



# Brief on Locality Action Plans

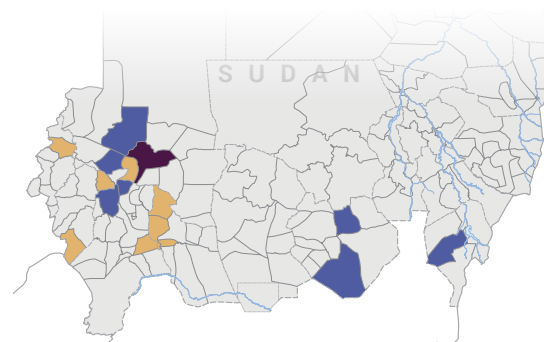
## A collective, evidence- and area-based approach to advance Durable Solutions in displacement-affected localities in Sudan

Three decades of war and unrest have left over three million people internally displaced in Sudan. Additionally, 14.3 million or close to one in three persons of the total population are estimated to need humanitarian assistance in 2022. However, the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), in August 2020, has created a critical momentum to engage on longer-term planning and to establish Durable Solutions for IDPs and returnees as an important element of peacebuilding and adapted to the political developments in the country. To generate a shared evidence-base that can support these efforts, a large-scale, collaborative Durable Solutions analysis, was conducted in 2020-2022 covering 17 localities in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The Locality Action Plans are a key product that uses the Durable Solutions analysis to inform evidence-based programming. **They provide a pathway for joined-up humanitarian, development, and peace interventions, building on each actors' comparative advantage and thus contributing to localized Collective Outcomes - commonly agreed upon areas of impact where comprehensive programming will lead to reduced needs and risks as well as enhanced resilience.** The Action Plans were developed through a participatory process and reflect priorities of relevant local actors while also serving to pilot the operationalization of Sudan's (draft) National Durable Solutions Strategy at the locality level.

## Founded in an inclusive analysis of the displacement situation in Sudan

The Durable Solutions analysis was implemented in 2020-2021 in eight localities in Darfur, led by the national-level Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) and with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Sudan as well as technical support from the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS). In 2021-2022, the study was expanded to another nine localities in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, led by UNHCR and with funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and support from JIPS.



**Figure 1:** Locality Action Plans have been developed in 17 localities in the five States of Darfur as well as in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

- Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Sudan
- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Sudan

Considering all population groups in the different selected areas – Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), IDP and refugee returnees, non-displaced members of local communities, and nomads –, the analysis established a much-needed baseline to advance Durable Solutions to displacement in Sudan. It also generated a shared understanding of displacement-affected communities’ key obstacles, perspectives and priorities to enhance their resilience, which is critical to strengthen social cohesion that binds different groups and layers of society together.

**At the local level, the preliminary analyses were reviewed, validated and prioritized by the displacement-affected communities.** The resulting common analysis then formed the basis for workshops with local authorities, community representatives and other stakeholders in each locality, that led to the development of locally-anchored action plans covering activities that would help overcome identified barriers to Durable Solutions. A people-centered approach and a range of innovative tools and facilitation techniques were applied to ensure meaningful engagement from all stakeholders, including the community representatives.

## Creating environments that are conducive to Solutions

The Locality Action Plans link the Durable Solutions analysis – made available through a series of locality-level reports and thematic briefs – to concrete programming. Building on the evidence generated through the Durable Solutions analysis, **the Locality Action Plans respond to the specific barriers and vulnerabilities identified in the respective localities and incorporate further local knowledge** pertinent to building resilient and inclusive communities.

The Locality Action Plans seek to reduce humanitarian needs for all communities and individuals in the selected localities, while also addressing development and peacebuilding needs. They include considerations on addressing root causes, jointly prioritized by all key stakeholders, that impede progress towards Solutions and peace. In this way, they provide **a pathway for joined-up humanitarian, development, peace interventions, building on each actors’ comparative advantage** and thus contributing to localized Collective Outcomes.

While the Locality Action Plans are specific and tailored to each locality – allowing to incorporate context specific priorities and activities –, common topics emerge include:

- Rule of Law
- Access to Land and Tenure
- Food Security and Access to Services
- Strengthening capacities of Youth, Women and Nomads

Through **contributions by a range of community leaders and representatives** from host communities, displaced communities, youth, women and nomads, the Locality Action Plans contain targeted activities for particular social groups. Additionally, the identified needs to address social inequalities have been conceived, discussed and validated by all participants in the Locality Action Plan workshops, thus contributing to **conflict-sensitive programming**. Similarly, featured activities include **enhancing capacities of all members in the selected localities to build more resilient and inclusive societies** that can lead on formulating and implementing responses to their needs.



**Figure 2:** Process for the Durable Solutions analysis process at scale, covering 17 localities across Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan, Sudan. December 2022.

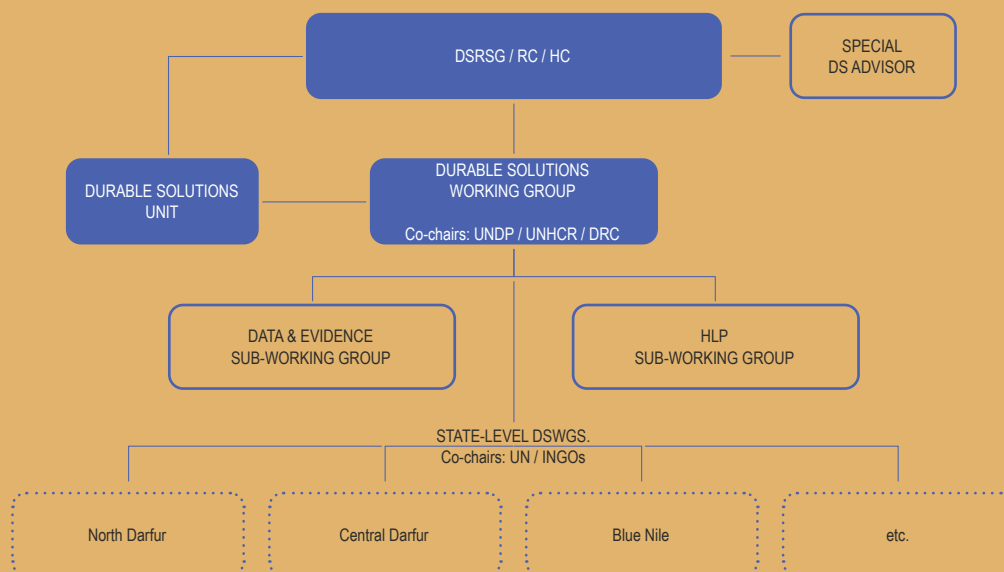


Figure 3: Durable solutions governance structure, Sudan. December 2022.

## Enabling collaboration and sustained engagement to achieve Durable Solutions

Moving forward, it is important that the Locality Action Plans are implemented in line with the identified needs of displacement-affected communities and the enjoyment of their rights. In this sense, the Locality Action Plans are a starting point for continued engagement with displacement-affected communities and their local representatives.

The baseline generated through the large-scale Durable Solutions analysis allows to monitor progress towards Solutions not only across the Locality Action Plan implementation process, but also against the (draft) National Durable Solutions Strategy. Doing so, the shared evidence will be the primary vehicle to ensure that the operational and the policy levels are connected.

Working on overcoming barriers to Durable Solutions cannot be achieved by one actor or one program alone. The involvement of key UN agencies, national and international NGOs, as well as displacement affected communities and local authorities in the Locality Action Plan process contributes to a collective ownership and a comprehensive response by different actors. To underpin and support joined-up approaches to Durable Solutions, a governance structure has been developed with clear roles and responsibilities for every level and entity. The functioning of this governance structure will be essential to ensure evidence-based and comprehensive responses to forced displacement in Sudan.

Additionally, and once adopted by the Sudanese government, the national Durable Solutions strategy will include the creation of a national commission, which will lead on implementing the strategy and become the primary government focal

point at national level. This national commission will allow for government-led responses to internal displacement, and supported by all humanitarian-development and peacebuilding actors in the country.

## Prioritizing localities for implementation

Acknowledging the need for comprehensive actions, a prioritisation of areas conducive to Durable Solutions must be established. The following prioritisation criteria have been defined to help identify the most suitable areas for piloting the implementation of the Locality Action Plans:

### 1/ SAFETY, SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Observing a relative stability and an absence of major conflict is an essential element to support communities in becoming more resilient and progress towards Durable Solutions.

### 2/ LINKAGES TO ONGOING PROGRAMMING

Activities identified in the Locality Action Plans already align to a certain degree with ongoing programs in the selected localities. Having a mapping of these ongoing programs and their alignment with the Locality Action Plans will allow for locality-level Durable Solutions Working Groups to establish and steer existing resource mobilization towards the implementation of the Locality Action Plans.

### 3/ MULTI-STAKEHOLDER OPERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

Durable Solutions, or working towards Durable Solutions, cannot be achieved by one actor, sector or program. Hence, having a critical mass of operational actors on the ground is essential to ensure that the multi-sectoral needs expressed



by the communities can be taken on. Equally, the actors and structures operating in a locality can have a significant impact on the possibility for Durable Solutions to be achieved. Mapping and analyzing all relevant actors per location will be an important step to identify allies, neutrals and spoilers.

#### 4/ GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES

Communities and their governance structures play a pivotal role in any and all discussions related to Durable Solutions. Having functioning community structures such as the Community Management Committee (CMC), and local authorities who willing to create an enabling environment to work towards Durable Solutions, are critical elements to consider in prioritizing localities.

#### 5/ (RE)INTEGRATION PROFILE

Feasibility of Durable Solutions is also relative to the intentions expressed by displaced persons. Having a significant number of displaced persons who state they want to (re)integrate in a given locality can contribute to a successful and meaningful engagement in that locality. Hence, including a parameter looking at intentions of displaced communities is essential in this prioritization exercise.

## Next Steps

While it is unlikely that all locality action plans will be fully implemented due to primarily a deterioration in the safety and security situation in some localities, as well as limited financial resources available for implementation, the prioritization of localities is an important step in the overall process. Using the above criteria, the DSWG in Sudan is leading on a prioritization exercise at both national and state-levels, which will allow to identify those localities where the return on investment for Durable Solutions is possible.

As a starting point, a briefing note is being developed for each locality which serves not only to assist in the prioritization of localities, but also as an advocacy tool for future fundraising. In a next phase, a costing of each locality action plan will be needed to support efforts towards resource mobilization. Once completed, these locality-specific briefing notes will be used by the DSWG to engage with donors to mobilize resources for the implementation of the prioritized locality action plans.

[Related resources →](#)



*Community validation and prioritization session in Blue Nile Locality, Sudan. © UNHCR, September 2022.*

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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