

Revised Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Initiative

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

DSID	Data for solutions to internal displacement
EGRIS	Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics
IDP	Internally displaced person
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDSF	Internal Displacement Solutions Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	International Recommendations on IDP Statistics
JDC	World Bank and UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
JIPS	Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service
NGO	non-governmental organizations
NSS	National Statistical System
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSA	Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement
RC	Resident Coordinator
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TOR	terms of references
UN	United Nations
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WG	Working Group

GLOSSARY

Area-based approaches²	Target the entire population living in specific geographic areas with high levels of need and take a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.
Displacement-affected communities³	Include anyone living in an area where displacement has taken place or others whose living conditions have been affected by the presence of internally displaced persons.
Durable solutions⁴	Achieved when IDPs no longer have specific assistance or protection needs linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement.
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)⁵	Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border.
IDP Stock⁶	Estimates of the number of IDPs (or persons with displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities) in a specific location at a defined moment in time. A person belongs to the stock when they meet the criteria defined in the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), namely forced movement and movement within internationally recognized state borders. At the national level, the stock is divided by three sub-stocks, corresponding to locations where IDPs may reside (displacement, return and resettlement) for the purpose of official statistics.
IRIS composite measure⁷	Statistical measure to assess whether key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome among all IDPs, including those in locations of displacement, return and resettlement, to remove those from the total stock figure of IDPs.
IRIS progress measure⁸	Statistical measure designed to show the change in the share of IDPs who have overcome vulnerabilities over time, linked to the criteria of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IASC Framework).
Official statistics⁹	Produced on behalf of the national government through the joint collection, process and dissemination through the National Statistical System (NSS), which may be comprised of a variety of government bodies, ministries, departments and agencies. These are usually collected within a legal framework and in accordance with minimum quality standards, providing a foundation for sound policymaking.
Operational data¹⁰	Collected by a range of organizations, including government ministries and humanitarian and development actors, primarily to inform decisions concerning programming, responses and resource allocation associated with humanitarian action. While not held to the same quality standards as official statistics, they may be the only type of IDP data available where there has been a recent displacement event or where NSSs are not functioning or lack significant capacity. Operational data are not always released publicly and there are likely to be inconsistencies compared with official statistics. They are sometimes used as the basis for international statistics and global estimates where no alternative exists.

² Urban Settlements Working Group, [Area-based Approaches in Urban Settings – Compendium of Case Studies](#), 2019

³ UNDP and SOAS, [Towards Development Solutions to Internal Displacement](#)

⁴ Brookings-Bern, IASC [Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#), 2010, p. 5

⁵ OCHA, [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), 1998, p. 48

⁶ EGRIS, [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics \(IRIS\)](#), 2020, p. 29, 33

⁷ Ibid, p. 51

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid, p. 74

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 74

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's [High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement report](#) (2021) and subsequent [Action Agenda](#) (2022) acknowledge the central role of high-quality data in advancing solutions to internal displacement. Effective public policies and responses are impossible without fully understanding the extent and impact of displacement. They specifically call for **government-led data systems** to ensure nationally owned prioritization and action on internal displacement and **local, national and international data partners** to support these efforts and fill in the gaps where necessary in data collection, analysis and monitoring with an intent to transition to national systems.

Across displacement contexts, there are often multiple country-level initiatives to capture information on internal displacement, including numbers of IDPs, their movements, their vulnerabilities and barriers and opportunities for solutions, which vary in scale, methodology and scope.¹¹ Even with the increasing volume and quality of data on internal displacement, a process for developing a **common understanding of the IDP situations**, particularly related to solutions, is often missing. At the same time, large-scale national surveys run by national statistical offices or development agencies may not disaggregate by IDPs or the wider displacement-affected communities, missing the opportunity to understand the nature of displacement-related vulnerabilities and incorporate those in government and development actor planning and investments. This leaves an incomplete picture of the displacement landscape and a weak foundation for identifying the right solution strategies and monitoring progress over time.

The **revised Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Initiative** focuses on supporting collective efforts to bring **alignment within the existing data landscape** and facilitate more robust and joined-up **data systems for solutions** – that allow for a reorientation of strategy, policy and programme development towards government-led solutions where possible, supported by humanitarian and development actors. It is grounded in the [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics](#) (IRIS) and aligned with ongoing efforts at the international level to improve data coherence and strengthen government-led data systems. The initiative has two main components:

- **Component 1: Outlining statistical measurements** necessary for decision-making around solutions strategies, planning and coordination, aligning to international standards and contextualized to national and sub-national priorities. These include:
 - **IDP Stock Figures** to estimate the number of IDPs in areas of displacement, return, and settlement elsewhere, disaggregated by key criteria to ensure effective national and area-based solutions planning and targeted interventions.
 - **Composite Measure** to identify the proportion of IDPs overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities, which should therefore be deducted from the IDP stock figures.
 - **Progress Measure** to monitor IDP progress towards durable solutions, comparing their status against non-displaced populations, to identify barriers to achieving durable solutions and necessary adjustments to programming strategies and implementation.
 - **Solutions Pathway Measure** to assess the number of IDPs in locations of solutions, particularly in areas of local integration and settlement elsewhere, to ensure IDP preferences are understood and prioritized in solutions planning.

¹¹ These can range from humanitarian surveillance systems, such as IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and UNHCR's Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), to programming monitoring and needs assessments focusing on programme delivery and impact on affected populations. The government may have their own administrative data systems across line ministries.

- **Component 2: Focusing on coordination and collaboration** through an identified country-level forum to address methodological decisions and alignments, build collective buy-in and agreement on solutions data, and ensure data produced is directly linked to effective planning and response. Such coordination mechanisms should involve key country-level stakeholders from government and humanitarian, development, peace, disaster risk reduction and climate agencies to facilitate a common understanding of data-driven priorities and how they can be addressed across the nexus.

Country level efforts to implement the DSID Initiative will be supported by the global DSID Working Group (WG) to help translate international guidance to the local level, produce additional methodological guidance where needed and facilitate cross-country learning. The DSID WG will specifically respond to **country requests for technical support** received through the newly formed *Hub for Coordination of Solutions to Internal Displacement* (“*Solutions Hub*”)¹² and coordinated by co-chairs of the WG to facilitate member support to countries.

¹² [Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its forty-eighth session: United Nations System-wide Approach to Internal Displacement](#), October 2024, p. 16

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTEXT

The Action Agenda laid out two commitments related to data for solutions, identifying the roles of States and international actors in improving data systems and coordination to strengthen collective action on solutions. In line with Commitment 13, a time-bound Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Taskforce was convened in November 2021 to examine opportunities and barriers to more effective use of data for solutions and to put forward a proposal to address data-specific issues and gaps – identifying the necessary data and analysis to inform solutions strategies and subsequent interventions and programming. The [Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement](#) (March 2023) offered a framework and coordination approach to improve data for solutions. It reinforced the [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics](#) (IRIS) guidance and offered the solutions pathway measure to support governments and development actors in identifying internally displaced persons (IDPs) in their preferred location of solution, specifically those wishing to integrate locally or settle elsewhere – to support targeting of investments and programming and inform solutions strategy development. The DSID Proposal was reviewed by the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the global Steering Group in June 2023, who recommended its subsequent piloting and transitioning the DSID Taskforce into a Working Group (WG) tasked with coordinating, supporting and monitoring the uptake of the DSID Proposal.

With the two-and-a-half-year mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement (OSA) ending in December 2024, a review was undertaken to **reflect on global-level efforts to implement the DSID Proposal and consider ways to improve support to countries** going forward. Seven country case studies¹³ and global consultations were conducted by an independent consultant to identify potential revisions to the DSID Proposal and the role of the global DSID WG. The review found very preliminary progress on implementing the DSID Proposal in most contexts, initiated through the set-up of dedicated country-level coordination mechanisms around data for solutions and allocated funding¹⁴ to support improved and harmonised data on internal displacement. Box 1 highlights key findings.

Box 1: Key takeaways from DSID implementation to date

- **Prompting important conversations** around coordination and joined-up efforts around data for solutions, producing initial steps in understanding the existing data landscape.
- **Challenges operationalizing key concepts** in the DSID Proposal, particularly the proposed solutions pathway stock figure. Country actors asked for more guidance on data for solutions and how to adapt to specific country realities.
- **Central role of government engagement** for IDPs and realization of solutions shapes the approach to coordination and discussions around the technical elements.
- **Primarily centring in the UN system and humanitarian actors** to date risks perpetuating divides in the data and setting up parallel systems. However, it highlights that existing UN data systems are unprepared to support or transition into government-owned efforts.
- **Lack of buy-in at the global level** due to ongoing concerns regarding the scope and approach of the DSID Proposal has affected support for county-level implementation.

¹³ Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Somalia

¹⁴ The IDSF, a funding mechanism which supports joint UN programmes to advance solutions to internal displacement under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), has been a primary mechanism for progress on collective efforts around the DSID.

The DSID Proposal has been purposefully revised and renamed the **DSID Initiative**, specifically:

- Clarifying the purpose to strengthen complementarity to existing international efforts
- Simplifying the language and presentation of technical elements to improve accessibility
- Expanding the guidance around coordination to provide more practical steps forward in line with international best practices and reflecting learning from the case studies

As a multi-stakeholder coordination forum, the new iteration of the **global DSID WG** will focus on providing more targeted, catalytic country-level support for producing and using data for solutions. This will include coordinating technical support to countries and facilitating cross-country learning and knowledge exchange. The scope includes developing guidance for elements unique to the DSID Initiative, including methodological clarification of the solutions pathways measure based on data users' needs, in particular the UN and its partners, and the **IASC/UNSDG Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement**, a leading reference for the implementation of solutions work.

This document has gone through a review process with existing members of the global DSID WG. However, this should be considered a working document and updated regularly based on country-level engagement around its implementation, specifically government actors. The global WG is responsible for monitoring feedback on the DSID Initiative to ensure it informs the future efforts and priorities of the DSID WG.

1.2 PURPOSE

The **revised DSID Initiative** focuses on ensuring **available data**¹⁵ complements and bolsters efforts under the government to build a **more unified approach to measuring** solutions to internal displacement and incorporate priority areas, specifically highlighted in national and sub-national solution strategies and action plans. It supports collective efforts at the country level to improve data for solutions by **improving coherence** within the data landscape to support monitoring progress on solutions that are context-specific and embedded in government priorities, and **supporting the transition** to government-led data systems, including monitoring and evaluation frameworks related to solution strategies

This initiative recognizes that governments, together with all partners, need **more timely data** to support solutions strategy development, implementation of existing solutions programming and identification of where additional investments are needed in the short and medium term. This requires bringing together official statistics from national statistical systems (NSS) where possible and data produced by local, national and international partners to understand the displacement landscape. Due to the different data needs and purposes of these various actors, the way forward is to **actively define the complementarity** of various data efforts, strengthen discussions between data users and producers of the types of data needed and, importantly, ensure that country-specific data for solutions efforts build on existing international and national frameworks and standards.

This initiative includes two components explicitly grounded in the IRIS, the first internationally endorsed statistical framework to improve the production, coordination, and dissemination of official statistics on IDPs that are consistent over time and comparable between regions and countries. Bringing broader

¹⁵ Specifically, data not currently contributing to official statistics on IDPs. This may be primarily humanitarian-led operational data, but other available data sources are also considered.

alignment among data actors improves the quality and interoperability of the data landscape for solutions and a stronger foundation for developing nationally owned systems.

- **Component 1: Statistical measurements** to enable effective decision-making around solutions strategies, planning and coordination, requiring contextualization to national and sub-national realities and alignment with international standards
- **Component 2: Coordination approach** to address methodological decisions and alignments, build collective buy-in and agreement on solutions data, and ensure data produced is directly linked to effective planning and response – involving key country-level stakeholders from government and humanitarian, development and peace organizations (and where appropriate disaster risk reduction and climate change actors).

The DSID Initiative should be facilitated by Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) of internal displacement-affected countries/contexts in collaboration with local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national and sub-national authorities, through designated **country-level coordination mechanisms**. Approaches to engaging with the government on data will require adaptation based on the specificities of each context and governments' willingness and commitment to address internal displacement in line with international standards.¹⁶

Box 2: Definition of Durable Solution for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)¹⁷

*A **durable solution** is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance, and protection needs linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination. It can be achieved through:*

- *Sustainable reintegration in their place of origin (return),*
- *Sustainable local integration in the places where IDPs take refuge (local integration), or*
- *Sustainable integration in another part of the country (settlement elsewhere).*

The following eight criteria may be used to determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved: safety and security; adequate standard of living; access to livelihoods; restoration of housing, land and property; access to documentation; family reunification; participation in public affairs; and access to effective remedies and justice.

¹⁶ Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, [Shining a light on internal displacement: a vision for the future](#), September 2021

¹⁷ Brookings-Bern, IASC [Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#), April 2010

3. DSID INITIATIVE

In line with the Action Agenda, for progress to be achieved on internal displacement, solutions must go beyond humanitarian action and be recognized as a development and peace priority. National and local authorities must take the lead supported by the broader humanitarian, peace, and development community, including the UN system. Planning for solutions must begin at the outset of crisis response and be effectively pursued through joined-up efforts across these key partners under government leadership.

The DSID Initiative aims to support these efforts by helping to facilitate a reorientation towards solutions, using the common statistical framework established by IRIS to apply to operational data not currently used in official statistics and outlining coordination strategies to align diverse efforts. It specifically recommends that country teams work towards better data and regular monitoring of key dimensions of internal displacement and solutions, as summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Recommended measurements for data for solutions

Measure	Purpose
IDP stock figure¹⁸	- Ensure accurate and operationally useful figures, particularly at the area level, through coordination of data sources and necessary disaggregation - Align to IRIS guidance to improve data coherence and the quality and accessibility of operational data
Composite measure¹⁹	- Ensure accurate IDP figures by identifying exits from the stock. - Use as operational measure to support programmatic planning and resource allocations. - Align to IRIS guidance to improve data coherence and the quality and accessibility of operational data
Progress measure²⁰	- Monitor progress toward overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities for timely adjustment of programming strategies and implementation - Identify key barriers to achieving solutions and existing inequalities between IDPs, host and return communities - Understand the eco-system of solutions including the implementation of laws and policies and government solutions strategies - Align to IRIS guidance to improve data coherence and the quality and accessibility of operational data
Solutions pathway measure²¹	- Identify the perspectives of IDPs on solutions to support better alignment of solutions-oriented interventions - Inform steps that can support different solutions, including local integration, where needed, for formation of national solutions strategies, sub-national action plans and medium to longer-term development action - Newly created measure to be adapted to country-specific needs

¹⁸ See IRIS, Chapter 3

¹⁹ See IRIS, Chapter 4 and [Towards a harmonized statistical measure for exits from the stock of internally displaced persons](#), August 2023. EGRIS is currently working to further refine the Composite Measure.

²⁰ See IRIS, Chapter 4; EGRIS currently working to further refine the Progress Measure. UNDP and JIPS have produced [Monitoring progress towards solutions to internal displacement: A development-oriented indicator framework](#) (2024), which focuses on understanding whether institutional frameworks and governance mechanisms are leading to solutions.

²¹ New measure proposed by the DSID Initiative which requires further clarification based on discussions with country-level actors.

The foundation of the DSID Initiative is harmonizing data through partnerships and collaborations, including defining shared indicators and facilitating joint assessments. Acknowledging the often-diverse purposes of operational data, coordination should identify ways to align existing sources and establish an agreement on the available data for solutions, existing gaps and priority indicators. The coordination section specifically aims to identify priority collaborative actions to move forward on consolidating necessary data and ensuring that data is used and applied.

3.1 STATISTICAL MEASUREMENTS: NECESSARY DATA POINTS FOR SOLUTIONS

The following outline statistical measures for data on solutions and specific challenges to be addressed through the DSID coordination approach. The first **three are specific to the IRIS**, offering a strong foundation for improving the quality of operational data to inform joined-up planning and programming on solutions and support linkages to more nationally owned data systems. EGRISS is continuing to develop guidance and refine the methodology for collecting statistics on IDPs, including on the composite and progress measures. As discussed in Section 3.2, implementing such measures at the country level requires strong coordination and agreement on indicators and methodologies.

The OSA introduced the concept of solutions pathways to define the active movement towards resolving internal displacement through government-led, development-supported efforts.²² The introduction of the **solution pathway measure** aims to support the implementation of the OSA guidance by defining IDPs on a pathway to solutions to internal displacement. The global DSID WG will work on further developing this measure by identifying the added value based on country-level needs and complementary to IRIS, particularly the composite and progress measures.

3.1.1 IDP STOCK FIGURES: UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF DISPLACEMENT

The IRIS established standard IDP terminology and classifications based on the [UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) (1997). The IDP stock figure²³ includes all IDPs who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities at a defined moment in time, which is divided into three sub-stocks:

- IDPs in locations of displacement
- IDPs in locations of return
- IDPs in other settlement locations

Disaggregated data, including by sex, age, and other diversity characteristics, based on the priorities of the national context, are **necessary for effective national and area-based solutions planning** to understand the nature, size and composition of IDP populations. Disaggregation by geographic location based on relevant administrative units used for planning is particularly critical.

The challenges around consistent data on IDPs are the lack of geographic coverage and the required disaggregation, often due to sampling limitations. Further, IDP figures are often contested due to a lack of alignment across data sources and agreement around methodological approaches. For example, there are often tensions between humanitarian data systems that rely on key informants and the lack of longitudinally

²² [Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its forty-eighth session: United Nations System-wide Approach to Internal Displacement](#), October 2024

²³ IRIS, Chapter 3

sound government data. Most importantly, political considerations among national and international actor incentivize reliance and adherence to these different approaches to defining IDP figures.²⁴

The IRIS specifically speaks to the advantages and limitations of various sources in determining stock figures and the **value of integrating various sources** to provide a complete picture of IDP stocks.²⁵ Limitations in existing data sources means identifying complementarity and triangulating is necessary in the short term to ensure a comprehensive picture of the data landscape. Targeted efforts are needed at the country and area level to improve the quality and availability of IDP figures and coherence across data systems. The UN and related stakeholders have a role, particularly in contexts where official statistics are unavailable.

3.1.2 COMPOSITE MEASURE: EXITING THE IDP STOCK

Defining when people exit the stock is necessary for accurate IDP figures. The IASC Framework defines the end of displacement as **when IDPs no longer have specific protection or assistance needs related to their displacement**, despite the location of the displaced person – whether in a location of local integration, return or settlement elsewhere. The IRIS recommends using this definition and identifies five priority IASC criteria and ten priority sub-criteria (Table 2) to determine when key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome. The composite measure assesses the overall situation of IDPs, aggregating the results across the key criteria to identify exits from the internally displaced population count. While based on individual or household data, the IRIS makes clear that it should not be used to make decisions about the displacement status of individuals.

Table 2: IASC criteria and sub-criteria to measure exit from the IDP stock²⁶

Criteria	Sub-criteria
1. Safety and security	1.1 Victims of violence 1.2 Freedom of movement
2. Adequate standard of living	2.1 Food security 2.2 Shelter and housing 2.3 Medical services 2.4 Education
3. Access to livelihoods	3.1 Employment and livelihoods 3.2 Economic security
4. Housing, land and property	4.1 Property restitution and compensation
5. Personal and other documentation	5.1 Documentation

EGRIS continues to refine this approach, but some critical challenges to implementing the measure have been outlined in their recent methodology paper: [Towards a harmonized statistical measure for exits from the stock of internally displaced persons](#) (2023). These include a lack of agreed-upon statistical indicators for the 10 sub-criteria, a definition of a comparator population, and means to factor in any humanitarian assistance IDPs receive.

²⁴ Natalia Baal and Laura Ronkainen, [Obtaining representative data on IDPs: challenges and recommendations](#), April 2017

²⁵ IRIS, Chapter 6

²⁶ IRIS, p. 52

3.1.3 PROGRESS MEASURE: MONITORING PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING DISPLACEMENT-RELATED VULNERABILITIES

Measuring progress towards solutions has increasingly become a part of data collection activities, using the [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions](#) (see Table 3) as the starting point to monitor a displacement situation in a country over time and identify progress made. The **progress measure**, as outlined in the IRIS,²⁷ aims to assess how far the IDP population has progressed in overcoming their displacement-related vulnerabilities. Using a set of indicators representing the IASC criteria, the measure **compares the IDP population** (or sub-populations) against a **comparator population or benchmark** to standardise the measurement of progress towards durable solutions, identifying when IDPs have performed similarly, better or worse. This allows decision-makers to understand which aspects of vulnerability IDPs struggle with compared to others and better address policy areas and programmatic approaches that need revision. As such, **it is a critical piece for regular, ongoing solutions monitoring at both the national and sub-national levels**; it can provide key insights into an area-based approach.²⁸

Table 3: IASC criteria and identified sub-criteria in the IRIS²⁹

Criteria	Sub-criteria
1. Safety and security	1.1 Victims of violence 1.2 Freedom of movement 1.3 Protection mechanisms 1.4 Disaster risk reduction
2. Adequate standard of living	2.1 Food security 2.2 Shelter and housing 2.3 Medical services 2.4 Education
3. Access to livelihoods	3.1 Employment and livelihoods 3.2 Economic security
4. Housing, land and property	4.1 Property restitution and compensation
5. Personal and other documentation	5.1 Documentation
6. Family reunification	6.1 Voluntary reunification 6.2 Reunification and tracing services
7. Participation in public affairs	7.1 Public affairs 7.2 Right to vote 7.3 Right to engage in public service
8. Access to effective remedies	8.1 Remedies and justice

Internationally, the [Interagency Durable Solutions Indicator Library and Analysis Guide](#) (2018) was developed under the leadership of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons to operationalize the IASC criteria into measurable indicators, including references to Sustainable

²⁷ IRIS, Chapter 4

²⁸ Area Based Approach puts people's capacities and priorities at the centre of the response, building on existing government structures where possible, and working in partnership with local government and communities to effectively meet people's holistic needs. In this bottom-up approach, communities are central to defining a response that is tailored to reflect and fulfil their recovery needs.

²⁹ IRIS, p. 45

Development Goals (SDGs). At the country level, while similarities may exist across different surveys to measure progress towards solutions, there is often a lack of an **agreed-upon list of indicators** or coverage of all criteria relevant to the country context, along with other methodological challenges, such as different IDP definitions used to identify IDPs in surveys. These indicators may be disconnected from government priorities articulated in national and sub-national action plans and strategies. Further, as highlighted in the discussion of the composite measure, **assistance received** by IDPs should be factored into the analysis of progress along these indicators.

There is no definitive guidance on **determining the comparator population** and means to consider the compounding factors that may affect comparability between populations, such as demographic characteristics. A methodology paper from EGRISS on the topic from EGRISS is forthcoming. IRIS recommends using national averages (or any benchmark based on the total relevant population for each specific indicator), which is particularly valuable for national policy and decision-making. However, at the local area level, focusing on the surrounding community provides valuable analysis for local-level decision-making and planning.

In line with the Action Agenda the IASC/UNSDG Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement and their call for government-led, development-anchored solutions, finding durable solutions to internal displacement also requires understanding linkages with **sustainable development, governance, peace and, increasingly, the impacts of climate change** and whether the institutional frameworks and governance mechanisms are conducive to solutions. This requires additional indicators and methodology to measure states' commitments and intermediary efforts to provide insights into the structural changes needed to reach desired sustainable solutions for IDPs. This can ensure tracking and assessment of linkages between the governance and investment environment on the one hand and the lives of those affected by internal displacement on the other. UNDP and JIPS have developed a [development-oriented indicator framework and methodological guidance](#) based on the IASC Framework, which might support UNCTs to more systematically monitor the enabling environment and implementation of laws and policies and support solutions strategy development, including associated monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

3.1.4 SOLUTIONS PATHWAYS MEASURE: CENTRING ON IDP PREFERENCES

The OSA's concept of solutions pathways requires several core elements, including government leadership and political will, national and sub-national solutions strategies and financing frameworks, and ultimately the views and priorities of IDPs themselves.³⁰ The proposed new measure – IDPs in a pathway to solutions – focuses on identifying IDPs in **locations of their preferred solution** (return, local integration or settlement elsewhere) and assessing their **level of progress towards solutions**, towards sustainable local integration. Dependent on the context, this measure can prompt important technical and political discussions to support a mindset shift around internal displacement and ensure a **clear transition plan** from crisis response to solutions-oriented programming, particularly in protracted situations.

Voluntary returns to areas of origin have long been considered the “preferred” solution for internal displacement by governments and the humanitarian community, often aligned with stabilization and rehabilitation efforts in those locations. The local integration preference, and often only option, for IDPs continues to increase, particularly in contexts of protracted crisis and increasing urbanisation. However,

³⁰ [Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its forty-eighth session: United Nations System-wide Approach to Internal Displacement](#), October 2024

clearly defining and measuring local integration is challenging and often political.³¹ Yet, capturing IDPs in the location of return and resettlement, as well as IDPs who wish to integrate locally, ensures visibility for all three solutions and reflection on the specific programmatic and policy needs of each.

The IASC Framework makes clear that durable solutions programming should be based on understanding the “actual preferences of IDPs” and the factors that may influence those. More clearly **identifying the perspectives of IDPs** can support better alignment of solutions-oriented interventions. At this stage, the DSID Initiative highlights two entry points for the solutions pathway measure:

1. At a minimum, the **inclusion of IDP preferences and plans** as key variables in solutions analysis is necessary, as identified in the *Interagency Durable Solutions Indicator Library*. Together with the measures outlined above, these are critical elements for holistically informing the conception of solutions pathways, with elements of government commitments.
2. A more **complex measurement of steps towards local integration** may be needed based on identified national and/or sub-national priorities linked to developing government solutions strategies and sub-national action plans or specific programmatic needs, such as ensuring more inclusive and targeted urban development programming for municipalities. This may incorporate elements of IDP intentions, duration of displacement, and minimum standards linked to IASC criteria, which indicate steps towards integration. This will identify when an IDP is on a pathway

As noted above, the global DSID WG will focus on defining this measure as complementary to and in line with the IRIS. This includes ensuring the identification of IDPs in locations of local integration is a sub-category of “IDPs in displacement” as defined by the IRIS, thus not in conflict with efforts to measure exits from the stock.

3.2 COORDINATION APPROACH: ALIGNING THE DATA LANDSCAPE AROUND SOLUTIONS

While various efforts contribute to producing solution data, they are often not optimally coordinated. Government-led coordination of data activities should be prioritized both in terms of the division of labour between international and national actors and the government and within the government itself, across ministries and national and state efforts. The DSID Initiative supports the alignment of efforts towards data for solutions and national ownership of the process through several priority actions to address data fragmentation, identify data priorities, and facilitate data sharing and use.

3.2.1 IDENTIFYING THE COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR DATA FOR SOLUTIONS

A **dedicated platform** for data for solutions is often necessary for aligning efforts across agencies and relevant government actors. This can be through establishing or capacitating an existing **coordination mechanism**, such as a Solutions Working Group or similar structure, which includes a **technical sub-working data group** that can support the development of government/UN solutions strategies, mapping and joint analysis of existing data and agree on priority data needed. These should not reinforce a humanitarian-centred focus; rather, bring humanitarian, development, peace, disaster risk reduction and climate change actors, where relevant, together to identify where synergies lie.

³¹ The IRIS stock figure identifies “IDPs in displacement” without guiding how to distinguish those who wish to integrate locally. Additional guidance from EGRIS as a multi-stakeholder group commissioned by the UN Statistical Commission would be welcome.

As highlighted in the IRIS, this coordination structure should be **led by the relevant government ministry**, including all data producers and users related to internal displacement, such as ministries and agencies related to disaster management, planning, finance, interior, social protection and national statistics. This will ensure better alignment between government priorities and UN-related data initiatives. A strengthened NSS should be the long-term goal through involvement in data collection processes relevant to IDPs and transitioning operational data to official statistics where relevant.³² This space offers the opportunity to lay the groundwork for that process.

Box 3: Connecting data production and data use from the beginning

Critical to data for solutions to internal displacement is articulating what the data needs are at the national and sub-national level from the beginning – this requires close collaboration across relevant actors to align data production with its eventual use, including specific strategies, policies and interventions. While technical working groups may be composed of data experts to sort out the necessary methodological issues, ongoing and intentional engagement with decision-makers is necessary to ensure the data and analysis produced align with programme and policy needs.

3.2.2 STANDARDIZING DEFINITIONS AND APPROACHES

A critical first step is improving the alignment of terminology, concepts, definitions, and methodological approaches. This will allow various data efforts to better communicate with each other and create a more coherent picture of the displacement context. Fortunately, efforts to standardize and align information on internal displacement have been ongoing internationally, particularly as highlighted in the work of EGRIS, providing a foundation for country-level alignment conversations. Box 4 provides a list of relevant resources.

Box 4: Relevant international resources on internal displacement data

- [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#) (2010) outlines the concept of durable solutions, provides guidance on achieving them and defines the eight criteria to assess progress.
- [Interagency Durable Solutions Indicator Library](#) and [Analysis Guide](#) (2018) with a set of indicators (aligned with the SDGs where relevant), a library of survey questions and guide to facilitate practical and comprehensive approaches to durable solutions analysis.
- [International Recommendations on IDP Statistics](#) (IRIS) (2020) with guidance on standardising terminology and classifications, measurements and coordination around official IDP statistics. Official translations are available in English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Russian with unofficial translations in Ukrainian and Kurdish forthcoming.
 - [Recommendations at a Glance: IRIS](#) (2024) for an overview of the key elements in the IRIS.
 - [Compilers' Manual](#) (2023) with guidance on the inclusion of IDPs in various sources of data, such as government administrative data, population census and national sample surveys.
 - [Standard identification approach to IDPs in household surveys](#) (2023) to better compare results across different data collection exercises. The module will be refined based on country experience with implementation.

³² IRIS, Chapter 7

- [Statistical measure for exits from the IDP stock](#) (2023) by determining when individuals overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities. This will be further refined.
- [E-Learning course](#) (2024) by EGRISS introducing international recommendations on refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics. Module 3 specifically focuses on the IRIS and can be taken as a standalone module.
- [Initiating implementation of the IRIS at Country Level: A Pocket Guide for National Statistical Systems](#) provides six key steps to establish a system to produce IDP statistics.
- [Monitoring progress towards solutions to internal displacement: A development-oriented indicator framework](#) (2024) includes indicators to assess whether conditions that allow solutions to be possible and sustainable are in place.

In particular, using a standardized **IDP identification** in all IDP-related operational data collection in the country, including intention surveys, needs assessments and durable solutions surveys, would strengthen the foundation for comparability and complementarity of different data sources – within and across countries. EGRISS recently released an [IDP identification module](#) to capture IDPs in household surveys, which provides a useful starting point.³³ The questions are a statistical interpretation of the definition from the Guiding Principles, including **six questions** which enable the categorisation of IDPs into three sub-stocks: IDPs in locations of displacement, locations of return and other settlement locations.

One caveat is that it does not exclude IDPs who have overcome their key displacement-related vulnerabilities, specifically those who have locally integrated, returned and reintegrated and settled elsewhere and integrated.

The definition of IDPs and their location in humanitarian response or national laws and policies may differ from the one proposed by IRIS, requiring discussion around the process of aligning with the definition or contextualising it to the country context.³⁴ However, the latter effort requires careful consideration of the impact on IDPs and a stronger push towards aligning with international standards. This collective process of developing and agreeing on standards offers a strong foundation for aligning and understanding the value and role of different data sets and their complementarity.

3.2.3 AGREEING ON INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGIES

At the country level, agreeing on common indicators and metrics between data producers and users is necessary to establish a baseline, set the foundation for the progress and exit measures, and determine criteria for the solutions pathway measure if pursued. This includes determining which indicators represent each of the IASC sub-criteria based on the specificities of the displacement context and close collaboration with a wide range of actors – to **ensure the resulting data links with specific strategies, policies and interventions** (Box 3). Government and humanitarian, development, peace, disaster risk reduction and climate actors should be involved to facilitate a shared understanding of priorities and how they can be addressed across the nexus. It should build from the following:

- **IASC criteria and sub-criteria:** The [Interagency Durable Solutions Indicator Library](#) is an important starting point for identifying and adapting the most relevant indicators.

³³ EGRISS is planning to update this methodological paper in 2025.

³⁴ JIPS, [Initiating Implementation of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics \(IRIS\) at Country Level: A Pocket Guide for National Statistical Systems \(NSS\)](#)

- **Government priorities:** These may be articulated in solutions-related strategies, current IDP programming, and potentially existing monitoring and evaluation frameworks that include relevant indicators.
- **Contextual factors:** Other factors may not be adequately captured in the IASC criteria but remain necessary to understand sustainable progress towards solutions, particularly those relevant to development and peace actors, such as social cohesion. This could include indicators assessing the conduciveness of the environment for solutions, which are critical to decision-making around solutions.³⁵

Based on this determination, the necessary **methodologies to establish IDPs on a pathway** toward solutions should be established, if needed, specifically ensuring collective agreement on the approach and that the necessary data points can be captured.

3.2.4 MAPPING DATA SOURCES AND COVERAGE

A comprehensive mapping of all potential data sources informing IDP stock figures and priority solutions indicators – and their relative geographic coverage and disaggregation – provides an entry point into fostering a common understanding of **existing data gaps and complementarity** across actors. This needs to include the government administrative data across relevant line ministries, along with various efforts through humanitarian and development actors, as an entry point into understanding opportunities for building complementarity. The mapping should also include potential sources of data, assessing where including an IDP identification module could offer improved social and economic information on IDPs and engaging area-based approaches in aligning to key indicators to better track progress overtime.

Evaluating potential data sources should use standard quality assurance measures and consider methodology for comparison across sources.³⁶ Yet as the DSID Initiative's focus is not on producing official statistics, but rather support for timely decision-making around solutions, a less rigorous assessment can be used in the short term as effort is focused on building the availability and quality of necessary data over time. However, **sound data sharing and protection procedures** should be in place. This coordination should aim to facilitate **improved data sharing and accessibility**, including related metadata and data collection methodologies.

3.2.5 FACILITATING JOINED-UP APPROACHES TO DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

A collaborative approach to data collection and analysis is fundamental to data for solutions, considering the many resource and data limitations across contexts. This requires identifying a **division of labour** between various data systems producing information on IDPs and the different objectives they inform – in both the short and long term as more comprehensive, government-led systems are developed. JIPS has produced a technical brief, [Information Landscape Mapping: Enhancing Data-Based Decision Making in Internal Displacement Contexts](#) (2023), which is useful in analyzing the data ecosystem. Identifying gaps provides an entry point into **joint data collection** or reflection on **data integration** to fill those gaps.

This process brings together datasets and other information from humanitarian, development, and peace partners and governments, providing an opportunity for **joint analysis** and bringing different perspectives to

³⁵ UNDP and JIPS, [Monitoring progress towards solutions to internal displacement: A development-oriented indicator framework](#), September 2024

³⁶ Quality assurance can be based on the United Nations Statistical Division's National Quality Assurance Framework (NQA)12.

the policy and programmatic implications. Specific consideration should be given to the methods and process of joint analysis. For additional guidance on joint analysis processes, see the [Joint Analysis Guide](#) (2021) and [Technical Brief on Joint Structured Analysis Techniques](#) (2021, produced by JIPS).

3.2.6 BUILDING CAPACITY OF NATIONAL DATA SYSTEMS AND DATA USERS

Improved coordination across all relevant actors responsible for displacement data is a key action in building a shared understanding of data for solutions and necessary actions to improve the quality and availability of data. This requires **capacity strengthening** within the existing data systems to focus on the necessary skills, knowledge and capacities to facilitate joint planning, data collection and analysis. However, for government-led data management systems, inclusion of IDPs will often come in the context of addressing more fundamental capacity gaps, such as improving **data interoperability and coordination across government ministries**. Despite the increased attention given to national data systems with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and recent push to make official statistics and data sources more inclusive to ensure visibility for the most vulnerable, including IDPs,³⁷ this challenge remains significant.

The starting point is ensuring a holistic view of the entire data system and considering necessary steps towards government-led data management systems, based on existing willingness and capacity. A key part is **strengthening learning and exchange** between and across government institutions and international actors to continue growing the body of best practices on IDP data in the country. This includes building **data literacy** to ensure that the data produced is used accurately and intentionally to inform approaches to solutions.

³⁷ For example, UNHCR, [Data disaggregation of SDG indicators by forced displacement](#), 2020 and EGRIS, [Capturing Priority SDG Indicators in Refugee, Internal Displacement and Statelessness Contexts](#), 2024