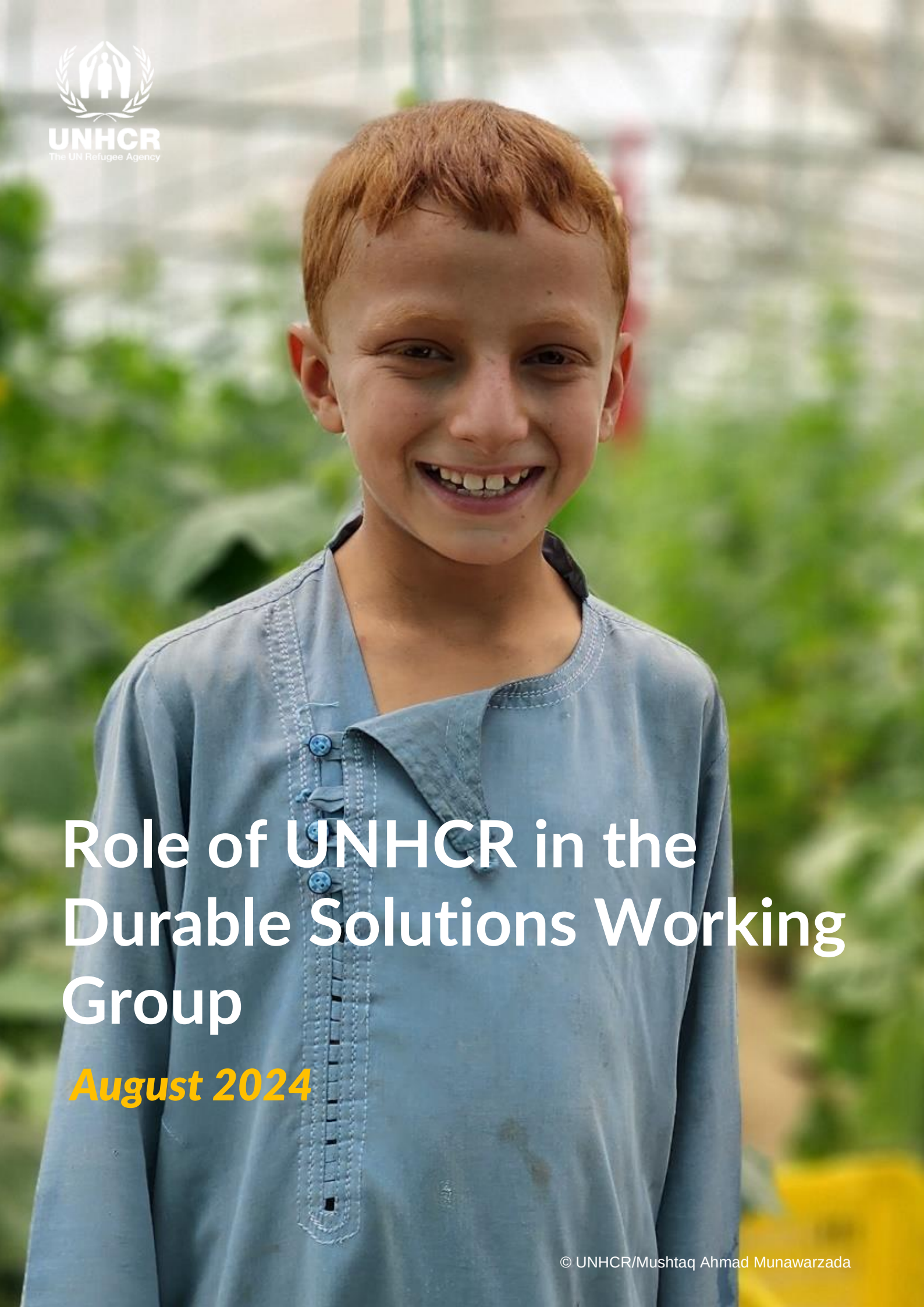

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Role of UNHCR in the Durable Solutions Working Group

August 2024

© UNHCR/Mushtaq Ahmad Munawarzada

Role of UNHCR in the Durable Solutions Working Group in Afghanistan

I. Introduction

UNHCR is a key and influential member of the National Durable Solutions Working Group (N-DSWG), as well as of the eight Regional Durable Solutions Working Groups (R-DSWG). The UNHCR Representative (or his designated alternate) sits in the National Steering Group, chaired by the DSRSG/HC/RC, and meets quarterly. UNHCR contributes significantly to the work of the DSWG through coordination with different stakeholders, based on its core protection mandate, to strengthen collaboration in the identification of priority interventions, locations and ensuring complementarity and synergies in programming and implementation. This involvement ensures a unified vision and strategic direction for collective action, which is essential for resolving protracted internal displacement.

As part of this function, and to ensure a coordinated returnee response with respect to returns from Pakistan, UNHCR has appointed dedicated focal points (and alternates) across the eight regions (Centre, East, West, North, South, Southeast, Northeast and Central Highlands) to ensure seamless liaison between the R-DSWG) and the broader humanitarian coordination structures.

Durable Solutions Priority Work Streams

The Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) activated in May 2024 eight priority workstreams to define the thematic scope of durable solutions themes and priorities and provide structure for practical advancement on priority areas. These workstreams also create space for technical deep dive discussions with key actors, including NGOs, research entities, etc. UNHCR is convenor or convenor of all thematic workstreams.

Work Stream	Scope	Convenor	Co-Convenors & Members
Capacity Building	*Exploring and defining DS concepts, sharing good practice and learnings, membership engagement and regional support.*	RCO	Samuel Hall, ACTED, IOM, UNHCR, NRC, DRC
Protection Mainstreaming	*Developing capacity and resources to mainstream centrality of protection and Do No Harm (DNH) in DS.*	UNHCR	NRC, DRC, Save the Children, Islamic Relief, IOM
Gender Mainstreaming	*Enabling the meaningful integration of a gender lens in DS – through capacity building and resource development.*	UN Women	UNHCR, IRC, GenCap, RCO
Accountability to IDPs and Returnees	*Defining mechanisms for enhancing AAP, community participation and engagement.*	UNICEF & UNFPA	UNESCO, Save the Children, IRW, UNHCR, DRC, Save the Children, IOM

Work Stream	Scope	Convenor(s)	Co-Convenors & Members
Data and Analysis for Solutions	*Consolidating and leveraging existing data and analysis, identifying and rolling out strategic initiatives, integration of DSID.*	UNHCR, IOM, UNDP	REACH, Samuel Hall, ACTED, RCO, UN Habitat
Information management for Solutions monitoring & reporting	*Defining indicators, monitoring mechanisms, and Results Framework for Solutions programming to be integrated in UNSFA.*	RCO, UNDP	Samuel Hall, UNHCR, IOM, Islamic Relief Worldwide
Engagement with de facto authorities (DfA)	*Defining risk-conscious and principled engagement road map for proactively advancing on DS related issues and policies.*	RCO	ACBAR, Save the Children, OCHA, UNHCR, NRC, DRC, IOM
Resource Mobilisation	*Leveraging existing and defining new mechanisms for resource mobilization, including towards the National Solutions Plan and Reintegration Appeal.*	RCO	IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children

UNHCR's Role as Chair/Co-Chair of the R-DSWG

UNHCR chairs the Regional Durable Solutions Working Groups (R-DSWGs) in the East, South, Southeast and Northeast regions and co-chairs the R-DSWGs in North, West, Centre and Central Highlands regions.

Region	Agency	Chair/Co-Chair
East	UNHCR	Chair
	UNDP	Co-Chair
South	UNHCR	Chair
	UNDP	Co-Chair
Southeast	UNHCR	Chair
	UNDP	Co-Chair
Northeast	UNHCR	Chair
	IOM	Co-Chair
North	UNDP	Chair
	UNHCR	Co-Chair
West	UNDP	Chair
	UNHCR	Co-Chair
Centre	IOM	Chair
	UNHCR	Co-Chair
Central Highlands	UNDP	Chair
	UNHCR	Co-Chair

Protection and Gender Mainstreaming Trainings for R-DSWGs

As the lead of the protection mainstreaming workstream under the DSWG, UNHCR is to ensure the centrality of protection in all durable solutions activities/interventions. UNHCR provided protection inputs into the five regional action matrices (regional action matrices are only developed for five regions), the national action plan, as well as into the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF) joint application. With the move towards mainstreaming protection in durable solutions gaining traction, UNHCR is the convenor and provides protection mainstreaming training to the national and the eight regional R-DSWGs, to

strengthen protection considerations and mainstreaming in the designed solutions offered to displaced communities in Afghanistan. The workshops are led by UNHCR facilitators and discuss the principles of the centrality of protection, including protection of displaced populations, protection mainstreaming principles entailing GBV/CP risk mitigation, and the durable solutions approach.

Protection Mainstreaming Workshop		
Region	**Proposed Date**	**Remarks**
West (Herat)	July 18, 2024	Training conducted
Center (Kabul)	July 23, 2024	Training conducted
Central Highlands (Bamyan)	July 31, 2024	Training conducted
Southeast (Gardez)	August 7, 2024	Training conducted
North (Mazar-e-Sharif)	August 12, 2024	Training conducted
Northeast (Kunduz)	September 8, 2024	TBC
East (Jalalabad)	September 15, 2024	TBC
South (Kandahar)	September 22, 2024	TBC

National Action Plan

The five regional action matrices were consolidated into one national action plan, which was endorsed by the NDSWG Steering Group on 28 February 2024. The national action plan covers the 10 districts, two from each of the five regions (East, West, South, North, Centre), selected by the respective Regional Durable Solutions Working Group (R-DSWG) based on the concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and how their presence in these locations impacts basic services. The national action plan is a pilot response plan to enable the delivery of solutions interventions for IDPs, leveraging existing organisational footprint and presence in the selected locations.

At the endorsement of the national action plan, a call was made by the Resident Coordinator, for all agencies who are part of the national action plan, to indicate against the national action plan budget areas where they have already planned for and budget for interventions in 2024.

UNHCR has, so far, contributed in 2024, US$ 6.5 million (out of the total US$ 46.7 million requested) to the durable solutions work in the 10 priority areas.

DSWG Action Plan - UNHCR Contribution								
Summary Table								
S.No.:	DSWG Location	Reporting Office	PARR (Yes/No)	A	B		C = A-B	Financial Gap in %
				Fundraising Request via DSWG (US$)	2024 Plans/Contributions (US$)	Contribuation in %	Financial Gap in USD	
1	Mihtaralam	SO Jalalabad	Yes	2,390,000	1,150,000	48%	1,240,000	52%
2	Sukhroad	SO Jalalabad	Yes	2,120,000	780,000	37%	1,340,000	63%
3	Sar-e-Pul	SO Mazar-e-Sharif	Yes	3,848,000	772,500	20%	3,075,500	80%
4	Nahr-e-Shahi	SO Mazar-e-Sharif	Yes	4,160,000	1,022,500	25%	3,137,500	75%
5	Panjwayee	SO Kandahar	Yes	4,150,000	928,547	22%	3,221,453	78%
6	Kandahar	SO Kandahar	Yes	15,340,000	422,198	3%	14,917,802	97%
7	Gulistan	FO Herat	No	2,194,225	411,200	19%	1,783,025	81%
8	Injil	FO Herat	Yes	4,207,250	938,150	22%	3,269,100	78%
9	PD 13	FU Kabul	Yes	4,338,000	40,597	1%	4,297,403	99%
10	Tagab	FU Kabul	Yes	4,029,000	78,000	2%	3,951,000	98%
Total				46,776,475	6,543,692	14%	40,232,783	86%

UNHCR has proposed durable solutions interventions in the sectors of shelter/housing, integrated services (health/nutrition, education, WASH, basic community infrastructure), disaster risk management, social cohesion, livelihoods, and income generation (i.e., TVET and business development, start-up grants, micro-finance, MSMEs, market linkages/value chains, livelihood opportunities and agricultural support) both at individual and group levels with a proposed budget of US$ 46.7 million *(shown in the table above).*

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

www.unhcr.org