

and peacebuilding efforts and such efforts reinforce durable solutions.

Processes to support a durable solution should be inclusive and involve, on the basis of full equality, all parts of the displaced population, including women, children (in accordance with their age and level of maturity), persons with special needs and persons who are potentially marginalized.

What criteria determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved?

A number of criteria determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved. IDPs who have achieved a durable solution will enjoy without discrimination:

- 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.

In a number of contexts, it will also be necessary for IDPs to benefit, without discrimination, from the following to achieve a durable solution:

- 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.

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The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement stipulate in Principle 6 that “displacement shall last no longer than required by the circumstances”. Drawing on existing international law, the right of internally displaced persons to a durable solution is articulated in Principles 28-30.

1 What is a durable solution for internally displaced persons?

The specific needs and human rights concerns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) do not automatically disappear when a conflict or natural disaster ends. Nor do they fade away when people initially find safety from ongoing conflict or disaster. Rather, the displaced—whether they return to their homes, settle elsewhere in the country or try to integrate locally—usually face continuing problems, requiring support until they achieve a durable solution to their displacement.

A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement. It can be achieved through:

- Sustainable reintegration at the place of origin (hereinafter referred to as “return”);
- Sustainable local integration in areas where internally displaced persons take refuge (local integration);
- Sustainable integration in another part of the country (settlement elsewhere in the country)



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The search for any of these durable solutions for IDPs should be understood as:

- A gradual, often long-term process of reducing displacement-specific needs and ensuring the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination;
- A complex process that addresses human rights, humanitarian, development, reconstruction and peace-building challenges;
- A process requiring the coordinated and timely engagement of different actors

2 What key principles should guide the search for durable solutions?

- The primary responsibility to provide durable solutions for IDPs needs to be assumed by the national authorities. International humanitarian and development actors have complementary roles.
- The authorities concerned should grant and facilitate rapid and unimpeded access to humanitarian and development actors that assist IDPs in achieving a durable solution.
- The needs, rights and legitimate interests of IDPs should be the primary considerations guiding all policies and decisions on durable solutions.
- All relevant actors need to respect the right of IDPs to make an informed and voluntary choice on what durable solution to pursue and to participate in the planning and management of durable solutions.
- An IDP's choice of local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country, in the absence of the option to return, must not be regarded as a renunciation of his/her right to return should that choice later become 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 in comparison to the displaced.
- IDPs who have achieved a durable solution continue to be protected by international human rights, and where applicable, humanitarian law.

3 How should a rights-based process to support a durable solution be organized?

National and local authorities, humanitarian and development actors need to work together to effectively support IDPs and set up a rights-based process so 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;
- They have access to effective mechanisms that monitor the process and the conditions on the ground; and,
- In situations of displacement resulting from conflict or violence, they are at least indirectly involved in peace processes