

## **South Sudan NGO Forum Working Group on Durable Solutions Terms of Reference**

<b><u>Version</u></b>	<b><u>Date Revised</u></b>
Version 1	January 2020
Version 2	November 2022

### **Background and Purpose**

There is strong recognition by both the humanitarian, development operational structure, and the political environment in South Sudan on the importance of durable solutions to help communities and individuals realise more dignified standards of living, to meet basic needs, be more socially and economically empowered. and reduce dependence on external assistance. As of January 2022, there are 2,229, 657<sup>1</sup> displaced persons and 334,241<sup>2</sup> refugees within South Sudan. Many displacement affected communities are unable to access sustainable livelihoods and face acute protection risks.

Durable solutions are an important step in progressing the objectives of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Critical guiding documents include the Government of South Sudan's National Framework on Return, Resettlement and Reintegration and the corresponding Action Plan on Return, Recovery and Reintegration (2020- 2022, extended to 2025). Additionally, the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities is in the final stages of being endorsed.

On the agency and NGO side, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Operational Guidance Note for Humanitarian Support to Return, Relocations and Local Integration (Oct 2019) provides agencies and NGOs with guidance on solutions related issues in line with the global IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. As of 2022, there are endeavors to operationalize the Humanitarian, Development and Peacebuilding, or triple nexus approaches, through the updated Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience (PfPRR) where there is a renewed emphasis on the importance of advancing progress on durable solutions.

Durable solutions are an ongoing and long process that requires coordination, detailed contextual information, conflict sensitivity and active community engagement. Understanding of durable solutions differs within and between organisations and agencies, as such maintaining coherence on the NGO position on durable solutions is critical. The South Sudan NGO Forum Working Group on Durable Solutions is established under the NGO Forum to promote a strong, operational, and unified NGO voice on issues related to durable solutions in South Sudan. Durable solutions topics will be understood according to the IASC Framework which defines a durable solution as achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement. As per the IASC framework there are three broad pathways towards durable solutions: sustainable return, relocation, or local integration.

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<sup>1</sup> IOM DTM South Sudan Mobility Tracking Round 12

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ssd>

The Durable Solutions Working Group will act as a forum for discussion and exchange on issues of solutions guidelines, terminologies and approaches, local integration, spontaneous and humanitarian assisted returns. It is intended that the working group will produce documents, training, positions, guidance and share information for NGO colleagues working on issues relating to solutions. The DSWG will seek to support the operationalization of durable solutions within South Sudan.

## **Objectives**

### **1. Forge a Joint NGO Vision on Durable Solutions in South Sudan, promoting localisation throughout**

- Develop a basic but shared strategy on solutions, using examples as appropriate.
- Develop a workplan with targets.
- Elaborate a simple summary tool for a community driven solutions approach that is based on needs and concerns of displacement affected populations.

### **2. Increase NGO Understanding and Capacity on Durable Solutions in South Sudan**

- Develop durable solutions training tailored for NGOs in South Sudan. Further develop topic specific training related to solutions as needed.
- Offer training on durable solutions biannually for the NGO and wider humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners in South Sudan.
- Provide tailored support to NGOs as suitable to enhance the sustainability of programming at both national and state level.
- Develop, as needed, tools / guidance / explainers on issues related to durable solutions.

### **3. Build a Strong NGO Advocacy Voice on Durable Solutions in South Sudan**

- Develop advocacy papers and briefs as needed, and remain engaged in larger advocacy issues, throughout advocating for a people-centred and community driven approach.
- Develop as needed joint NGOOF messaging and positions on urgent solutions issues (e.g. specific assisted returns).
- Provide NGO representation and lesson learning at external and regional meetings as suitable.
- Ensure NGOOF members are represented and supported in all state level solution working groups.
- Ensure that NGO positions on solutions issues are represented in national and state solutions coordination structures.

## **Membership and Working Modalities**

- Membership of the WG will constitute of representatives from 5-10 I/NGOs, with a minimum of two national NGOs. Staff on the WG will be technical staff working on issues related to solutions e.g. advocacy on returns, population movement tracking, livelihoods, social cohesion, peacebuilding, HLP.

- The WG will initially be co-chaired by DRC and NRC. This will be amended when a national NGO co-chair is identified. Co-chairs should be technical staff dedicated to solutions coordination and will be responsible for scheduling meetings, taking minutes, following up on actions and providing feedback to the NGOF and other forums/ agencies as necessary.
- It is anticipated WG meetings will be held monthly, or more/less frequently as needed.
- When needed and feasible, members of the WG may be asked to participate in field missions to support NGOs operating in the field through trainings, advocacy and implementation support.
- To promote a harmonized approach and avoid duplication, the group will collaborate, coordinate, share information and/or advise other relevant working groups such as the Humanitarian Country Team, the Housing Land and Property Area of Responsibility, the Advisory Group on Solutions, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) and other forums that emerge.
- The group will report to the South Sudan NGO Forum.