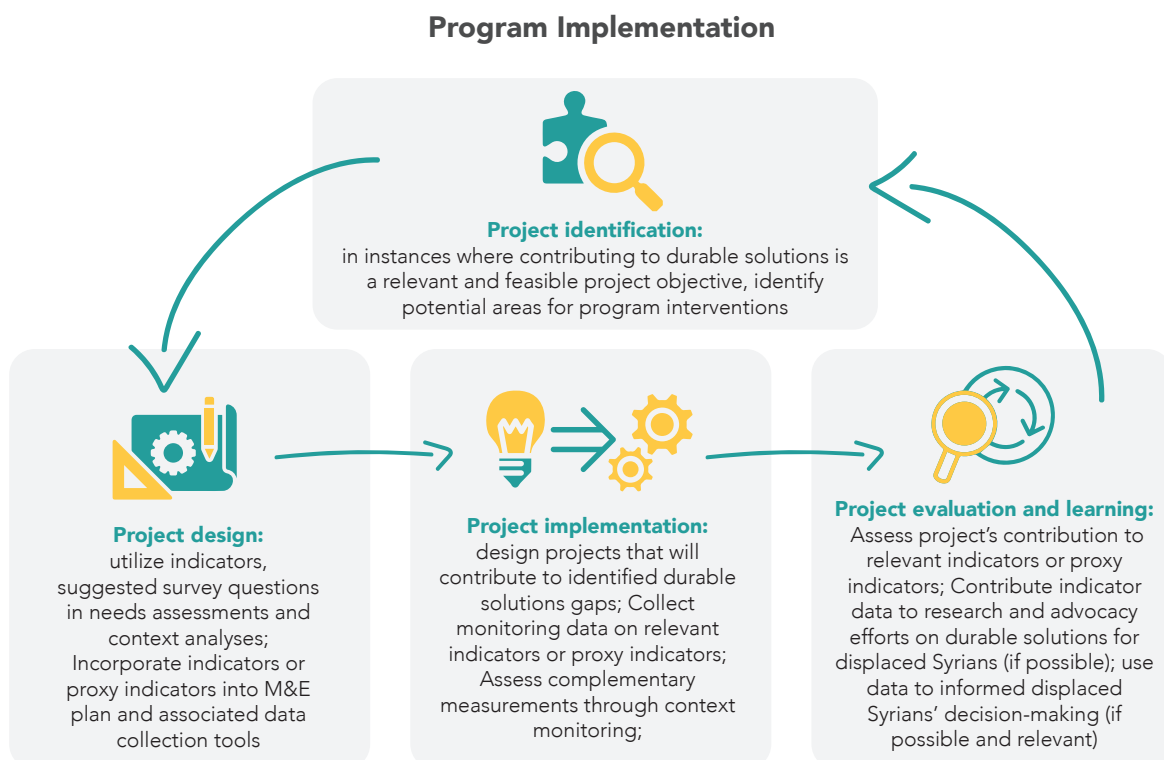# SYRIA ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The Analytical Framework draws its design and indicators from the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, the ReDSS Solutions Framework, JIPS Durable Solutions Indicator Library, the INGO Durable Solutions Indicator Framework, and UNHCR's Protection Thresholds and Parameters for Refugee Return to Syria. Its purpose is to put forth a framework that is specific to the Syria displacement context, and can be used to assess progress towards durable solutions for displaced Syrians both inside and outside the country.

This framework is an analytical tool that helps researchers, monitoring and evaluation teams, and other actors to better incorporate a durable solutions lens into their methodologies, research tool design, report writing, and other efforts aimed at increasing knowledge on displacement in the Syria context. It is appropriate for use both inside Syria as well as in nearby states hosting Syrian refugees. By creating a shared set of indicators by which organizations can collect data on and assess progress towards durable solutions, this framework is intended to not only increase the analytic rigor of individual research efforts, but also contribute to an information landscape where evidence on durable solutions is being gathered in a meaningful and mutually intelligible manner. As more organizations collect and share durable solutions data according to a shared framework, the more data can be combined to monitor progress towards durable solutions for displaced Syrians.

FRAMEWORK APPLICATIONS

This framework can be utilized by both research and programming specialists, and may be of use throughout both research and project cycles. Below are some suggestions for incorporating aspects of the framework at each step of these cycles, should actors choose to do so:

Program Implementation

Project identification: in instances where contributing to durable solutions is a relevant and feasible project objective, identify potential areas for program interventions

Project design: utilize indicators, suggested survey questions in needs assessments and context analyses; Incorporate indicators or proxy indicators into M&E plan and associated data collection tools

Project implementation: design projects that will contribute to identified durable solutions gaps; Collect monitoring data on relevant indicators or proxy indicators; Assess complementary measurements through context monitoring;

Project evaluation and learning: Assess project's contribution to relevant indicators or proxy indicators; Contribute indicator data to research and advocacy efforts on durable solutions for displaced Syrians (if possible); use data to informed displaced Syrians' decision-making (if possible and relevant)

Displacement and Durable Solutions Research

Research design:
use framework to inform research data collection methodology and analytical approach; design data collection tools that capture information on indicators or proxy indicators;

Data collection:
use suggested indicators and complementary measurements to guide literature review; utilize suggested survey questions if relevant to do so

Analysis and report writing:
assess progress towards relevant indicators for the given area(s) or population(s)

Research dissemination and advocacy:
contribute data to relevant clusters and working groups (if possible and relevant); share data with project implementors (if possible and relevant); use data to inform displacement policies and planning (if possible and relevant);

USING THE FRAMEWORK

Indicators

The framework has two columns of indicators: one for assessing conditions inside Syria, and one for assessing conditions in neighboring host states such as Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, or Egypt. While the majority of indicators are the same in both contexts, some are context-specific. For example, while the prevalence of *refoulement* is assessed in host states, it is a cross-border phenomenon and therefore not relevant inside Syria.

If one is wishing to conduct a holistic assessment of durable solutions conditions for a given area or population, it is suggested that all indicators are utilized so as to obtain a full picture of relevant physical, psycho-social, material, and legal dimensions affecting a target population. However, in the case of a specific project, or more targeted thematic research, it is possible to only utilize the indicators, survey questions, and proxy indicators that are relevant to the task at hand. For example, a livelihoods researcher wishing to add a durable solutions lens to their work may focus on indicators related to material safety. Similarly, the M&E team of an education intervention may wish to measure indicators related to education only, and choose to monitor these indicators over the course of their project's lifespan.

Research design

Conducting research on durable solutions in the Syria displacement context can often be sensitive, particularly if collecting information from displaced Syrians themselves. In all cases, it is essential that researchers assess the **protection risks** of collecting information on a given indicator in their given context. In some cases, in order to minimize protection risks, it is suggested that data on an indicator be collected through key informant interviews and literature review rather than from the target population itself.

The word **target population** is used throughout this framework, and means *the total population living in a displacement-affected community* – both displaced (IDPs or refugees) and non-displaced households. Progress towards any one durable solutions indicator can be calculated by comparing measurements for displaced Syrians against their non-displaced counterparts. The discrepancy (or lack thereof) between displaced and non-displaced members is the primary measure by which progress towards durable solutions can be assessed.

When the displaced population experiences equal physical, psycho-social, legal, and material safety conditions as their non-displaced counterparts, as defined by the indicator matrix below, a durable solution to that population's displacement can be assessed to have occurred. However, it is important to note that both inside and outside Syria, conditions may occur where both displaced and non-displaced community members are experiencing similar levels of vulnerability, where they are unable to achieve key safety thresholds. In such cases, even if both displaced and non-displaced populations are assessed to be experiencing similar conditions, a durable solution has not been achieved.

Displacement status is the key level of disaggregation when assessing progress towards durable solutions. However, when possible to do so, **gender and age** disaggregated data should also be collected and assessed, along with other demographics as needed. Where relevant, **other disaggregation** may be advisable, such as ethnic, religious, place of origin, or other dimensions.

This framework is a tool for organizations to generate data that can be cross-analyzed across organizations and research initiatives. To maximize data interoperability, the framework includes suggestions for **survey questions, additional proxy indicators, and other complementary measurements**.

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Indicators: Inside Syria	Indicators: Hosting Countries	Suggested Survey Questions	Suggested Proxy Indicators and Complementary Measurements
Physical Safety		1. Proportion of target population experiencing imposed or self-imposed restrictions to their freedom of movement. 2. Proportion of target population who report that they, or a relative or friend, have been subjected to physical violence[i] in the previous 12 months. 3. Proportion of target population who report that they, or a relative or friend, have been subjected to sexual or gender-based violence in the previous 12 months.[ii] 4. Proportion of target population feeling safe in their place of residence. 5.a. Proportion of target population who report feeling concerns about future (further) displacement or forced return/relocation[iii] 6. Proportion of target population concerned that they, or a relative or friend, are at risk of forced conscription or recruitment into armed groups, including the Syrian Arab Army.	1. Proportion of target population experiencing imposed or self-imposed restrictions to their freedom of movement. 2. Proportion of target population who report that they, or a relative or friend, have been subjected to physical violence[iv] in the previous 12 months. 3. Proportion of target population who report that they, or a relative or friend, have been subjected to sexual or gender-based violence in the previous 12 months.[v] 4. Proportion of target population feeling safe in their place of residence. 5.b. Proportion of target population who report feeling concerns about future (further) displacement or forced return/relocation, including *refoulement* to Syria	***Assess protection risks before asking any question in this framework*** 1.a. "Do you or your family members experience restrictions on your movement(s) in your community and surrounding area? If yes, why?" 1.b. "Do you or your family members modify or restrict your movement(s) in your community or the surrounding area? If yes, why?" 2. "Have you, and/or a close family member or friend, experienced physical violence or harm in the past year? If yes, and you feel comfortable to do so, please provide details." 3. Unlikely to receive accurate survey responses. Utilize proxy indicators. 4. "Do you feel safe in your place of residence?" 5. "Are you afraid that you, a relative, or close friend is in danger of being forcibly returned to Syria? If yes, why?" 6. "Are you aware of any past or current conscription campaigns in the community?"	1. Qualitative experiences of checkpoints and other security mechanisms; existence of policies and practices restricting movement 2. Total reported incidents of targeted violence, compiled by analysis units and human rights monitors; Qualitative experiences of physical violence gathered across all indicators 3. Total reported incidents of SGBV compiled by human rights monitors, by number and type; qualitative experiences of SGBV 4. Total reported safety incidents compiled by analysis units and human rights monitors, by number and type 5. Total reported incidents of *refoulement*, compiled by border crossings (such as Bab al-Hawa) and human rights monitors; total reported incidents of forced population movement within borders 6. Total reported forced recruitment incidents compiled by analysis units and human rights monitors, by number and type; existence of coercive recruitment policies and practices; qualitative experiences of forced recruitment

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Indicators: Inside Syria	Indicators: Hosting Countries	Suggested Survey Questions	Suggested Proxy Indicators and Complementary Measurements
Psycho-social Safety	**Social Support Networks**	7. Proportion of target population claiming to have access to social support networks. 8. Proportion of target population who report feeling part of their community.	7. Proportion of target population claiming to have access to social support networks. 8. Proportion of target population who report feeling part of their community.	7. "Do you have a person in your community that you can go to for help if needed?" 8. "How close do you feel to people in your community?"	7. Existence of community centers and/or community-based protection schemes such as collaboratives, parent-teacher associations, etc 8. Demographic clustering within a given community; existence of policies and regulations that prevent integration of different demographic groups (i.e. by restricting movement, property ownership, or rental contracts in or to certain areas)
	Discrimination	9. Proportion of target population reporting having been discriminated against[vi] in the past 12 months.	9. Proportion of target population reporting having been discriminated against[vii] in the past 12 months.	9. "Have you, a family member, or a close friend been discriminated against in the past 12 months? If yes, why do you think this happened?"	9. Qualitative accounts of discriminatory practices; host community perceptions of the displaced population
	Access to information	10. Proportion of the displaced population reporting having access to timely, reliable information relevant to their situation and decision making	10. Proportion of the displaced population reporting having access to timely, reliable information relevant to their situation and decision making	10. "Do you feel that you have access to information that you need for you and your family to access the services you need? ; ["…to make informed decisions about future plans for settlement?"]	10. Analysis of available information provision and sources; transparency and predictability of government policies in relation to refugees/IDPs

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Indicators: Inside Syria	Indicators: Hosting Countries	Suggested Survey Questions	Suggested Proxy Indicators and Complementary Measurements
Material Safety	**Health**	11. Proportion of target population reporting access to essential (physical) health services in the past 12 months.	11. Proportion of target population reporting access to essential (physical) health services in the past 12 months.	11. "Over the last 3 months, has your household had regular and adequate access to health services (including pharmacies)?"	11. Mapping of health services in target area; Existence of policies that facilitate or limit health access for displaced population
	Housing and Essential Services	12. Proportion of target population living in adequate housing (sufficient living space, durable housing structure). 13. Proportion of target population living in housing with sufficient access to electricity and heating fuel in the past 12 months. 14. Proportion of target population with access to safe, affordable water in sufficient quantities	12. Proportion of target population living in adequate housing (sufficient living space, durable housing structure). 13. Proportion of target population living in housing with sufficient access to electricity and heating fuel in the past 12 months. 14. Proportion of target population with access to safe, affordable water in sufficient quantities	All: "What is your household's highest-priority need? [list services]" 12. See indicators in right-hand column; all can be assessed in survey form 13. Over the past 12 months, has your household had regular and adequate access to [electricity/heating fuel]? 14. Over the past 12 months, has your household had regular and adequate access to safe drinking water?	12. For target population: types of settlements, types of shelters, types of occupancy (owner, renting, etc), numbers of families living in a shelter; Proportion of destroyed or damaged dwellings in community, compiled by context monitors 13. Electrical coverage in target community; Cost of electricity and fuel; Qualitative barriers to meeting needs 14. Prevalence of water pumping, water trucks; Cost of water pumping or trucks; Qualitative barriers to meeting needs
	Education	15. Primary school net attendance ration in target population 16.a. Existence of processes recognized by Syrian authorities for the equivalency of academic/professional and vocational certificates, degrees and diplomas obtained during displacement.	15. Primary school net attendance ration in target population 16.b. Existence of opportunities for refugees to attend college, university, professional and vocational schools in host country	15. If enrollment rates are being collected in target region, indicator can be answered without survey. If not, may ask households with school-age children: "Over the past 12 months, has your household had regular access to education (schools)?" "Do you feel that your child/children is/are receiving an acceptable quality of education?" 16. a.+b. Indicator can be answered through literature review and interviews with education professionals	15. Cost of education; Mapping of functioning schools in target area; Existence of policies that facilitate or limit access to education 16. a+b. Qualitative experiences of education quality and availability

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Indicators: Inside Syria	Indicators: Hosting Countries	Suggested Survey Questions	Suggested Proxy Indicators and Complementary Measurements
Material Safety	**Food Security**	17. Proportion of households in target population with acceptable food consumption, based on the Food Consumption Score.	17. Proportion of households in target population with acceptable food consumption, based on the Food Consumption Score.	17. Food Consumption Scores are compiled by WFP and other organizations, no survey question needed.	17. Cost of essential food items; qualitative perspectives of food quality and availability at the household level
	Social Protection	18. Proportion of target population accessing humanitarian cash programs (in contexts where humanitarian assistance is being provided) 19. Proportion of target population covered under state-administered social protection programs.	18. Proportion of target population accessing humanitarian cash programs (in contexts where humanitarian assistance is being provided)	18. Utilize indicators in the right-hand column 19. Utilize indicators in the right-hand column	18. Total cash programming beneficiaries; Percent of target population receiving cash assistance; Adequacy of cash disbursements to meet basic needs 19. Existence of social protection programs; Qualitative experiences of receiving social protection assistance; Adequacy of programs to meet basic needs
	Income and Employment	20. Proportion of target population employed in formal and informal sectors (employment rate) 21. Proportion of target population living below the poverty line	20. Proportion of target population employed in formal and informal sectors (employment rate) 21. Proportion of target population living below the poverty line 22. Proportion of refugees holding valid work permits	20. What was your average household income in the last month?; What are the main livelihood activities that your household gains income from [list]"?; "What are the main barriers to members of your household gaining stable employment/diversifying income sources [list]?" 21. How much did your household spend on the following items in the last month [list - shelter, food, etc]"?; Is your household's monthly income enough to meet its needs? If no, what other income generating opportunities does the family pursue?" 22. "Do you hold a valid work permit?"	20. Most prevalent kinds of employment in target location 21. Average income in target location; Qualitative experiences of poverty and/or negative livelihoods coping methods 20. Work permit policies and limitations; work permit processing times; Qualitative experiences of obtaining or utilizing work permit

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Indicators: Inside Syria	Indicators: Hosting Countries	Suggested Survey Questions	Suggested Proxy Indicators and Complementary Measurements
Legal Safety	**Access to personal and other documentation**	23. Proportion of target population currently in possession of valid civil documents among: birth certificates, national ID cards or other personal identification document (e.g. birth certificate, Syrian family booklet, death/marriage certificates, other) by type of document. 24. Existence of safe and accessible mechanisms for obtaining/replacing documents for all Syrian nationals in Syria and abroad without discrimination	23. Proportion of target population currently in possession of valid civil documents among: birth certificates, national ID cards or other personal identification document (e.g. birth certificate, Syrian family booklet, death/marriage certificates, other) by type of document. 24. Existence of safe and accessible mechanisms for obtaining/replacing documents for all Syrian nationals in Syria and abroad without discrimination	23 + 24. Do you and all your family members have official [government of Syria and/or host government] documentation? [List]"; "If missing documentation, what are the top three reasons why [List]?"; If missing documentation, what are the top three impacts of missing these documents?"; (Inside Syria) Have you or your family members obtained civil documentation issued by non-government local entities? If yes, specify"	23. Qualitative experiences of risks incurred due to lack of documentation; Qualitative descriptions of policies vs. practices 24. Description and assessment of process to obtain key documents; Qualitative descriptions of process to obtain/replace documents
	Effective and accessible mechanisms to restore HLP	25. Proportion of target population with secure tenure over housing, land, and property. 26. Existence of accessible mechanisms for resolving housing, land, and property disputes/claims.	25. Proportion of target population with secure tenure over housing, land, and property. 26. Existence of accessible mechanisms for resolving housing, land, and property disputes/claims.	25. "Do you believe your household is at risk of losing your current place of residence? If yes, why?"[viii]; See suggested questions and proxy indicators for indicator 12 26. Indicator can be answered through literature review and interviews with HLP experts	25. Total reported incidents of HLP violations, compiled by analysis units and human rights monitors 26. Qualitative accounts of HLP policies vs. practices
	Family Reunification	27. Existence of accessible mechanisms to reunite separated family members, including unaccompanied or separated children. 28. Proportion of target population households with separated family members, by type of separation	27. Existence of accessible mechanisms to reunite separated family members, including unaccompanied or separated children. 28. Proportion of target population households with separated family members, by type of separation	27. Indicator can be answered through literature review and interviews with family separation experts 28. "Are any members of your household currently not living with you? [list by length absent, age, gender, family relation, reason for absence]"	27. Civil society responses to support family reunification; Awareness of available mechanisms among families with absent members 28. Barriers to family reunification; Qualitative consequences of family separation

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Indicators: Inside Syria	Indicators: Hosting Countries	Suggested Survey Questions	Suggested Proxy Indicators and Complementary Measurements
Legal Safety	**Participation in public affairs**	29.a. Prevalence of displaced persons contributing to decision-making, including returns planning (if relevant) in their places of residence	29.b. Prevalence of displaced persons contributing to decision-making, including returns planning (if relevant) in their places of residence	29.a+b. "Do you feel included in government and NGO discussions about your conditions of displacement? Of your potential return (to Syria/home community)?"	29. Description and assessment of existing initiatives
	Access to effective remedies and justice	30. Proportion of target population who feel confident and able to contact local authorities and/or international actors to resolve serious issues related to their physical, material, legal, or psycho-social safety. 31. Existence of accessible mechanisms for remedy to violations suffered, and capacity to enact these mechanisms. 32. Proportion of target population involved in local reconciliation initiatives, confidence-building initiatives, or formal peace processes in the last 12 months.	30. Proportion of target population who feel confident and able to contact local authorities and/or international actors to resolve serious issues related to their physical, material, legal, or psycho-social safety. 31. Existence of accessible mechanisms for remedy to violations suffered, and capacity to enact these mechanisms.	30. "If you experience a problem or dispute, who would you go to in order to solve it [list]?" 31. Indicator can be answered through literature review and expert interviews 32. Indicator can be answered through literature review and interviews with transitional justice experts	30. Description of local services and justice entities and processes 31. Total available pathways for remedy; qualitative experiences of seeking remedy 32. Description and assessment of consultation processes

ENDNOTES

i   Instances of physical violence inside Syria may include, but are not limited to: armed conflict, crime, detention, explosive hazard contamination, harassment of various kinds by armed groups, local authorities, and community members, and targeted violence based on gender, ethnicity, or other real or perceived identifies.

ii   According to UNHCR, gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. This framework encourages the separate analysis of gender-based violence against women, girls, men, and boys, as well as sexual minorities including LGBTQI+ individuals.

iii   Further displacement, forced return or relocation may be organized by conflict actors, or may be the result of overwhelming external pressures that necessitate IDPs' movement. Forced displacement is antithetical to Guiding Principle 28 of OCHA's Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which states that IDPs should be able "to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country".

iv   Instances of physical violence in host countries may include, but are not limited to: crime, detention, harassment of various kinds by local authorities and community members, abuse and discrimination in schools and workplaces, and real or perceived attempts at refoulement.

v   See endnote ii

vi   Discrimination can take a variety of forms, and should be specifically defined by the researcher before measuring this indicator. In the Syria context, it may include, but is not limited to, the harassment of IDPs, refugees, or returnees by government authorities of non-state armed groups; prejudicial practices in employment, material aid, or legal assistance, or other aspects of daily life.

vii   See endnote vi

viii   More information on secure tenure in an HLP context can be found in this briefing paper by UN-Habitat and the World Bank.