**IDP Durable Solutions Strategy**

**Women’ concerns, needs, opportunities and suggestions**

The IDP Durable Solutions Strategy aims to be a comprehensive strategy that responds to the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls, including those with special needs. As 24% of the households registered for durable solution in Mazrak Camps 1 and 3 are female-headed households, this group needs special attention.

As a first stage of consultations, focus groups have been held with IDP women registered to return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country. The objective was to compile a list of their fears, needs, opportunities and their suggestions for a safe and successful durable solution. Two women were chosen as representatives, one in each Mazrak camp. They selected the most important messages to share in a workshop organized on 6 August 2014 in Haradh. Both women were coached, and shared their key messages in the Haradh sub-working group.

The present report includes the main messages that IDP women consulted during the focus groups chose to share at the workshop, as well as a compilation of information issued from implementing partners interviews, IDP Durable Solutions Task Force meetings and document reviews (see Annex).

The summary of the main suggestions to include in the Durable Solution Action Plan are:

* **Mines:** fear of mines is one of the most repeated fears among interviewed women. Women, boys and girls have to be included in mine risk education activities.
* **Transport:** the specific transport needs of every family that cannot count on adult men when returning need to be taken into consideration.
* **Shelter:** female-headed households should be prioritized in shelter activities. It’s important to find secure locations for them, for example, near other relatives or trusted neighbours.
* **Health:** qualified female health staff should be hired in the area of return (doctors, nurses, mid-wives).
* **Livelihood:** income-generating activities need to be provided, with priority to female-headed households. Support should include vocational training before or after they return, are locally integrated or settled elsewhere, provide some assets or money to start a business and provide business training/support.
* **Education:** boys' and girls' access to school when returning, locally integrating or settling elsewhere needs to be ensured. Special considerations need to be taken regarding school attendance by girls and children in female headed-households.
* **Protection / child protection:** male and female protection committees in the return or host communities should be promoted to prevent, follow up on, mediate or refer protection issues.
* **Social cohesion**: women groups/associations including women returnees and women from the area of return or host community should be promoted. When possible, women centres should be build or rehabilitated.
* **Participation:** women participation in assessments, meetings and workshops related with the durable solutions strategy need to be promoted to ensure their needs, opportunities and suggestions are taken into consideration.

The information in this report can be used as a base for deeper assessments. Further consultations are needed with men, women, boys and girls, including those with special needs from IDP as well as from return and host communities.

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| **General data** |
| **Sex of the head of household registered for a durable solution:**  Among the households living in Mazrak camps 1 and 3 registered for a durable solution, 24% are female-headed households (Mazrak camps I and III, UNHCR list):   * **Return:** 293 households registered to return are female-headed households (24% of the total HHs registered to return) * **Local integration:** 32 households registered to local integration are female-headed household (24% of the total HHs registered to local integration) * **Settlement elsewhere in the country:** 2 households registered to settle elsewhere in the country are female-headed household (29% of the total HHs registered to integrate elsewhere in the country)   **Family size of HHs registered for one of durable solutions:**   * Median family size of male-headed HHs: 7,3 * Median family size of female-headed HHs: 5.6 |
| **Suggestion** |
| In further registration forms include the number of spouses and their children for polygamous families. This will help to better plan their return or integration, especially when it comes to shelter allocation and food and NFIs distributions. |

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| **Land mines** | **Suggestions** |
| Fear of mines is one of the most repeated fears among interviewed women. There is a huge worry regarding the possibility of dying or being injured by mines when returning. They mention that women, boys and girls are the most at risk as they collect firewood, collect water, herd animals and play. Boys are even more at risk, as they are more mobile. | Ensure the areas are demined.  Include women, boys and girls in mine risk education activities. |
| **Transport** | **Suggestions** |
| Female-headed households without adult males have mentioned being worried about the transport when returning. If they cannot receive support, they plan to stay in the camps. | Take into consideration the specific transport needs of every family that cannot count on adult men when returning. Ensure they don’t have to rely on outsiders that could abuse them. |
| **Shelter** | **Suggestions** |
| Female HoHH have reported feeling unprotected during the night and fear their houses or tents can be looted when they are out. They can’t go far from their houses. They are also worried about not having a man that can help them when they need to fix things in the house or to help them if there are threats, as for example floods.  When beneficiaries require support from others for shelter construction due to their specific situation (women, girls, elderly, sick, disabled, etc.) they might have to pay someone to assist them. This can expose them to abuse. | Prioritize female headed-households in shelter activities.  Find secure shelter locations for female headed-households, for example, near other relatives or trusted neighbours. This will allow women to feel more secure during the night and when they have to go out for livelihood, healthcare, and other activities. Whenever possible, provide the house or tent with a light and locks.  When beneficiaries require support from others for shelter construction, ensure they do not depend on non-relative men to undertake rehabilitation or construction of their shelter. Include extra support to pay for the labour.  In polygamous families, provide a shelter to each wife and her children. |
| **Health** | **Suggestions** |
| IDP women are worried about health services, especially for their children. They have reported that it’s very important to have female doctors and other medical staff. During a period of time that female doctor was not available in Camp 1, some husbands did not allow their wives to go to the health facilities.  It has been reported in the workshop that in the area of return there is only one mid-wife qualified. There is no female doctor. | Create the conditions to bring qualified female health staff in the area of return (doctors, nurses, mid-wives).  Train male and female health staff on reproductive health. |

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| **Livelihoods** | **Suggestion** |
| IDP women have reported that in most of the male headed-households, men will be in charge of working when returning, locally integrating or settling elsewhere. But some women have reported that they would be interested in having an income-generating activity as a complement to the family budget. Some of them believe their husbands will agree.  Female-headed households are very concerned about livelihoods. They need to have an income-generating activity when returning, locally integrating or settling elsewhere. However, many female HoHH have limited or no marketable skills to use and support their families. In addition, they have less mobility because they have to take care of their children.  In some areas, men and women will work in the field in agriculture activities when returning, locally integrating or settling elsewhere. Men and women will own separate livestock in the household, and each one will decide on their animals.  In some areas, women reported they will be able to sell and trade. They can sell at their houses or go to the houses of friends, neighbours or relatives. In some areas, some of them will be able to go to the market.  Women centres in camps I and III provide vocational training in tailoring, hairdressing, henna, cooking, handicraft, first aid, incense, etc. NRC provides vocational training for youth in Haradh and ensure transport for IDP youth living in Mazrak camps.  Women have mentioned that they plan to spend the money earned in materials to reinvest in their business and in households needs, mostly food. | Support income-generating activities.Provide vocational training for women (prioritizing female HoHH) before they return, locally integrate or settle elsewhere, provide some assets or money to start a business and provide business training/support.  Training can be held in the Camp I and III Women Centres and in NRC vocational training program. However, IDP women have expressed their interest to be trained and supported after they have returned, locally integrated or settled elsewhere, so women from the return or host communities can also benefit from the livelihood support.  Some livelihood activities suggested by women are: tailoring, good trade, food delivery and cleaners (hospital, schools, and houses). Explore what are the most sustainable and productive income generating activities in each area of return, local integration or settlement elsewhere.  Organize cash for work activities that are suitable for the women, including young ones, adapted to those who are pregnant, lactating or cannot go out from home.  Prioritize households that are not capable to work in cash transfer activities.  More assessments are needed regarding agriculture and livestock support. Explore the possibility of family micro gardens in the house yard when water and space are available. |
| **Education** | **Suggestions** |
| If families do not have a livelihood, boys and girls will be expected to work and drop out of school. Female-headed households’ children are even more at risk, as they have less income-generating activities opportunities.  Partners think that girls’ attendance will be lower than boys’. | Ensure boys and girls have access to school when returning, locally integrating or settling elsewhere.  Provide food or other incentives (water, grants, education kits, etc.) to households that bring their children to school, with special emphasis on girls and on female headed-households’ children. |

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| **Protection / child protection** | **Suggestions** |
| Female protection committees in Mazrak camp 3 have reported gender-based violence (mostly men beating their wife or children), early marriage and discussions between neighbours (related to water, children, etc.) as the most common protection issues they have to deal with. Protection committee members shared that after awareness raising activities, early marriages have decreased.  Returning, locally integrating or settling elsewhere can be a stressful situation for the family, and for the community. Frictions and violence can be expected, as a way to cope. In those circumstances, women and children will be the most vulnerable.  IDP interviewed women and partners are concerned about child protection issues. Girls forced/early marriages when returning can take place, as well as boy’s recruitment in armed groups.  In the case of female-headed households that do not have a livelihood, the risk of child labour (including boys and girls) and early marriage is higher. | Promote male and female protection committees in the return or host communities to prevent, follow up on, mediate and refer protection issues.  Train and support NGOs to organise and supervise CBOs and male and female protection committees.  Promote services and referral systems to prevent and respond to violence among women, boys and girls.  Prioritize women, boys and girls who are victims of violence in projects (shelter, livelihoods, etc.)  Facilitate awareness raising activities in the camps and once resettled regarding (1) school attendance, especially girls’ attendance, (2) consequences of early marriage, (3) consequences of child labour and (4) consequences of child recruitment. Target men, women and community leaders. |
| **Social cohesion** | **Suggestions** |
| Women centres exist in Mazrak Camps 1 and 3. Women have expressed their satisfaction, as there is not only a place to learn a livelihood activity, but also a place to meet, share, discuss and create solidarity networks among women.  Women have mentioned not being worried about possible tensions when returning to their communities, when integrating locally or when resettling in other communities. But partners fear possible conflicts.  Some IDP women think that it would be possible to create women groups/associations when returning, locally integrating or settling in host communities and to participate in women centres activities if they are opened. IDP men are getting used to seeing the women going to the centre in the camp, despite some men are not allowing their wives to go. But other IDP women are worried about a possible opposition from the men in return areas. | Discuss with community leaders and the Executive Council about the possibility of creating women groups/associations in the return communities, and request their support.  Promote women groups/associations including women returnees and women from the area of return or host communities. When possible, build or rehabilitate women centres.  Provide some funds to the women groups/associations to organise activities that returnee and return/host community women have decided together.  Promote solidarity networks among women (women groups/associations) and explore with them how they can organize themselves to take care of the children if they have to spend time outside the house for livelihood, health, capacity building activities. |
| **Participation** | **Suggestions** |
| The camps are divided in blocks. Each block has a male representative, but not a female representative.  Women have been consulted during the AGDM (Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming) Participatory Assessment that included durable solutions questions.  33% of the IDP representatives in the Durable Solutions workshop were women. They participated in the small working groups, with a gender-sensitive facilitator. But they felt uncomfortable to participate in the large group. | Ensure women participation in assessments, meetings and workshops related with the Durable Solutions Strategy. A minimum of 30% of people consulted and participating in workshops should be women. When mixed activities are not possible, consider organizing two different groups. Include young people, boys and girls, whenever possible. When women require it, ensure they can bring a “male guardian” (Mahram). Include their cost in the budget.  To ensure women’s meaningful participation coach women representatives: (1) organize previously consultations with women, (2) choose with them the key messages that they want to bring to the meeting/workshop, (3) coach their representatives on how to deliver the key messages and (4) include time in the agenda or ensure the meeting/workshop facilitator provide to the women time to express themselves.  Promote meetings among women that are going to return, integrate locally or settle elsewhere in the same village, and try to organize them in a group/association while they are still in the camp. One of them can be their representative in meetings. This can also create solidarity networks that can be maintained after they have return, integrate locally or settled elsewhere. Some women perhaps will not be able to participate because male members of the family will not allow them, but some of them will, especially female HoHH.  Create a directory of women’s civil society organizations through field-based consultations with women’s groups and leaders, including returnees.  The “go and see” visits should include all parts of the IDP population, including women, children of a certain age and level of maturity, persons with special needs and persons who are potentially marginalized. |

**Annex: Sources of information**

The present report includes information from the following sources:

**Focus groups / interviews**

* 20 IDP women Mazrak Camp 1
* 30 IDP women registered to a durable solution (Mazrak Camp 1)
* 15 IDP women registered to a durable solution (Mazrak Camp 3)
* Discussion session with female protection committee members (Mazrak Camp 3)
* Interview with 4 implementing partners

**Participation in meetings and workshops**

* Durable Solutions Task Force meeting, Haradh, 21 July 2014
* Durable Solution Workshop, Haradh, 6 August 2014

**Documents reviewed:**

* UNHCR camps I and III list
* Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming participatory assessment report
* Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict: Preliminary Framework for supporting a more coherent, predictable and effective response to the durable solutions needs of refugee, returnees and internally displaced persons (endorsed by the UN Secretary General, 4 October 2011)
* IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons
* IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action