

GP2.0 Summer Event organized in partnership with the UN Development Coordination Office

*Supporting the Engagement of the UN RC System on Internal Displacement and Durable Solutions*

August 31, 2021

07.00 - 08.45pm (BKK) | 02.00 – 03.45m (GVA) | 08.00 – 09.45am (NY)

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## 1. Introduction:

The GP2.0 Initiative on Internal Displacement,<sup>1</sup> in partnership with the UN Development Coordination Office, gathered Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators RC/HCs, members of UN Humanitarian and Country Teams and experts at HQ and field level to discuss the role that RC/HCs play in advancing coordination on durable solutions in countries affected by internal displacement.

Over 160 participants registered for the event, with a strong representation of colleagues in the field. RC/HCs participated from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Venezuela. Participants joined from over 30 countries and from HQ locations.

In the lead-up to the release of the report of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the event recognized the pivotal role played by RC/HCs in the engagement with international and Government stakeholders on durable solutions. It sought to provide RC/HCs with a platform to reflect on their experiences and to investigate what mechanisms can support the RC System more broadly to fulfill the leading role that was initially assigned to them with the [UN Secretary General Decision of 2011](#)<sup>2</sup> and that it is expected to be enhanced by the recommendations of the UN SG High Level Panel.

## 2. Key messages emerged during the discussion:

1. Human rights are the foundation to durable and development solutions. At the same time, the capacity of the UN system to support durable solutions hinges on its ability to broker the political agreements necessary to address the root causes of displacement. This is particularly true for contexts where displacement is triggered by conflict, by absence of governance systems and services in areas previously held by non-state armed groups, by criminal activities and narco-trafficking, and by socio-economic inequalities that reflect structural discrimination and require a political solution. These examples were brought up from Bangladesh, Colombia, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Venezuela.
2. There is a risk for durable solutions policies to be instrumentalized and become part of military strategies. This has happened, for example, in contexts where Governments have supported returns to stabilize areas previously controlled by militia groups. These situations create dilemmas for the UN System and reveal discrepancies in the approaches followed by humanitarian, development, and peace partners. In these situations, it would be useful to understand good practices on preventive dialogues between UN, governments and communities that explore all type of solutions processes (e.g. local integration, return and resettlement) with a view to prioritizing the protection of

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<sup>1</sup> The GP2.0 Initiative is currently co-chaired by IOM, OCHA, UNDP and UNHCR. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs acts as an advisor to the group, which includes several organisations such as ICVA, IRC, IDMC, DRC, JIPS, OHCHR, JRS, NRC, OHCHR, UNICEF, UN Habitat, UNFPA, UNDCO, WFP, the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the Lives in Dignity Grant Facility.

<sup>2</sup> UN Secretary General, [No. 2011/20 – Durable Solutions: Follow-up to the Secretary General's 2009 report on peacebuilding](#), 2011.

communities affected by displacement. These dialogues should ideally occur before durable solutions processes become instrumentalized and politically motivated.

3. The roundtable discussion highlighted that for RC/HCs to fulfill a leading role on durable solutions requires dedicated capacities. Few RC/HCs benefit from specific coordination support on durable solutions (Iraq), however, other profiles such as nexus and human rights advisors, or peace and development advisors (PDAs) have played an important role in supporting durable solutions (Cameroon, Nigeria, Ukraine). While funding for some of these posts (like PDAs) is centrally provided, others require local fundraising by RC/HCs, which can be time consuming. RC/HCs must choose whether to prioritize interventions that directly benefit displacement-affected communities, or to have a UN system that it is better coordinated to holistically prevent and resolve displacement crises. In general, RC/HCs note that the financing of these capacity mechanisms is an area where support from HQ is required to make coordination support predictable in countries affected by displacement.
4. Based on the roundtable discussion, areas that can benefit from greater coordination support are advocacy, creation of multistakeholder/dialogue forums, knowledge sharing and dissemination of good practice, data, joint analysis of the root causes and the political dimension of displacement crises, mainstreaming of durable solutions in Government and UN frameworks as well as understanding of “whole of displacement approaches” that look organically at all populations affected by displacement – migrants, refugees, refugee returnees, IDPs, hosts etc.
5. Investments should be made in joint analysis in order to support a better understanding of various vulnerabilities affecting internally displaced persons. These vulnerabilities are usually the result of structural inequalities that then exacerbate forced displacement. Displacement often aggravates those systemic inequalities making reintegration into mainstream society more problematic.
6. In recent years, UN Coordination mechanisms on durable solutions have emerged in several countries. Although influenced by global learning and grounded in international principles, the establishment of these forums has been a field driven process.<sup>3</sup> These mechanisms have common elements: they rely on nationally owned solutions and support the authorities being in the drivers’ seat of durable solutions processes as well as on strong RC/HC leadership, combined with operational support from UN Agencies Funds and Programmes. Outputs produced by these coordination forums have supported UN and national authorities including durable solutions in their planning frameworks (e.g., National Strategies, UN Common Country Analyses and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks). They have also supported the establishment of joint programmes. Currently there is no international guidance as to how these coordination forums can be set up, run and be handed over to Government authorities. It would be important to understand the level of support that these groups require, both from UN Agencies Funds and Programmes, and from HQ.
7. The follow up on the UN SG High Level Panel recommendations will be an opportunity to redefine the international architecture to prevent, address and resolve internal displacement. GP2.0 aspires to become a key source of support to RC/HCs on technical expertise on issues such as data, collective outcomes, policy and legislation, protection, and human rights as well as development solutions. GP2.0 is a voluntary network with a proven record of effective collaboration and partnerships. Gathering leading organizations on internal displacement and chaired by UN entities with important roles in driving durable solutions, GP2.0 is well positioned to support globally and locally RC/HCs in their leadership role on durable solutions.
8. The UN High-Level Panel report will recommend an enhanced role for RC/HCs in the coordination of durable solutions at country level and will call on UN leadership and Member States to support RC/HCs in that endeavour. Successful coordination of RC/HCs depends also on securing the political buy-in of host Governments to create an enabling environment for the advancement of durable solutions.

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<sup>3</sup> This presentation was based on information from Somalia, Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia, CAR, Myanmar, Iraq and Afghanistan.

### 3. Way forward:

- GP2.0 members and the UN Resident Coordinator System to remain engaged on issues pertaining internal displacement, with a view to provide RC/HCs and UN Humanitarian/Country Teams with the support necessary to fulfill their leadership role at country level.
- UN DCO and RC System to remain engaged regarding the follow-up to the recommendations by the UN SG High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.
- UN DCO and GP2.0 will undertake a light mapping exercise of the current, planned and needed capacities that can be made available to RC/HCs and RC Offices to advance durable solutions.
- GP2.0 partners will prepare a directory of sources of expertise and capacities (along with contact details) on which RC/HCs in search of support on durable solutions can draw.