

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021-2022

A SNAPSHOT OF UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY PARTNERS WHO ARE ACTIVELY WORKING TO PREVENT, PROTECT AND RESOLVE SITUATIONS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, IN LINE WITH THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



GP2.0 Update

This newsletter covers the period from January to June 2021 and is the second issue since the conclusion of the [GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#), at the end of 2020.

GP2.0 is an informal community of experts and provides a forum for the organization of joint events, research, exchanges of information and good practices on internal displacement. Under a new collaborative chapter, GP2.0 aspires to remain connected and engaged with local, national and regional fora and use this newsletter to raise awareness about good practices and sharing stories on preventing, addressing and resolving internal displacement.

IOM, OCHA, UNDP and UNHCR co-chair this initiative. This is complemented by the expertise and participation of a variety of other organizations including but not limited to: ICVA, IRC, IDMC, DRC, JIPS, OHCHR, JRS, NRC, OHCHR, UNICEF, UN Habitat, UNFPA, UNDCO, WFP, UNOPS and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs is an advisor to the group.

We hope you will enjoy this reading, and we invite you to send any comments you may have to coordinator@gp2point0.org.

Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future



The United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement launched its much-anticipated report, *Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future*, which advocates for a fundamental change to address the displacement of more than 55 million people within their own countries.

The report recommends a Nexus approach to displacement and urges governments, the international community, civil society and the private sector to support durable solutions. It further calls for the recognition that internally displaced people (IDP) are citizens displaced by conflict, insecurity or the impacts of climate change, and as such remain eligible for corresponding rights and agency. This requires support for the national ownership of displacement solutions and the strengthening of public systems and services. Finally, the report emphasizes the need for a better understanding of the urban dynamics around displacement.

The executive summary and full report are available for download from the HLP website.

“For several decades, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) around the world has been growing, reaching record highs year after year. Humanitarian assistance is vital to help them survive. But more is needed to restore a sense of normalcy and provide solutions.”

UN Secretary-General António
Guterres

Q&A With The High-Level Panel

The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement [officially submitted its report](#), “Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future”, to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 29th September 2021. The report involved 18 months of extensive consultations with governments, IDPs and host communities, UN agencies, NGOs, international financial institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders. It has 67 recommendations and 12 follow-up actions grouped under ten principal headings, all calling

for systematic changes to the ways the world has been addressing internal displacement.

The Panel was further supported by a Geneva-based Secretariat and an Expert Advisory Group. The Head of the Secretariat, UN Assistant Secretary-General George Okoth-Obbo, shares his reflections on the Panel’s findings, recommendations and follow-ups:



1. The Panel has called for systematic changes to end protracted displacement. If you can only mention three takeaways from the report, what would they be?

Okoth-Obbo: While progress has been made over the last 30 years, the internal displacement crisis has been characterized by ever rising numbers of IDPs, extreme human suffering and loss of opportunity for political, social and economic progress. Against this background, the most fundamental shift called for by the Panel is decisive political will and national ownership to prioritize internal displacement. Secondly, while humanitarian action remains essential, internal displacement should be profoundly seen as a development imperative attached to elements of peace, disaster risk reduction and climate change. This is why the Panel prioritizes the drive for durable solutions for IDPs. The third main shift is, what I would describe as, a scaled-up regime of international solidarity and responsibility sharing for this issue. Across all of this, there are also critical threads including, but not limited to, IDPs being seen as citizens, gender, urbanization, financing, and data.

2. What can you say about the reactions of stakeholders since the submission of the report to the UN Secretary-General? Has there been any trends or convergence so far?

Okoth-Obbo: I have personally been delighted with the positive reactions from member [States](#), the [UN Secretary-General](#), and many other stakeholders. As one would expect in a matter like this, some issues do merit further conversations to come to full convergence. If I had to pick out two issues with differing perspectives, they would be the Panel’s recommendations related to financing and the call for a specific mechanism within the UN to systematize action on internal displacement. For the most part, however, we do see support when it comes to issues related to national ownership, the primacy of the citizenship of the IDPs and the framing of solutions as a development imperative.

3. In your view, what key steps are needed as follow up to the Panel’s recommendations?

Okoth-Obbo: I think that the Panel sees all [79 recommendations](#) as critical. Of course, some will be more relevant to certain contexts. If I had to single out the most imperative actions that must follow the Panel’s report, it is truly those at the national level. After all, the shifts called for by the Panel are anchored to national political will and ownership whereby governments seize this issue responsibly, accountably and across the whole of government and society. If this does not happen, then we really do not have the stream for other steps to construct. That having been said, the Panel has also called for a full circle of follow-up with responsibilities at the regional and global levels as well.

4. The Panel has concluded its mandate and the HLP Secretariat will close at the end of December. What is the Secretariat doing now until this closure?

Okoth-Obbo: There are three components to what we are doing. First, the Secretariat is working on the dissemination of the Panel’s report. Secondly, there are a number of actions that are taking root in terms of follow-ups. The Secretariat is supporting these discussions with different constituencies including displacement impacted States, UN and NGOs. Last but not least, we are supporting the Secretary-General’s office in preparing for a meeting of the UN leadership to establish a plan of action for the follow up to the Panel’s report.

5. Given today’s political climate and overlapping crises, what are some of your thoughts on the future of internal displacement?

Okoth-Obbo: My thoughts go in two directions. There is one perspective which sees opportunities, progress and hope. There are real opportunities that can and must be seized to move the needle on internal displacement especially at the national level. In my view, if only 50% of the Panel’s recommendations were to be given effect, we would already have a positive revolution. But as we speak, the 55 million IDPs at the end of 2020 are growing by the day and we are not exactly seeing decisive turnarounds in the intractable conflicts, violence or disasters. This highlights how important the calls are in the Panel’s report for accountable governance, respect for rule of law and human rights, strengthened multilateralism, and attention to other collateral threats including COVID-19, climate change and the need to shape a more equal economic world order. The internal displacement crisis is at one and the same time a national, regional and global issue. The steps that will be necessary to ensure a new solidarity and responsibility sharing system are key. I hope we will see more of all this than we are seeing today as we move forward.



Regional Action

Africa

BURKINA FASO IDP PROTECTION EXPERT GROUP

From 20-24 September, the IDP Protection Expert Group (IPEG) carried out its inaugural mission to support the UN Country / Humanitarian Teams in Burkina Faso. Established by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, former mandate holders, UNHCR, and the Global Protection Cluster, the IPEG supports political will and national leadership, as well as coordinated, senior-level international support for strengthened protection responses to internal displacement. With these aims, the IPEG delegation in Burkina Faso which included UN Habitat, engaged with the Resident / Humanitarian Coordinator, the UNCT/HT, technical and financial partners, IDPs and government officials.



NIGER BUILDING RESILIENCE OF CRISIS AFFECTED POPULATION IN DIFFA

In Diffa, in the crisis-hit Lake Chad Basin region, IOM supports the local integration of displaced populations.

With funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the U.S. Department of State, IOM assisted vulnerable displaced persons and communities with transitional shelters (t-shelters) and income-generating activities (IGA).

IGA revenue allows households to improve their t-shelters into a definitive structure and provide for their basic needs (food, education, health etc.).



SUDAN THEMATIC BRIEFS AND IN-DEPTH LOCALITY REPORTS FOR THE DURABLE SOLUTIONS STUDIES IMPLEMENTED IN EIGHT LOCALITIES ACROSS DARFUR UNDER THE PEACEBUILDING FUND

A series of [five thematic briefs](#) present the key insights and messages drawn from [eight durable solutions and peacebuilding studies](#) carried out across Darfur by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in 2020-2021. The studies were led by UNHCR and the other PBF agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, IOM, UN-Habitat and FAO), with technical guidance from the Durable Solutions Working Group in Sudan and technical support from JIPS, IOM and the Sudanese Development Initiative. A [series of community and action planning workshops](#) were implemented to validate the findings and translate them into concrete actions (work ongoing).



SUDAN SUPPORTING DISASTER RESILIENCE ACROSS AT-RISK COMMUNITIES

In Sudan, IOM continues to support increased disaster resilience across at-risk communities, paying particular attention to mobile and displacement affected communities. With support from the USAID BHA, IOM is contributing towards the development of national preparedness capacities and community-based risk reduction efforts focusing on floods and droughts in Sudan. In addition, IOM recently launched a participatory methodology to conduct comprehensive vulnerability and capacity assessments in four communities in Gedaref and Kassala states was recently launched.



SOMALIA CONFLICT AND CLIMATIC-RELATED DISPLACEMENT ON THE RISE

According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) project and other sources, 2021 has witnessed an increase in civil unrest and political violence related to delayed presidential elections and a 40 per cent increase in armed attacks by non-state armed groups.

In October over 100,000 people were displaced in Guri Ceel, Galmudug region, due to conflict. This brings the total number of people displaced in 2021 (until October) to about 520,000, with 70 per cent of that displacement because of conflict.

Humanitarian partners further report disruptions to food access, WASH services, and livelihood and nutrition assistance are significant. This in turn impacts the ability to support sustainable returns. Of the 2.9 million people internally displaced people across the country; 76 per cent (2.2 million) are likely to be in critical need of humanitarian assistance by 2022, according to the 2020 HNO.



ETHIOPIA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE NORTHERN REGION

In Northern Ethiopia the fighting over the last 12 months has created a humanitarian crisis that has forced millions to flee their homes in search of safety. Up to 8 million people urgently need food, water and other aid. The conflict has made it increasingly difficult to reach people in need as security conditions in some areas continue to deteriorate.

For the past three months, Mebrat, 32-year-old mother of three, has been working at a protection desk set up by UNHCR in a health centre in Mekelle, the capital of the Tigray region. She reports this desk has become a haven for many. "People of all ages come to ask for food, diapers, sanitary napkins, milk," she said. "By helping them, we are ensuring that everyone gets the support they need most." [Social workers rally support for displaced persons in northern Ethiopia](#)



BURKINA FASO WORKSHOP ON THE DOMESTICATION OF THE AU KAMPALA CONVENTION

As a follow-up to the IPEG mission, the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action, UNHCR and the Protection Cluster jointly organised a workshop on the domestication of the African Union's Kampala Convention. Newly appointed members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee responsible for this process, UN and NGO partners were provided with the technical competencies and content required for the transposition of the Kampala Convention into national legislation for the prevention, protection, and solutions for IDPs in line with relevant international and regional standards.

Americas

LATIN AMERICA FACING THE CHALLENGES OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

On 26 October, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented an instrument to support the local authorities of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Mexico to include a focus on forced displacement in the planning of municipal development programs. More than 100 people joined the event. The Regional Framework for Local Governance developed by UNDP and UNHCR seeks to accompany the local authorities of the countries of the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS) in the development of practical approaches around four pillars: mainstreaming forced displacement into local development planning; protection and access to essential services; rule of law and e-governance; and socio-economic integration and social cohesion.



ARGENTINA COLLECTING INFORMATION TO IMPROVE ASSISTANCE

In Argentina, IOM has continued to support programmes and projects based on the collection of information about the needs of the Venezuelan population in a situation of vulnerability. In 2021, IOM Argentina will close the year with 7 rounds of DTM, 6 of which focused on the northern border crossings of the country and one of them in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, the main destination city for refugees and migrants from Venezuela. With funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the U.S. Department of State and in partnership with the Argentine Red Cross, it has been possible to improve information collection in the context of the COVID-19 emergency



Asia and Pacific

PHILIPPINES INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN BASILAN, SULU AND TAWI-TAWI, AND STATELESSNESS IN TAWI-TAWI

A recently launched profiling report brings attention to the situation of IDPs in the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi of the BARMM (BaSulTa provinces), many of whom are displaced within the same province or even municipality (barangay). The results contribute to the broader understanding of internal displacement in these areas and shed light on a region that has been rarely considered for humanitarian and development interventions. The exercise was led by UNHCR together with the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG) of the BARMM. It also engaged provincial, municipal and barangay local government units, UN agencies, civil society organisations, academia, security sectors and IDP leaders. [Go to the profiling report.](#)



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES' ATTITUDES TOWARDS RETURNED MIGRANTS AND THEIR READINESS TO REINTEGRATE THEM

This report was implemented in the framework of the "UNDP-IOM Seed Funding to fast-track joint response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19: Analyzing and improving evidence-based social cohesion and returnee inclusion in response to COVID-19". The initiative aimed to strengthen the evidence-based knowledge of UNDP and IOM/The UN Migration Agency on the attitudes of local authorities, their readiness to reintegrate returning migrants and their capacity building needs for leveraging inclusive approaches towards a sustainable recovery from COVID-19. The study covered 10 target communities from 4 regions (Osh, Batken, Chui, and Talas) of the Kyrgyz Republic affected by migration. The target audience included representatives of local governments and local keneshes, as well as local community leaders who work on or are aware of activities linked with Kyrgyzstani citizens returning from abroad, and migrants as well as their family members left behind. The findings of this assessment are expected to inform future joint UNDP-IOM strategic responses to enhance the positive contribution of returnees and reduce impediments for their sustainable reintegration back home.



Europe

UKRAINE PROGRESS TOWARDS A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON LOCAL INTEGRATION

Ukraine has been stepping up its engagement on internal displacement: efforts are underway to implement the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics, to inform a national monitoring system on local integration, and to expand durable solutions analysis with local authorities at the provincial (Oblast) level. [Read on to learn more.](#)



GEORGIA SUPPORTING IDP WOMEN IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

In its work to support socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP in Georgia is extending its support to internally displaced women and those residing in the proximity of conflict divides. Displaced women face multiple disadvantage and their livelihoods have been especially threatened by the pandemic-induced shocks. In Georgia, UNDP provided conflict-affected women with inputs for starting or expanding their businesses. Support was provided for example for beekeeping, mechanized agriculture or textiles enterprise. Such support has been instrumental not only to increase the resilience of conflict-affected households, but to contribute to women's economic empowerment along the way. [Read more about UNDP's support to IDP women in Georgia here.](#)



UKRAINE IDP INTEGRATION STRATEGY

Ukraine adopted a new [IDP Integration and Middle-Term Solution Strategy 2024](#) and associated operational plan with the support of UNHCR and the Protection Cluster. The new IDP strategy aims to address six main key areas namely (1) housing, land, and property (HLP) rights (2) employment and education (3) ensuring IDP right to social protection (4) access to healthcare (5) access to documentation and (6) conditions for IDP integration within host communities.



Middle East

IRAQ ENSURING VACCINE EQUITY TO DISPLACED POPULATIONS.

In Iraq, interagency actors agreed with the Directorate of Health (DoH) in Duhok and Erbil governorates to establish COVID-19 vaccination units in refugee and IDP camps. WHO and UNICEF will support staff cost and training, while UNHCR will conduct vaccination awareness campaigns. This is critical to ensure vaccine equity and that internally displaced populations are included in national vaccination campaigns.



Global Action

LIVES IN DIGNITY GRANT FACILITY: FROM AID-DEPENDENCE TO SELF-RELIANCE

Following the hugely successful launch of the [Lives in Dignity Grant Facility](#) on World Refugee Day in June this year, the Facility has announced the second call for proposals on Tuesday November 30. This second call focuses on projects in countries impacted by the displacement crises related to Myanmar, Venezuela and the Sudan-South Sudan situation.

In alignment with the first call, projects are expected to draw upon and develop new forms of collaboration between

humanitarian, development and peace actors, with an emphasis on the engagement of affected populations and local ownership. A total of €12m will be allocated to projects in this call. For more information, visit [here](#).



SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON IDPS DIALOGUES WITH MEMBER STATES.

On 27 October, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, conducted the annual interactive dialogue with UN General Assembly Member States on the thematic [report](#) on the prevention of arbitrary displacement in situations of armed conflict and generalized violence. Over 30 UN Member States took the floor to commend the Special

Rapporteur and to comment on the importance of States in ensuring conditions that would prevent arbitrary displacement before and during displacement, as well as in the context of durable solutions. In her concluding remarks, the Special Rapporteur emphasized the responsibility of States to implement prevention as a principle in international law.



UNGA SIDE-EVENT ON PREVENTION OF ARBITRARY DISPLACEMENT

Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, hosted her annual side event to the UN General Assembly on 4 November, focusing on this year's [report](#) on the prevention of arbitrary displacement in the context of armed violence and generalized violence. Mainly co-hosted by [Norway](#) with support of other UN agencies, and moderated by the [GPC](#), the Special Rapporteur, the Secretariat of the [High-Level Panel](#), [ICRC](#), [UNHCR](#), [ReDSS](#), [UNDP](#) and [OHCHR](#) discussed a range of actions for preventing arbitrary displacement across the displacement cycle. This ranged from implementing good laws, policies, programmes for protection and assistance, to building conditions for sustainable peace, durable solutions and development. Recording of the event available [here](#).



THE CASE FOR TREATING LONG-TERM URBAN IDPS AS CITY RESIDENTS

The recently published UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement's report, *Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future*, brought increased attention to the need to re-evaluate responses to protracted internal displacement in urban settings. In a briefing, IIED joins JIPS and UN-Habitat to provide the key pointers to drawing on their joint efforts that fed into the UN-High Level Panel's recommendations. [Read on.](#)



PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

On 27 October, UNHCR co-organized an event on Unpacking the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: Case-Studies from the Field which also focused on internally displaced persons. The event was organized in collaboration with the Global Protection Cluster and OCHA as part of the Global Protection Forum. Field Protection Clusters and operational partners shared experiences and good practices on engagement with non-state armed groups, community-based approaches to protection in armed conflict and working with peacekeeping operations. The recording and additional information are available [here](#).



UNDP & UNHCR JOINT PAPER: RESPONDING TO PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT USING THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS APPROACH: UNDP AND UNHCR THEORY OF CHANGE

As part of a global partnership, UNDP and UNHCR have published a [joint paper](#) together with the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD).

The theory of change spells out five areas in which UNDP and UNHCR can jointly operationalize the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in situations of protracted forced displacement: (i) shared analysis and context-specific responses, (ii) long-term strategies and sustainable capacity, (iii) prevention, mediation and peacebuilding, (iv) coordination and leadership, and (v) financing. UNDP and UNHCR pledge to jointly make a difference across the different areas of collaboration, such as rule of law and governance, livelihoods and social cohesion, in line with advancing on the three Global Refugee Forum commitments UNDP made in 2019.



NEW CASE MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

In collaboration with the International Rescue Committee, UNHCR developed a new guidance on [Protection Case Management \(PCM\)](#) that is relevant for agencies working with internally displaced persons. The PCM guidance package is designed to offer operational support for local and international humanitarian organizations looking to start up or continue case management services for protection clients, as well as for cluster coordinators, head of protection units and donors looking to manage or fund protection case management interventions. The guidelines were developed using an inter-agency approach with support from a steering committee consisting of UNHCR, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and International Medical Corps (IMC) and representatives from IRC country teams. They are grounded in real experiences of implementing protection case management, particularly from teams working in Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Nigeria, Lebanon and Syria.



Latest Videos



HELPING DISPLACED PEOPLE IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA

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ACHIEVING LASTING SOLUTIONS ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING

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**PREVENT
PROTECT
RESOLVE**

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT