities in terms of the Plan.



5. The HC/RC **consults agencies again at the country level** to discuss the strategy and their consultations with headquarters to obtain agreement from agencies on how to fill any gaps. HC/RC reviews the joint response strategy to ensure that priority activities address the assessed needs and that there are no gaps. Both rounds of consultations must be **structured, inclusive, and the results recorded**.



6. If the **response strategy is deemed satisfactory** to all concerned actors at the country level; all major areas of response are adequately addressed; and implementing roles and arrangements are clear, the HC/RC shares the Plan with the ERC.



7. **ERC shares the Plan with the IASC-WG for information.** (Proceed to step 10)

If some IASC-WG members have **legitimate cause to question either the arrangements or consultation process** carried out at the field level, the ERC requests that the IASC-WG undertake further discussions to resolve differences. (Proceed to step 8)

8. If **response strategy leaves gaps that cannot be solved at the field level**, HC shares the Plan with the ERC, clearly identifying gaps and problems encountered in trying to assign agency responsibilities to fill the gaps. The ERC shares the Plan with the IDP Unit and IASC WG and requests that agencies at the HQ level try and resolve the gaps in response. An ad hoc meeting of the IASC-WG may be called if necessary.



9. If no progress made, **ERC draws the attention of the IASC Principals** to the matter and seeks their action **until a plan is agreed upon**.



10. **ERC then proceeds to seek political and donor support for agencies** implementing the Plan.

Once the plan is developed and approved, it is the HC/RC’s responsibility both during crises and in protracted situations to monitor and ensure its ongoing implementation. The HC/RC should report through regular reporting procedures on the plan’s implementation and any problems or changes therein to the ERC.