

GP2.0 Fall Meeting

Leave No One Behind: Building Strategies to Empower the Most At-Risk Internally Displaced

September 20th, 2021

08.00-09.30am NY | 02.00-03.30pm GVA | 07.00-08.30pm BKK

Coordinating organizations: OCHA, UNICEF, Major Group for Children and Youth

Recording can be accessed [here](#)

Introduction

The GP2.0 Fall Event on Internal Displacement, in partnership with the OCHA, UNICEF and Major Group for Children and Youth, gathered different governments' representatives from municipal and local levels and members of NGOs to discuss how to build effective strategies to empower the most vulnerable IDPs like children, women, LGBTQ group, elderly and people with disabilities.

Over 300 participants registered for the event, with a strong representation of colleagues in the field. Government representatives participated from Uganda, Gambia together with NGO representatives from Honduras, Cameroon and Iraq. Participants joined from over 50 countries and from HQ locations.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promised to leave no one behind, reinforcing the urgency to devise responses to internal displacement that include all IDPs. The event generated a discussion among government, civil society, international community and IDP rights activists on strategies to support and amplify the self-directed needs and priorities of the most vulnerable IDPs to address the risks they face during displacement and how humanitarian and development responses can reach the most vulnerable IDPs, in particular to find solutions to their displacement.

Key messages emerged during the discussion

1. Young IDPs highlighted the urgent need for dialogue between IDPs, host communities and different levels of government to ensure their voices and concerns are heard. They asked to be included in decision making processes at local, national and global levels. Policy makers and governments are recommended to create inclusive platforms and shared safe spaces (both digital and physical) for young IDPs and host community members to inform policies and programmes that impact their lives.
2. Prioritize inclusive access to quality education: Education and skills training are key for young IDPs and closely tied to their chance for a successful future. However, many IDP children and youth are excluded from learning due to multiple barriers, including financial restraints, overcrowded classrooms and limited access to technological resources and connectivity. Young IDPs and young people in host communities recommended the removal of financial barriers that prevent IDPs and vulnerable host community members accessing education by abolishing school fees, establishing scholarship programmes and providing financial assistance for school supplies.

3. Integration and inclusion are important for both internally displaced and host community youth – and many young people are motivated to play an active role. IDPs can be better integrated where there are more interactions between IDPs and the host community.
4. Ensure about an equal inclusion of women and men, boys and girls into different programming that services providers implement. Ensure that women are receiving proper protection services and are able to gain education and job opportunities that empowers them within their families and communities through several holistic programs that doesn't only educate but also heal. Gambia supported the Constitutional Amendment Bill of 2021 - proposes to reserve 16 seats for women in the National Assembly of The Gambia.
5. Raise leaders' awareness of the IDPs needs and potential of this overlooked community. Governments need to work together across cities to support the vulnerable in IDP communities with organizations that mentor and train displaced girls. Cities can provide approaches to connect learning and earning pathways, develop lifelong learning systems, implement new laws and constitutional amendments that support their representation and remove barriers.
6. Promotes a dialogue between the cities and the national level where cities give their input is important. Uganda has developed an economic growth plan which addresses basic needs for government housing and other quality of life issues and promotes methods for the IDPs to become agents of change for economic and social development.
7. Increase government officials' involvement with vulnerable IDPs-related initiatives, create communication channel between governments and IDPs to bring positive change. Encourage the entertainment industry (movie producers, actors, singers and comedians) to join the movement in raising awareness on issues related to forceful migration and the need to call authorities to act and work together.
8. The High-Level Panel needs to bring vulnerable IDPs in the dialogue to help shaping targeted humanitarian/development solutions to forced displacement.

Way forward

- Scale up community-based planning to systematically engage IDPs and local communities on sustainable solutions and plans;
- Ensuring access to quality education is essential that girls and marginalized groups are empowered;
- The path to solution is unique to each individual. These dynamics must need to take in account and adopted as a human right-based approach to address solutions to internal displacement;
- GP2.0 members to remain engaged on issues pertaining internal displacement, with a view to utilize the competencies of IDPs in future strategies;
- UN agencies will remain engaged regarding the follow-up to the recommendations by the UN SG High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.