

## Solutions Alliance Vision / Mission / Principles

### Context

For the Solutions Alliance, the concept of solutions is broad and encompasses, in particular, the “durable solutions” of UNHCR’s 1950 Statute, the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement issued by the Special Representative on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the 2010 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, and the 2011 Decision of the Secretary-General on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict.

What these have in common is a recognition that a “solution” depends on the context and can include social, cultural, political, legal, or economic dimensions. It is also clear that a solution is a process rather than a static circumstance. People are not simply “displaced” or have their displacement “solved,” but rather displaced people can progress towards a solution: they can protect and enhance their resilience to new shocks. The achievement of partial solutions, for example economic self-reliance without full legal rights, is still valuable. Furthermore, in most situations the search for solutions involves strengthening the capacity or economic foundations of communities that are hosting displaced people.

There are some boundaries, however. The Solutions Alliance is focused on forced displacement due to conflict or fear of persecution, both within and across borders, but not with other forms of migration. The Alliance does not directly address the important problem of statelessness except insofar as solutions efforts should avoid creating new statelessness risks. Within this context, the Solutions Alliance Strategic Framework has four components: a Vision, a Mission, and Guiding Principles, which are seen as the high-level components to which Solutions Alliance partners subscribe. In addition, there will be a 3-year Strategy for the Alliance, to be approved by the Governing Board and adjusted periodically as displacement situations evolve, and as the number and nature of National and Thematic Groups evolve over time.

### Proposed Problem Statement

The collective response to displacement has been inadequate. We need to protect and enhance the resilience of displaced people and host communities from the start of displacement. We also need new and innovative ways of finding solutions for refugees, IDPs, and host communities in situations of protracted displacement. Resources for humanitarian financing are finite and dependency is not a desired state. We need to find ways to build on the capacities of the displaced so that they can live productive and fruitful lives and ultimately achieve a durable solution.

### Vision

All displaced persons find a solution to their displacement that respects their rights, upholds their humanity, and meets their needs.

### Mission

The Solutions Alliance aims to improve the lives of displaced persons – and the communities that host them – by responding more collaboratively to displacement and contributing to durable solutions.

## Proposed Objectives

[To be reviewed by the Governing Board in the course of developing the 2016-2018 Strategy]

- 1) To support innovative solutions through concrete projects and programs in selected displacement situations.
- 2) To help shape the global policy agenda, including the post-2015 development agenda and the New Deal process, to recognise displacement as a development challenge as well as a humanitarian and protection issue, and to work with governments in affected countries toward the inclusion of displacement issues as a cross-cutting theme in national and local development plans.
- 3) To ensure that a diverse and growing group of partners form a vibrant network and maximise the impact of their individual efforts based on the Alliance's principles and objectives.

## Guiding Principles *(working version)*

Recognising that humanitarian and development actors already adhere to a number of conventions, United Nations resolutions, voluntary codes of conduct, and guiding principles, as well as numerous thematic and geographic summit declarations,

*the Solutions Alliance partners agree to complement these with a focus on the following seven guiding principles that are central to enabling refugees and internally displaced persons to achieve solutions to their displacement:*

### Partnership Principles

#### 1. Be Open and Inclusive

The unique value added by the Alliance is its multi-stakeholder character at global, regional/national, and thematic levels. Alliance partners will make their solutions work open to all stakeholders, in particular host governments, the private sector, local civil society, and displaced people themselves, and actively seek to include the voices of parties who are often left out of needs assessment, planning, and implementation.

Solutions, self-reliance, and resilience strategies should be devised holistically, and tasks should be shared among humanitarian and development partners as early as possible in a displacement situation in order to integrate early recovery and development elements into the response.

Partners should be fully transparent regarding their plans, programmes, and resources, to reduce the risk of duplication of efforts and to maximise opportunities for coordination and synergy, particularly at the regional and country levels.

Partners agree to share information on their successes and failures throughout the Alliance in such a way that the Alliance can grow stronger and better inform global policy.

#### 2. Listen to Affected Populations

Alliance partners undertake to seek the views and opinions of displaced populations and of those in hosting and return communities, on approaches that are supportive of their interests and potential, and to engage them in the planning and implementation of solutions.

#### 3. Respect Country Ownership

To the extent possible, Alliance partners should include from the outset relevant government authorities, regional and local stakeholders.

## Programming Principles

### 4. Plan and Prepare for Sustainable Results

From the outset, in every situation where partners agree to work together towards solutions, partners will set specific, realistic, and measurable objectives.

Partners will plan interventions that support the potential of displaced people to be productive economic and social actors both during displacement and once a solution has been found, while mitigating the social, economic, and other distresses that can result from displacement.

Partners will seek to ensure that displacement is mainstreamed in national and local development plans, as well as in peace building and recovery strategies where these exist.

Partners will seek to develop a joint results framework.

### 5. Use Evidence as the Basis for Context-Specific Planning

Partners will let interventions be guided by a comprehensive conflict analysis and by assessment of the characteristics of the displaced, their coping mechanisms, needs, available skills, assets, and available knowledge, and they will undertake these assessments and a risk analysis before beginning programmes.

Recognising that each solutions context is different, partners will develop solutions strategies based on an informed understanding of the impact of displacement nationally and locally on hosts, and in particular the impacts on the micro and macro economy, livelihoods, delivery of services, and other resources, as well as social and cultural well-being.

In their programming interventions, partners will consider political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions.

### 6. Consider the Legal Framework

When appropriate, partners will advocate to remove the constraints in legal frameworks that curtail the ability of the displaced to enjoy their rights or to make use of their skills and capacity.

### 7. Be Predictable and Engage for the Long-Term

Partners will endeavour to adopt a multi-year framework for planning and financing when seeking to address displacement, and will furthermore endeavour to do this as an integral part of a wider development framework.



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