

Participatory Local Platform Guidance Note

The Guidance Note on how to establish Participatory Local Platforms is drafted based on the good practices and lessons learned drawn from the UNDP-led Participatory Local Recovery Processes (PLRP) piloted in the City of Hama, and Kadi Askar neighbourhood in Aleppo during 2021-2022 where transformative participation has been a critical factor for self-reliance, ownership, and for the development of local community recovery plans.

The Guidance Note serves to operationalize UNDP's context-sensitive, participatory area-based approach through both UNDP's single-led PLRP - and the AHCT-led¹ Area-Based Return Support initiative and/or future new participatory area-based initiatives. It complements UNDP Syria's Participatory Local Recovery Planning document and must follow the main principles articulated in it.

Participatory Local Platforms (PLP) are mechanisms that promote integration at various levels. They also help to address dividers or drivers of tension linked to exclusion and promote “connectors” or factors that connect people and build trust in societies at the local level while diminishing “dividers”.

One of the main objectives of the PLP is to significantly increase participatory dialogue, decision-making, and knowledge-sharing about access to and use of resources. PLPs should serve as an enabler for poor and marginalized people to have a voice and influence policy making. They have the potential to contribute to tackling complex humanitarian and development challenges and to assist in the scaling up of necessary innovations. They also provide sustained assistance and contribute to the sustainability of humanitarian and development interventions.

In this regard, the Guidance Note aims to support the promotion and the establishment of locally-owned participatory mechanisms to ensure community empowerment throughout the local recovery processes for local peacebuilding and community resilience.

Staff should note that this Guidance Note is intended to provide guidance only. It is not a definitive or binding document, nor is it prescriptive. All considerations need to be adapted to each context, based on context sensitivity to main findings and recommendations, during the development of the participatory process and under the *Leave No One Behind* and *Do No Harm* principles. It intends to be a living document that will be constantly fed based on experiences in the field.

¹ Area Humanitarian Country Team