NATIONAL STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN ETHIOPIA

Solutions to Internal Displacement in Ethiopia

2024

National Strategy to implement solutions pathways to internal displacement in Ethiopia

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INTRODUCTION

Ethiopia has achieved significant milestones in addressing climate change-induced challenges through initiatives like the Green Legacy, a large-scale reforestation effort aimed at curbing environmental degradation. These initiatives underscore Ethiopia's commitment to environmental resilience, paving the way for broader development goals through ecosystem restoration, sustainable agricultural practices, and advancements in water conservation and renewable energy. Together, these climate-focused and humanitarian efforts highlight Ethiopia's commitment to a resilient, inclusive, and development-oriented approach in addressing both displacement and environmental challenges.

Ethiopia has made significant strides in meeting developmental goals and aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country has successfully implemented various initiatives to address poverty, hunger, and improve healthcare and education. Ethiopia's focus on infrastructure development, particularly in areas like hydropower and transportation, has boosted economic growth and connectivity.

The signing of the peace agreement on October 2, 2022 between the Federal government and

the TPLF in Pretoria, South Africa, committing to a permanent cessation of hostilities has ended the conflict in northern Ethiopia and paved the way for the restoration of peace and security in particular in Tigray that in turn has led for resumption of unhindered humanitarian access, restoration of essential services and reintegration of the Internally Displace Persons (IDPs) among others.

Ethiopia is addressing complex humanitarian and development challenges stemming from climate-related hazards, including drought, flooding, disease outbreaks, and locust invasions, alongside the impacts of conflict and insecurity. These factors have led to widespread displacement and heightened vulnerability, creating significant demands on essential services, social support, and resilience systems. Addressing the needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is central to advancing sustainable peace, stability, and development. While conflict and inter-communal tensions continue to affect communities, Ethiopia is strategically shifting from immediate relief efforts toward durable solutions that foster sustainable recovery, reintegration, and resilience for affected populations.

In response, Ethiopia is actively pursuing comprehensive, sustainable, and principled approaches that not only address the urgent needs of displaced communities but also support long-term recovery. Supported by humanitarian partners, efforts have focused on delivering emergency aid to displaced populations. However, effectively meeting the needs of IDPs and recent returnees requires a collaborative, long-term approach involving government, humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding partners, as well as civil society and the private sector, to ensure durable solutions. Ethiopia has made considerable progress, as evidenced by strong government commitment, leadership, policy development, and the establishment of a legal framework designed to support IDPs with assistance, protection, and pathways toward lasting solutions.

As a pilot country of the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, this Strategy was developed by the Ethiopia government in collaboration with the United Nations, national and internation non-governmental organizations, and consultations with affected communities. Line Bureaus assisted in identifying gaps and needs for intervention (target population, thematic areas and locations) within the framework of durable solutions planning for internally displaced persons (IDPs). This was followed by needs assessments and community engagement to inform planning in identified gaps. Guidance and advice were provided by the DSWG technical co-chairs of the Solutions Working Group, namely, IOM, UNDP and UNHCR, to define strategic priorities and specific activities needed to achieve durable solutions in line with core international principles (IASC Framework on Internal Displacement) and aligned with existing programs and national and regional plans.

This Strategy draws on the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, aligning it with Ethiopia's national development and peace-building goals. It aims to foster stability, resilience, and inclusive development for IDPs and host communities across the country, offering a pathway towards sustainable solutions that benefit all affected populations.

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS TO ADDRESS DISPLACEMENT CHALLENGES

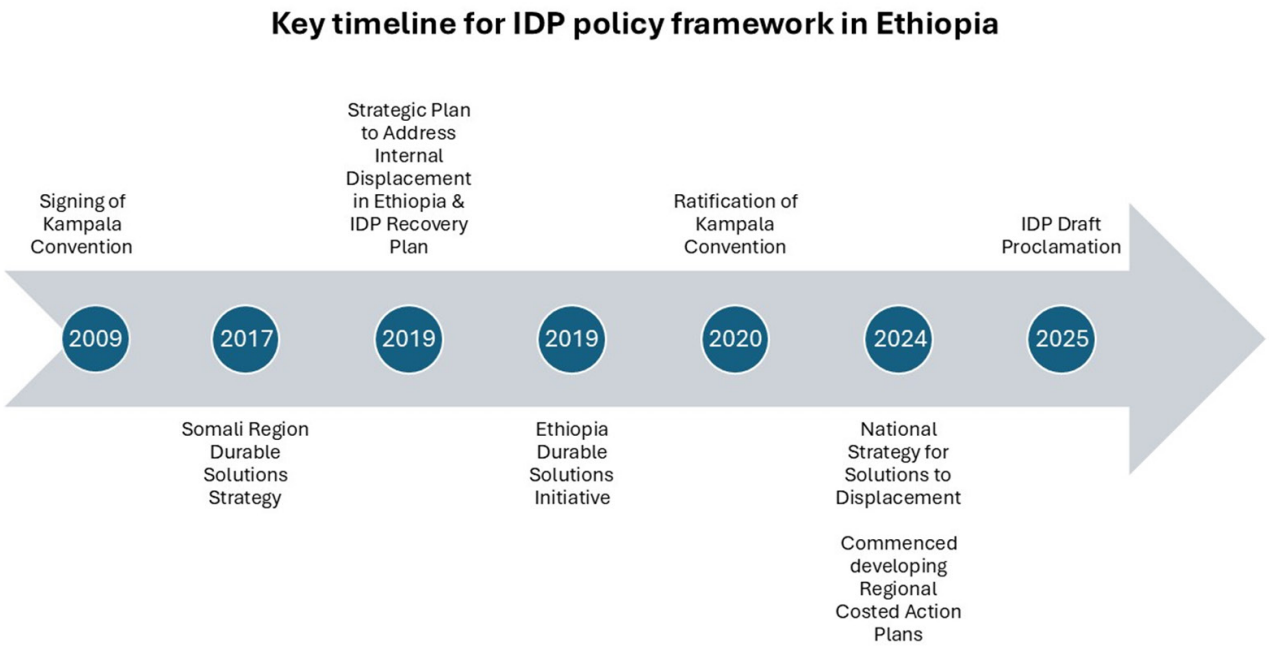
In efforts to strengthen normative, legal, and institutional frameworks for achieving durable solutions for the IDPs in Ethiopia, the Strategy incorporates various legal and policy frameworks, including the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, which allows the government to provide timely assistance to IDPs. The Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI), initiated in 2019, outlines the Federal government commitment to achieving solutions to displacement through voluntary return, relocation, and local integration of IDPs. The DSI prioritizes government-led efforts aligning with national development plans and frameworks, focusing on the rights, needs, and capacities of displaced communities. The DSI focuses on cooperation between humanitarian, development, and peace actors across five levels: policy, legislative, institutional, planning, and operational. The Ethiopia Draft IDP Proclamation outlines the rights and obligations of IDPs in Ethiopia, stating their right to freedom of movement, the ability to move to a safe place without coercion, and the right to choose their residence. The government is responsible for undertaking comprehensive efforts to prevent displacement, protect IDPs from harm, provide assistance, and facilitate durable solutions. Partners, including international organizations, are expected to collaborate transparently with the government in these endeavours.

Internationally, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has aligned its durable solutions initiatives with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. Achieving durable solutions is recognized by the IASC as often being a "long-term process of gradually diminishing displacement-specific needs;" involving restitution of rights and potentially surpassing the re-establishment of the pre-displacement status quo. This Framework offers a structured approach emphasizing voluntary, safe, and dignified solutions for displaced individuals. It underscores collaborative efforts among governments, humanitarian organizations, communities, and affected populations to address immediate displacement challenges and

promote lasting recovery, resilience, and self-sufficiency, encompassing aspects such as secure housing, land and property rights, access to documentation, livelihoods, psychosocial well-being, and social cohesion. Ethiopia has ratified the Kampala Convention (2009), also known as the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa in 2020. The Convention is a key continental legal instrument aimed at protecting, assisting and resolving the plight of IDPs. Ethiopia is also a signatory to the 'Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change" (KDMECC) that was agreed in Kampala, Uganda in 2022, which commits 11 signatory countries in East and Horn of Africa to addressing the challenges and opportunities of climate induced mobility, including climate induced displacement. The GoE supports the domestication of the Kampala Convention and the KDMECC, emphasizing the importance of adapting and implementing its principles to address the specific needs of IDPs in Ethiopia.

INTERNATIONALLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA (GOE) HAS ALIGNED ITS DURABLE SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES WITH THE INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE (IASC) FRAMEWORK ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT



PRIORITY ONE: RESOLVING CONFLICT AND PREVENTING NEW DISPLACEMENT

In Ethiopia, displacement is often driven by both climate-related and conflict-induced factors. A proactive and preventive approach is essential to achieving sustainable, durable solutions. This Strategy focuses on strengthening community resilience against environmental stressors and addressing the root causes of conflict to prevent new displacements. By embedding climate resilience and conflict mitigation efforts within durable solutions frameworks that strengthen social cohesion, economic recovery, and integration, Ethiopia can foster conditions where communities would not only recover but thrive, ultimately reducing the need for emergency humanitarian responses and long-term displacement.

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION TO REDUCE DISPLACEMENT RISKS

Conflict remains one of the primary drivers of displacement in Ethiopia, often fuelled by competition over resources, ethnic tensions, and historical grievances. The core of this Strategy involves the strengthening of local governance and dialogue mechanisms, empowering communities to resolve disputes before they escalate. Community-led trust building initiatives including the national dialogue process will be strengthened across high-risk regions, providing a platform for resolving conflicts and addressing grievances early. These councils will facilitate cross-community dialogues, ensuring that diverse groups can openly

voice concerns, identify common interests, and collaboratively seek solutions.

Furthermore, Ethiopia's approach will prioritize establishing community-driven early warning and response systems to enhance conflict prevention. These systems will enable communities to monitor and assess emerging tensions, report potential threats, and mediate disputes locally, allowing for timely interventions that prevent escalation.

Fostering sustainable peace and adapting to climate change will have the greatest impact on preventing new displacement, avoiding secondary displacements, and ensuring long-lasting solutions for IDPs.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO REDUCE RISKS OF DISASTER AND CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

Ethiopia also faces significant internal displacement challenges, with climate and disaster-related factors like drought and flooding. Drought, influenced by events like El Niño, has severely affected regions like Oromia, Somali, and Amhara, leading to acute food insecurity and significant displacement. Flooding has similarly contributed to displacement across various parts of the country. In recent years, landslides have become a major concern and cause of displacement in most of the regions. The rising frequency, scale, and severity of these disasters highlight an urgent need to address the impacts of climate change and disasters. Strengthening prevention, preparedness, early action, and proactive climate adaptation are crucial steps for building resilience among people at the risk of displacement.

PRIORITY TWO: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DURABLE SOLUTIONS RESPONSE

Ethiopia is committed to respecting the rights and choices of displaced individuals in determining their futures, whether they choose to return to their places of origin, integrate locally, or resettle elsewhere. A holistic durable solutions response is needed for currently displaced and recently returned IDPs, catering to the unique aspects of displacement across its diverse regions. Durable Solutions responses will be underpinned by the principles of voluntariness, safety, and dignity of IDPs, with a whole-of-area approach applied to ensure all community members benefit from interventions. Durable solutions to IDPs will involve engaging with the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) 'triple nexus'. The government is committed to creating an enabling legal and policy environment for longer-term integration of displacement-affected communities into overall development planning.

SUPPORT IDPS VOLUNTARY RETURN

Returns are a preferred solution for many IDPs who wish to rebuild their lives in their communities of origin. However, successful returns depend on restoring basic infrastructure, considering the impact and needs of wider displacement-affected communities including host and return communities, and re-establishing security in conflict-affected areas. To support voluntary returns, Ethiopia will work closely with local and regional authorities to create conditions conducive to safe and dignified returns. This includes restoring basic infrastructure and services in areas where security permits, ensuring access to essential resources such as healthcare, education, and water upon their return.

In many parts of Ethiopia, people often leave their homes for safety and return once it is safe. During early displacement (0-2 years), there is a strong preference to return[1] . Therefore, Ethiopia prioritizes making conditions in places of origin are conducive for prompt return, which include:

- Restoring and strengthening local civilian administrations, human rights underpinned rule-of-law systems, and other soft protection mechanisms.
- Ensuring basic social services, such as health, water facilities, and schools are functional and accessible to returning populations.
- Housing is available and mechanisms for addressing any housing, land and property issues are present and sufficiently capacitated.
- Economic revitalization of return areas and support to return to previous or new livelihoods activities.
- Partner with the private sector, development organizations, and financial institutions to support livelihoods, through training, resources and financing from income-generating activities.
- Promote climate adaptation and disaster risk management practices in climate and disaster affected regions.

LOCAL INTEGRATION

Local integration is vital, particularly in areas with protracted displacement where IDPs have been residing in camps or host communities for extended periods. Supporting local integration involves transforming IDP locations into flourishing urban settings, well connected to social services and local economies. IDPs shelters will be transitioned into suitable affordable housing, or

IOM DTM Ethiopia – Displacement and Return – Profiles, Preferences for Solutions, and Indices (Nov-Dec 2023)

they will be supported to enter the local rental market through meaningful livelihoods activities. IDP will become fully-fledged members of the community, participating actively in social and community affairs and ensuring their voices are well represented in decision-making. In fact, the intention of the GoE is for each IDP to have a digital identity (ID) to receive the needed social and economic services in their place of residence.

RELOCATION

Relocating displaced households and communities is necessary in some instances, particularly for those at risk of repeated flooding, droughts and landslides. Comprehensive site assessment and planning are required for successful relocation. Social services must be adequately enhanced to meet the needs of newly relocated IDPs, particularly health, education, and water services. Relocated IDPs need access to new livelihoods opportunities that do not take adversely affect the livelihoods of receiving communities but instead benefit the overall economic activity of a relocation area. These interventions to be complemented with climate adaptation and resilience measures. Relocations must be managed sensitively to maintain social harmony between displaced and receiving communities.

PRIORITY THREE: IMPROVED DATA, COORDINATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Effective durable solutions for internal displacement require reliable data, strong coordination among stakeholders, and robust accountability mechanisms. The lack of comprehensive and up-to-date data on the displacement hampers informed decision-making and effective resource allocation. By enhancing data collection, strengthening coordination, and ensuring accountability at all levels, Ethiopia aims to improve the quality and impact of its responses to internal displacement.

Ethiopia will prioritize the establishment of a national data system that consolidates information on displacement trends, the needs of IDPs, and the capacities of local and regional authorities. This system will draw on existing platforms, such as the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and other data collection initiatives, linking IDP data verification with national ID systems to create a unified database informing all aspects of the durable solutions process. The data collected will cover key areas, including the demographics, livelihoods, access to services, and the conditions in return, integration, and resettlement areas. Beyond data on displacement, it is crucial that the government together with humanitarian and development partners, work together to agree on an overall framework and approach to monitor progress towards solutions that build on existing data sets and that encompasses both individual/household and community level data and measuring the enabling environment including the implementation of law and policies include this strategy.

Improved data collection will enable Ethiopia to track IDP progress and monitor changes in their living conditions, ensuring tailored intervention for IDPs and host populations. Enhanced coordination mechanisms at all levels will prevent duplication of efforts, optimize resource allocation, and ensure effective, sustainable interventions aligned with national and regional development priorities.

Additionally, Ethiopia is committed to transparent and accountable responses, establishing clear mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress, and holding all actors accountable for their roles in responding to displacement.

PRIORITIZED SECTORS AND ACTIVITY AREAS OF INTERVENTION

LIVELIHOODS	- Livelihoods diversification to recover and build resilience. - Provision of start-up capital, microfinance programmes, and vocational trainings for on-farm and off-farm income generating activities. - Support of small & medium enterprises. - Green income opportunities.
AGRICULTURE	- Promoting agricultural development, market access and food security. - Providing critical inputs to farmers. - Rehabilitating and equipping Farmer Trainer Centres.
HOUSING AND SPATIAL PLANNING	- Housing needs assessments and mapping of physical development opportunities. - Development of neighbourhoods spatial plannings considering housing needs and supply of serviced land. - Environmental impact assessment. - Housing reconstruction or reparation, including facilitated access to solar and biogas power for IDPs returning to areas with limited or intermittent power supply. - Strengthening of government capacity in urban development, data collection, analysis, budgeting and planning.

EDUCATION	- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged schools. - Recruitment and training of teachers. - Provision of Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP). - Provision of school feeding materials. - Establishment of community learning centres.
PROTECTION & JUSTICE	- Provide caregivers and services to address psychosocial distress due to the displacement situations. - Strengthen community-based protection mechanisms to prevent and reduce exposure to GBV, child labour, child/forced marriage, and other protection related issues. - Capacity-building programs to enhance understanding of housing, land and property rights among justice professionals.
PEACE, SOCIAL COHESION AND RULE OF LAW	- Enhancement of government capacity on conflict prevention and resolution. - Rehabilitation and construction of community centres, local peace committees (LPCs). - Promotion of transitional justice via reconciliation initiatives, community dialogues between host and returned/relocated/locally integrated communities. - Peace education and awareness programs, media literacy trainings and trauma healing.
HEALTH	- Rehabilitation of health infrastructures, maintenance, and equipment. - Provision of adequate health professionals: recruitment and training to improve healthcare delivery. - Provision of community-based health insurance schemes to returning IDPs households for a transitional period. - Support of behaviour change communication and social mobilization on prevention of notifiable disease outbreaks, as well as emergency health issues and risk communication. - Improvement of livestock vaccination for the control of disease vectors.
WASH	- - Establishment of community-based water committees to ensure safe use and maintenance of water facilities. - - Maintenance and rehabilitation of water schemes. - - Establishment of community-based water committees to ensure safe use and maintenance of water facilities. - - Expansion of water pipeline systems, borehole and shallow well drilling activities. - - Construction of flood protection structures. - - Provision of access to safe and clean, and drinking water (e.g., via treatment chemicals). - - Rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools. - Waste disposal construction, and relative waste management plan.

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK RESILIENCE	- Build climate and disaster resilient communities through Climate adaptation and mitigation practices. - Building of climate and disaster resilient communities through Climate adaptation and mitigation practices. - Development of climate resilient infrastructures. - Participatory natural resource management practices. - Green income opportunities. - Climate security risks reduction.

SOLUTIONS AS PART OF ETHIOPIA'S DEVELOPMENT VISION

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 done through sustainable reintegration at the place of origin (voluntary return), local integration in areas where displaced persons take refuge or in another part of the country based on their choice (relocation). This provides a principled operational framework and platform to design and implement durable solutions in support of internally displaced persons and host communities or communities at locations of return, relocation, or local integration. Since 2019, this framework has played a catalytic

role in facilitating collective action and cooperation between the Ethiopian government at national, regional, and local levels and the international community.

In the Ethiopian context, solutions to internal displacement focus on both preventing displacement and resolving the underlying conflicts that cause it. Preventive measures include strengthening early warning systems to detect potential risks, implementing disaster risk reduction strategies, and developing resilient livelihoods to mitigate the impact of natural hazards and socio-economic vulnerabilities, and enhancing community awareness and preparedness through education and training programs. The government of Ethiopia has established policies, including the National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management, which serves as a crucial foundation for the country's approach to disaster risk reduction and management. This policy aims to enhance resilience and decrease vulnerabilities nationwide. A significant emphasis of the policy is on prevention, highlighting the importance of proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of disasters before they occur.

Solutions to displacement in Ethiopia also places great emphasis on resolving the underlying drivers of conflict and social tension. Only through the resolution of differences through dialogue and other peaceful means will lead to conflict induced IDPs achieve a long-lasting solution to their displacement. To this end, the GoE continues to strive to resolve critical federal and inter-regional issues through high-level political dialogue including through national dialogue commission. The continued progress in the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement is one such example, as well as other efforts across the country. Similarly, the GoE is committed to supporting localized peacebuilding efforts, building social cohesion

between different communities to reduce tensions and prevent conflict. Solutions to displacement also requires addressing the climate crisis, with Ethiopia being one of the country's most at risk due to climate change. Mitigating the effects of climate change, particularly prolonged drought and increasing unseasonal rain patterns causing flooding, is necessary for ensuring solutions are sustainable and in preventing new displacement.

LINKAGES TO DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Ethiopia's regional durable solutions strategies are closely linked to the country's broader development plans, particularly in addressing internal displacement and fostering sustainable development.

Long-term Low Emission and Climate Resilience Strategy (2023-2050): The Strategy promotes activities to keep greenhouse gas emissions low and build climate resilience, while achieving middle-income status by 2050. The plans aim to address food insecurity and malnutrition, improve agricultural productivity and enhance resilience to shocks.

Ethiopia National Recovery and Reconstruction Plan: This was formulated in response to the significant damage caused by the conflict in Ethiopia, particularly following the Tigray conflict that began in 2020. After the cessation of hostilities agreement in 2022, the government, in collaboration with international partners, designed the plan to guide the recovery and rebuilding process. The National Recovery and Reconstruction Plan focuses on rebuilding critical infrastructure, revitalizing war-affected economies, fostering social cohesion, governance and rule of law, offering psychosocial support for trauma healing, and ensuring coordination with international development partners.

10-Year Development Plan (2021-2030): The regional durable solutions strategies align with this plan's vision for peacebuilding, governance, and social cohesion. These strategies target IDPs, conflict resolution, and infrastructure rebuilding, fitting into broader goals of sustainable peace, better governance, and poverty reduction. Additionally, the focus on agricultural revitalization and economic recovery in displacement-affected areas supports national priorities for economic diversification.

National Policy on Disaster Risk Management (2024): The regional durable solutions strategies align with this policy by focusing on prevention and mitigation of displacement. This approach corresponds with the policy's emphasis on disaster preparedness and risk reduction, which are critical in mitigating the impacts of conflicts and natural disasters.

Disaster Risk Financing Strategy: This strategy, recently adopted by the Ministry of Finance, aims to enhance financial resilience against disasters. It supports decision-making and strategic direction for the Ministry and aligns with the Government's broader agenda in disaster risk management, social protection, fiscal risk and agricultural risk management.

Social Protection Policy: The strategies are aligned with Ethiopia's social protection initiatives, focusing on assisting vulnerable populations, including displaced persons. This aligns with the government's broader social protection agenda aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience among marginalized communities.

UN Sustainable Development Cooperative Framework: the current cooperation framework of the UN has clearly identified the need to address the IDP issues as part of its principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB) and by indicating the need to address this as a major development challenge. Under outcome one, the framework outlined the need for supporting the Government of Ethiopia to operationalize its Durable Solutions Initiative to create conditions that enable all IDPs to find safe, dignified and voluntary solutions to rebuild their lives in sustainable ways. This will include, but be not limited to, ensuring the participation of IDPs and receiving communities in finding their own solutions; addressing housing, land and property rights; promoting and supporting conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives; and enabling economic and livelihood opportunities as well as access to basic social services and protection.

These strategies address Ethiopia's immediate needs and support long-term sustainable development. They significantly improve the country's ability to tackle challenges like insecurity, food insecurity, unemployment rates and increased poverty levels, severe droughts, floods and limited livelihood opportunities, which drive displacement. Continued implementation and refinement are essential for sustainable growth and better quality of life for citizens, addressing drivers of displacement and achieving lasting solutions.

APPROACH TO ACHIEVING DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Area based approach: This Strategy will deliver detailed, costed action plans for displacement-affected communities, including IDPs, returnees, and host/receiving populations within specific geographical areas. These plans prioritize interventions tailored to each region's unique conditions, risks, and opportunities. By fostering collaboration among partners operating in the same area and establishing referral pathways, the aim is to achieve coherence and maximize impact. Special focus is given to women, girls, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, considering Ethiopia's current socio-economic landscape. Addressing factors that impact access to services and opportunities is key to promoting inclusion and equal access for all community members.

Durable solutions require strong political leadership at all levels and a mix of human rights, humanitarian, development, peace, and state-building approaches. Costed Action Plans with regional governments, will prioritize activities for effectively supporting displacement communities towards sustainable solutions.

Nationally owned and locally led solutions: A framework for national and local solutions supports long-term responses to help displaced people and affected communities live safely, with dignity, and contribute to peace and development. This approach emphasizes restoring security, dignity, and well-being, and aims to promote inclusion, equity, and prosperity through these five pathways. (1) strengthening governance at all levels; (2) fostering socio-economic integration of IDPs and affected communities; (3) improving security and access to justice; (4) enhancing civic and political participation of IDPs; and (5) promoting social cohesion.

Meaningful participation of displacement affected communities (DACs): The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic

of Ethiopia (FDRE) recognizes the right of every citizen to participate in conduct of public affairs, to vote and to be elected at any level of government without discrimination of any kind. The Government of Ethiopia is keen to ensure that displacement affected communities are at the centre of decision-making process in programmes that affect their lives.

Ethiopia places emphasis on community-based approaches, where displaced persons and host communities are engaged in structured consultations. These consultations ensure that their views, needs, and priorities are reflected in the planning of durable solutions/(re)integration into communities in place of stay, origin or elsewhere. Displacement-affected communities are increasingly included in local governance structures, ensuring they have representation in discussions related to land use, service provision, and reconstruction efforts. Their participation ensures that local decisions are tailored to their unique needs and challenges.

Displacement often leads to tensions between displaced and host communities. Social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives, which involve both communities, help resolve conflicts and foster mutual understanding. By participating in these platforms, displacement-affected communities ensure their voices are heard, particularly when it comes to access to resources, land, and livelihoods.

Through implementation of interventions, participatory assessments are conducted involving displaced individuals. These assessments help identify the specific needs and concerns of the affected populations, ensuring that solutions are context-appropriate and community-driven. Additionally, efforts are made to strengthen the leadership capacities of displacement-affected communities, particularly women and marginalized groups, enabling them to effectively participate in decision-making processes. This empowers the community to advocate for their rights and influence policies that impact their lives.

Meaningful participation is a process that needs a set of standards to guide its application. This narrative relies on a set of standards distilled from international human rights standards. It also includes benchmarks to gauge the extent to which citizen engagement and participation interventions in the Solutions Pathway Costed Plan meet each of the standards and thereby promote greater citizen participation and control in strategy implementation and adaptation process. The table below details the standards and benchmarks for each standard.

STANDARDS	BENCHMARK
Autonomy and independence: the ability of Displacement Affected Communities (DACs) to make decisions for themselves without fear or undue influence from external actors	-DACs are aware of their right to set rules of engagement, agenda and key priorities of a broad deliberative and evaluative decision-making process and are confident that their right will be respected -DACs are willing and able to set the policy and programme agenda and the citizen-led oversight rules of engagement in a safe and secure environment and policy, programme and other actors are willing and able to abide by them -DACs are willing and able to choose representatives from among them to provide citizen-led oversight in the implementation of the costed plans without undue influence from policy, programming, or other actors -DAC representatives chosen to provide citizen-led oversight are seen and act independently from the policy, programme, and other actors
Representation: the ability and willingness of DACs to access decision-making forums either directly or through representatives of their choice (this includes aspects of subsidiarity, diversity, inclusion, legitimacy, renewal, and anonymity)	-DACs are aware of their right to equal and equitable representation in the deliberative and evaluative decision-making process and are confident that their right will be respected -All segments (gender, age, PWDs, minority groups & other marginalized groups) of society are willing and able to participate in the deliberative and evaluative process that is safe and free from coercion, are represented at all phases of the policy and programming cycles, and those most affected by a policy or programme decision are represented and heard in that deliberative and evaluative process (diversity, inclusion, and subsidiarity principles) -DACs believe that the rules of representation in the deliberative and evaluative process are fair, equitable and just and have an equal periodic opportunity to serve in DAC representative forums without fear of retribution or undue influence (legitimacy and renewal principles) -The DAC engagement process recognizes existing forms of community decision making institutions and ensures that their deliberative and evaluative process has a broad validation mechanism to avoid elite capture

Decision Outcome Influence: ability and willingness of DACs to influence the outcome of the decision-making process without fear of retribution or undue influence	-DACs are aware of their right to have their decisions, preferences, demands, and aspirations have a genuine impact on the policy and programme and are confident that they do -DAC decisions, preferences, demands and aspirations have a genuine impact on the policy or programme -DACs have access to the final policy and programme decision and are aware of how their views were included in the final version of the policy and programme decision and where they were not, they are aware of the reason their views were not included -Policy and programme actors are willing and able to respond to the decisions, preferences, demands and aspirations of DACs and communicate to DACs how their input affected the decision
Accountability and Transparency: the ability and willingness of DACs to question breaches to agreed-upon decisions and expect remedial action where feasible without fear of retribution or undue influence	-DACs are aware of their right to question and expect responses to their questions on the implementation of decisions by policy and programme actors and are confident that the right will be respected -DACs are willing and able to ask questions and get answers to enable them to understand the project and the reasons for the decisions -DACs are aware of how decisions are being made, have access to information on the procedure of the decision-making process and understand how public participants were selected -Policy and programme actors are willing and able to respond to DACs' right to question through two-way communication processes that is safe and that inspires DAC confidence to engage
Cost-effectiveness: the ability and willingness of DACs to sustain consistent participation in decision making processes	-DACs are willing and able to contribute to the cost of sustained participation -Policy and programme actors are willing and able to contribute to the cost of sustained citizen participation

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The overall lead on durable solutions in Ethiopia lies with the federal government that is supported by the durable solutions architecture currently co-chaired by IOM, UNDP and UNHCR. Efforts to support the attainment of durable solutions is exemplified at multiple levels through the establishment of coordination structures under the auspices of the Ethiopia Durable Solutions

Initiative to facilitate multistakeholder coordination and area-based inclusive interventions. The Federal Durable Solutions Working Group (FDSWG) is the driver for government/UN/NGO strategic planning and operationalization of durable solutions. The current membership of the FDSWG includes the government, UN agencies, and NGOs, with bilateral partners. Regional governments also play a critical role and lead the development of their respective region's strategies and costed action plans. The Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Council plays a key role in overseeing and guiding the durable solutions architecture, ensuring that strategies align with national priorities and that all stakeholders work collaboratively to implement sustainable solutions for displaced communities. This leadership ensures a coordinated, cohesive approach to addressing displacement, contributing to long-term stability and development in the country.

REGIONAL DURABLE SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUPS (DSWGS)

DSWGs have been established in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali, and Tigray regions. To ensure effective coordination, Terms of Reference have been developed in each location to guide and structure the activities and functions of the DSWGs.

Regional governments lead the DSWGs, and in collaboration with partners, are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the solutions strategies. They will ensure effective operational coordination mechanisms are in place across their regions for the effective delivery of interventions of the Costed Action Plans. Regional DSWGs will advocate critical issues impacting the implementation of the strategies and highlight specific activities and geographic areas that need greater attention from partners.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This strategy is guided by principles that reflect Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable and inclusive solutions for displacement. A people-centred approach is at the core of this strategy, ensuring that IDPs are active participants in decisions affecting their lives. Displaced individuals will have a voice in shaping programs and services, promoting their agency and empowerment. The strategy also prioritizes equity and inclusiveness, addressing the specific needs of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and minority groups. By upholding these principles, Ethiopia aims to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of durable solutions.

A proactive and inclusive approach is key to ensuring positive outcomes, fostering stronger community relations and encouraging collaboration between displaced populations and host communities. By recognizing the unique challenges in areas affected by displacement, the strategy will promote social cohesion, stability, and mutual support, enhancing resilience and unity among all community members. Finally, the strategy emphasizes sustainability and resilience,

aiming to address not only the immediate needs of displaced populations but also the long-term drivers of displacement. Enhancing community resilience to climate change, economic instability, and social challenges, Ethiopia seeks to create a foundation for enduring solutions to displacement.

SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The international community is vital to ensuring the successful implementation of the National Strategy. To date, partners are already making extensive contributions towards many of the activities across the regional plans, particularly in the areas of coordination, agriculture and livelihoods, essential infrastructure rehabilitation (health, water, education), and strengthening local governance and rule of law. It is envisioned that partners align their existing interventions through this national durable solution Strategy to demonstrate holistic area-based impact on progress towards solutions within specific geographic areas. Through this, critical gaps across different thematic activity areas will be identified, giving partners the opportunity to re-prioritize new interventions. The plans also allow partners to focus their interventions in geographic areas considered the highest priority for advancing solutions by the respective regions. Multi-year, multi-region and thematically broad durable solutions programs will give implementing partners the opportunity to demonstrate long-term and sustainable impact.

Moreover, the international community can facilitate knowledge-sharing platforms that enable Ethiopia to learn from best practices in other contexts facing displacement crises. This would ensure that Ethiopia's approach is informed by global experiences, fostering innovation and adaptability. International actors can help raise awareness about Ethiopia's durable solutions efforts on the global stage, encouraging donor countries, development partners, and multilateral institutions to increase their financial and technical commitments.

In addition to resources for durable solutions programs, the international community can

continue to provide technical expertise to the Federal and Regional governments to advance institutional knowledge of durable solutions, support operational coordination, and strengthen monitoring and oversight. Furthermore, the international community can strengthen Ethiopian civil society and national NGO roles in advancing solutions, through equitable partnerships in durable solutions programs and, where appropriate, through direct funding opportunities.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The implementation of this strategy is expected to yield significant positive outcomes for both displaced and host communities. Enhanced stability and social cohesion will be a key outcome, as IDPs and host communities are supported to live together peacefully, fostering mutual trust and understanding. Economic empowerment will result from the provision of livelihood opportunities, enabling displaced populations and host communities to become self-reliant and contribute to local economies. Improved access to basic services, such as healthcare, education, and social protection, will lead to better living conditions for all affected populations. Finally, communities will be better prepared to withstand future shocks, including those related to climate change, enhancing their overall resilience and stability. In general, the durable solution is the most cost-effect, sustainable mechanism to address the challenge; noting the declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) and pledges to humanitarian assistance are also diminishing.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The monitoring, coordination, and reporting of durable solutions for displacement-affected communities in Ethiopia require a well-structured mechanism that integrates efforts at both regional and federal levels. To ensure a seamless flow of information and alignment of strategies, this structure will ensure that regional efforts are effectively communicated and integrated into national policies, driving sustainable outcomes for affected communities.

The national durable solutions strategy is aligned with relevant national and regional policies, ensuring consistency in approach, goals, and metrics. The Federal Durable Solutions Working Group will provide strategic oversight, ensuring adherence to national frameworks and harmonizing efforts across all regions.

The reporting mechanism will include input from key stakeholders such as regional governments, development agencies, civil society, and displacement-affected communities. This inclusive approach guarantees that the unique needs of each region are considered in federal plans, enhancing both responsiveness and accountability. Through the established regional working groups and federal structures, regional reports will be submitted to the federal level, highlighting cross-sectoral achievements and challenges to ensure that solutions are comprehensive and sustainable.

Operationally, each regional DSWG will submit periodic reports to the Federal Durable Solutions Working Group. These reports will detail activities, challenges, resource allocation, and outcomes, with zonal DSWGs contributing data to their regional counterparts. To ensure uniformity in data collection and reporting, standardized templates will be used, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative metrics. This allows for consistent tracking of key indicators, such as the number of individuals assisted, services provided, and progress toward long-term solutions.

At the federal level, the Federal Durable Solutions Working Group, in collaboration with relevant federal entities, will consolidate these regional reports. This process will involve synthesizing data, analyzing trends, and identifying common challenges or gaps across regions. These reports will then be reviewed in annual strategic meetings, where key decisions on resource allocation, and scaling of successful regional initiatives will be made.

Additionally, the Federal DSWG will provide structured feedback to each region, offering guidance on overcoming challenges, scaling successful models, and aligning efforts with national priorities. Regions will then incorporate this feedback into their operational plans, ensuring continuous improvement and adaptive strategies that meet the evolving needs of displacement-affected communities.

A central data management platform, overseen by the Federal DSWG and EDRMC, will be established to facilitate real-time information sharing between regions and the federal government. This digital platform will enable timely decision-making and the early identification of emerging challenges.

To ensure accountability, federal-level stakeholders, including international partners and donors, will be kept informed through periodic public reports summarizing national progress on durable solutions. This transparency will build trust and ensure that efforts are aligned with Ethiopia's broader development goals.

National Strategy to implement solutions pathways to internal displacement in Ethiopia

Solutions to Internal Displacement in Ethiopia

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SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN ETHIOPIA

2024