



Why Durable Solutions?

South Sudan is confronted with a dual challenge: addressing displacement caused by historical and recurring conflict, as well as displacement induced by climate change. This situation has led to a significant number of internally displaced individuals who are highly vulnerable. Compounding this issue, approximately 465,456 individuals, according to data from IOM, UNHCR, and RRC as of January 2024, have been forcibly displaced from Sudan to South Sudan. These individuals are settling in areas already facing acute challenges related to economic opportunities and access to basic services.

DRC considers durable solutions as enabling and empowering displacement affected communities to recover from the vulnerabilities associated with displacement. Durable solutions involves helping individuals and communities, integrate into new areas, or return and reintegrate into areas they were displaced. In situations where displacement lasts a long time or happens repeatedly, our responses need to move away from only providing emergency aid and focus more on strengthening systems and supporting long-term recovery. Durable Solutions are key to the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts in areas with high displacement. Durable Solutions provides a framework to support government led integrated, community driven, and area focused responses to displacement. To support lasting recovery, everyone involved needs to consider and address the underlying causes for recurring challenges that communities face.

Our Response

DRC focuses responses across three core platforms, **Emergency Response, Addressing Root Causes, and Durable Solutions**. In South Sudan, given the extent and complexity of displacement, DRC has dedicated resources to supporting the mainstreaming of durable solutions approaches across all our response sectors with the aim of supporting integrated programming and transitions away from humanitarian assistance towards recovery.

DRC is operational in Ruweng Administrative Area, Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei (Akobo) and Eastern Equatoria States, all areas that are highly affected by internal displacement, host refugees, or are receiving communities previously displaced abroad who are returning to South Sudan.



Objective

To aid the durable solutions processes in South Sudan DRC aims to support displacement affected communities to achieve safe, dignified and informed solutions through a principled and evidence-based response to displacement.



Approach

Early Solutions: DRC embeds early solutions thinking into all elements of our response (Shelter and Non-Food Items, Economic Recovery, Protection, Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding and Camp Coordination and Camp Management). This includes understanding the multiple needs of individuals, psychological, economic, social, and sequencing and layering assistance to address these needs. As immediate or lifesaving needs are met, entry points for livelihoods opportunities are identified and where possible supported. For example, DRC has designed livelihoods programming that supports early recovery in areas where DRC or other partners are also providing shelter, protection and CCCM support. The livelihoods programming is designed to assist individuals to access an income, and be more resilience to climatic shocks.

Alongside this, DRC is able to leverage our peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity expertise to understand root causes of displacement and where we can assist community led conflict management or social cohesion efforts. In Western Bahr el Ghazal, conflict management and social cohesion training and capacity development provided to communities enabled them to successfully access the land they were displaced from in a nonviolent and peaceful way.

Effective and Transparent Coordination: given the complexity of solutions, coordination is fundamental. DRC has been an active advocate for and leader in improving coordination structures at national and State level on durable solutions. DRC is the INGO representative for Durable Solutions on the Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience, as well as the lead of the NGO Durable Solutions Working Group. DRC participates in the State Level Task Forces in States where we are active and at a national level.

Evidence and Learning: Decisions on where to invest resources to support attainment of solutions needs to be based on good information, particularly affected populations own aspirations. DRC has supported and continues to support research efforts on solutions to displacement in South Sudan. In collaboration with the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, DRC has supported research on early solutions for those displaced by the Sudan crisis in South Sudan, DRC has led a solutions analysis for targeted locations in South Sudan and contributed to a REACH Initiative led research piece on perceptions on displacement in South Sudan. DRC will continue to dedicate resources to analysis and learning, particularly through joint evidence development with other organisations.

DRC has prioritised knowledge sharing, particularly with national NGOs in South Sudan and has hosted through the NGO Forum knowledge exchange events. These events bring stakeholders working on solutions in South Sudan and other relevant contexts together to share lessons and updates, and strengthen collaboration.

Capacity Strengthening: DRC is supporting capacity strengthening on Durable Solutions for NGOs. DRC has hosted training sessions and has developed resources to support NGOs understand solutions, better engage with solutions planning and coordination.

Integration: The durable solutions approach is mainstreamed through DRC's entire response, and part of how we strategically plan where to invest resources in areas of return and areas of high displacement. Working closely with peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity efforts to understand root causes of displacement, humanitarian responses that support access to basic needs (such as shelter, cash transfers, camp services), and protection responses, durable solutions helps link activities and provide longer term visioning for how humanitarian, peacebuilding and development efforts can be harmonised to support communities exit vulnerabilities associated with displacement.



DRC brings extensive organizational experience in Durable Solutions at a global and regional level, and within South Sudan-specific levels. DRC is a member of the Executive Committee for the Joint Indicator Profiling service. At the regional level, DRC has set up the Durable Solutions Platform in response to the Syria crisis and its effects on neighboring countries, as well as the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, which addresses displacement across Asia with a particular focus on the Afghanistan and Rohingya situations. In East and Central Africa, DRC serves as the host organization for the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) based in Nairobi.