



Address Forced Protracted Displacement

> What do we mean?

A new “Business Model” for responding to forced protracted displacement means communities are able to welcome additional populations in ways that are dignified and contribute to longer-term sustainable development. This requires managing protracted and forced displacement as both a humanitarian and development issue. Solutions and interventions for protracted displacement need to be integrated effectively in local and national systems, emphasizing the important role governments play. The nature of protracted displacement requires moving beyond traditional humanitarian responses, forming innovative partnerships, drawing on the strengths and expertise of different stakeholders and capitalizing on the displaced as contributors, not burdens to host communities.

> Why is this necessary?

The average length of displacement is now 17 years, challenging the appropriateness of traditional humanitarian assistance approaches. Further, the majority of the world’s displaced are now in urban areas. This increasingly lengthy and urban dimension of displacement pushes us to rethink how we prepare for and deliver humanitarian responses to support impacted populations equally.

The IRC knows displaced people can be assets rather than liabilities, and solutions such as employment, access to capital and productive assets, cash transfers and other business-led approaches can greatly benefit host communities and ease tensions. Improved interventions have the potential to lift all boats; those displaced have pathways to dignity and self-reliance while host communities also benefit. Furthermore, IRC believes that displaced people can and should be served through government health, education and other social systems wherever possible. With the right kind of financing provided from the international community and with appropriate accountability mechanisms, services can be strengthened to serve both hosting communities and the displaced.

The response model must evolve from establishing parallel and camp-based assistance to integrated approaches involving host governments which allow displaced people to live in dignity and to help communities weather the impact of hosting them. In order to realize this vision, humanitarian, development and local actors must break the traditional mold of responding to forced displacement and work together toward the same collective outcomes. As part of efforts to strengthen and support local and national systems to deliver for the displaced, they must also be granted sufficient rights to fully take advantage of them.

> What is our commitment?

IRC commits to advocating for and advancing thinking toward improved response mechanisms and enhanced collaboration between a wider-set of actors in response to protracted displacement. This includes:

- Leveraging our role as member of the Governing Board of the Solutions Alliance to develop guidance and leadership on how specifically UN agencies, governments, bilateral donors and NGOs can work together to establish joint outcomes, planning, budgeting, implementation and collective learning.
- Strengthening existing Solutions Alliance national groups, establishing new ones where appropriate and engaging at country level to foster greater collaboration among all stakeholders, namely governments, UN agencies, donors and civil society.
- Building platforms to connect civil society actors in search of durable solutions to displacement like the Regional Displacement Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) in the Horn of Africa.
- Leading the development of a new global initiative to improve urban displacement response – the Global Alliance for Urban Crises. This initiative will convene actors to develop practical solutions and a platform to better link humanitarian and development efforts towards collective outcomes.
- Contributing evidence-based and field-tested recommendations for improved programmatic responses to protracted and urban displacement, particularly through strengthening initiatives that support the self-reliance of refugees, IDPs and returnees and empowering their contribution to both host communities and countries of origin.
- Orienting all of our efforts toward delivering on key outcome areas critical to the lives of those affected by forced protracted displacement: Economic Wellbeing, Safety, Health, Education and Power. We will use IRC's new Outcomes and Evidence Framework (OEF)—which includes evidence-based theories of change and core indicators—as a tool aimed at ensuring real progress towards reducing vulnerability and improving the resilience, self-reliance and protection of refugees, IDPs and host communities. IRC commits to making the OEF a public resource for use by other organizations and to inform similar efforts among major donors and institutions.

- Systematically and deliberately soliciting our clients' views to inform our decision making about what assistance to provide, to whom, when, where and how. The IRC will identify the most effective and efficient ways of capturing the perspectives of our clients, generating practical, evidence-based guidance for IRC and other humanitarian organizations.

> What are we asking?

We are asking for flexible, long-term funding and investment in new models and approaches that build evidence and data around what works and take it to scale. International institutions, bilateral donors, governments hosting displaced people and NGOs must also come together to build a new “business model” for responding to forced protracted displacement that includes: (1) a commitment to shared outcomes and inclusion of the displaced in national development plans (2) emphasis on strengthening the capacity and quality of national institutions and local systems (3) a time-bound commitment to increase the use of cash assistance (4) effective interventions for protracted displacement, particularly in urban settings (5) accountability mechanisms to uphold the rights and entitlements of the displaced.

> What's worked?

In 2015 the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) adapted the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons to the Somali refugee context, using indicators to measure whether a durable solution had been achieved or which parameters were most easily improved in search of solutions. The results offered a snapshot to assess the conditions for local integration of IDPs in South and Central Somalia to be used for programming and advocacy. This baseline was also taken up by the Solutions Alliance Somalia to develop 'SAS Results Chains,' which sequence activities towards shared outcomes (Somali Peace and State-building Goals), incorporating interventions of the government, donors, development and humanitarian actors. ReDSS has since applied the Solutions Framework to Kenya and Uganda and will extend to Ethiopia in 2016. For more information see: <http://www.regionaldss.org/>

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Founded in 1933 at the call of Albert Einstein, the IRC is at work in over 40 countries and 26 U.S. cities helping people to survive, reclaim control of their future and strengthen their communities.