

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

### I. Introduction

This year's Dialogue will explore ways to better address the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and reaffirm the international community's commitment to doing so. It has the following broad objectives:

- Place the protection of IDPs higher on national, regional and international agendas;
- Analyze the challenges these populations face and measures that can be put in place to guarantee their equal rights;
- Give recognition to States that have addressed their IDP situations, demonstrating the positive impact this can have on societies, and encourage others to do so;
- Spur initiatives to resolve IDP situations, especially protracted ones, through a solutions-oriented approach that is community-based, human-rights centred, and buttressed by development interventions; and
- Reinvigorate partnerships with States and other actors to improve IDP protection.

This paper identifies some of the key challenges to protecting IDPs and lessons learned, and sets out questions to guide discussion in the four breakout sessions.

### II. Background

IDP numbers worldwide are at a record high. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), at the beginning of 2013, there were a staggering 28.8 million persons around the world who were displaced internally due to conflict and violence.<sup>1</sup> Around 6.5 million of them were newly displaced, nearly double the figure from the previous year. Some 17.7 million IDPs were receiving protection and assistance from UNHCR. Although we are witnessing a few positive trends regarding IDP returns, ongoing conflict in a number of countries, including the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic, is expected to result in an even higher year-end IDP figure for 2013. Cyclical or protracted situations are a devastating reality for millions of IDPs around the world. Of some 50 countries with IDP situations, 15 are considered protracted.<sup>2</sup> It is also worth noting that, in addition to the 28.8 million persons displaced by conflict, an estimated 32.4 million people were newly displaced by sudden-onset natural disasters.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> IDMC, Global Overview 2012: People internally displaced by conflict and violence, 29 April 2013  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/global-overview-2012>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p.16

<sup>3</sup> As the bulk of UNHCR's work with IDPs is in conflict situations, this discussion paper focuses on such contexts. Statistics and further information about IDPs as a result of natural disasters can be found here: IDMC, Global Estimates 2012 (2013) <http://www.internal-displacement.org/natural-disasters>

The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*<sup>4</sup> have come to represent the international normative standard for efforts to address internal displacement. Their importance has been highlighted by a number of international bodies, including by the United Nations General Assembly. At the United Nations World Summit in 2005, government leaders unanimously recognized the Guiding Principles as an “important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons.” The General Assembly and the United Nations Human Rights Council have repeatedly reaffirmed this.<sup>5</sup> The Principles have been furthermore recognized by regional bodies, such as the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the African Union. In Africa, the Great Lakes IDP Protocol requires their domestication, and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) builds on the Principles.<sup>6</sup>

Protection must take as a starting point that IDPs are ‘rights-holders.’ It must promote full and equal respect for the human rights of all individuals, without discrimination of any kind, and recognize the diverse needs, strengths and vulnerabilities of the individual through an age, gender and diversity approach. Protection is grounded in the international bill of human rights, which includes the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*,<sup>7</sup> the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*<sup>8</sup> and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*.<sup>9</sup> Whereas refugee protection is *international protection*, IDP protection is *primarily about supporting national protection*. In case of internal displacement, while governments are bound to protect the rights of their citizens and habitual residents, the international community is called upon to support them in these efforts.

Recognizing gaps in the international community’s response to this population, in 2005 the United Nations began far-reaching reforms to improve coordination and predictability in IDP situations.<sup>10</sup> An institutional, inter-agency mechanism known as the “cluster” approach was introduced to help fill these gaps. A cluster focusing on protection was established to ensure that protection would be a core component and cross-cutting element of any response to IDP situations. UNHCR was tasked with leading this cluster at the global level. In parallel to these efforts, many States have made substantial progress in setting in place IDP-specific policies and legislation.

Internal displacement does not, however, fall entirely within the humanitarian and protection domains. It is also linked to development and peace-building. Addressing the situation of IDPs is essential to making dividends in these areas.

### **III. Breakout sessions**

Against this backdrop, the breakout sessions will address the following four areas:

1. Protecting IDPs in emergencies, notably in out-of-camp and urban settings
2. Promoting durable solutions: Restoring peace and rights for IDPs
3. Enacting legal instruments and policies to protect IDPs: Experiences and lessons
4. Strengthening partnerships and capacity: How can we all do better?

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<sup>4</sup>Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IDPersons/Pages/Standards.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., UNGA A/RES/66/165, para. 12 (2012); A/HRC/RES/23/8 (2013), para. 12

<sup>6</sup> Kampala Convention: [http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/african\\_union\\_convention\\_for\\_the\\_protection\\_and\\_assistance\\_of\\_internally\\_displaced\\_persons\\_in\\_africa\\_\(kampala\\_convention\).pdf](http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/african_union_convention_for_the_protection_and_assistance_of_internally_displaced_persons_in_africa_(kampala_convention).pdf)

<sup>7</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 10 December 1948, Resolution 217 A (III)

<sup>8</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, 16 December 1966, Resolution 2200A (XXI)

<sup>9</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 16 December 1966, Resolution 2200A (XXI)

<sup>10</sup> UN General Assembly, *In larger freedom : towards development, security and human rights for all : report of the Secretary-General*, 21 March 2005, A/59/2005, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4a54bbfa0.html>

Under the guidance of co-chairs, the breakout sessions will offer an opportunity to deepen the analysis and generate fresh thinking and forward-looking recommendations. UNHCR has invited a number of government, NGO, UN, academic, legal and local experts to open each session with remarks, in order to help frame the discussions. During the deliberations, all participants are encouraged to bear in mind the purely humanitarian and non-political nature of the High Commissioner's mandate and work, and the operational focus of the Dialogue.

The following sections expand upon the themes of the Dialogue and set out some key questions that participants may wish to explore. Relevant resources are listed under each and may also be found on the Dialogue's website at <http://www.unhcr.org/hc-dialogue>.

### **Session 1. Protection of IDPs in emergencies, notably in out-of-camp and urban settings**

The High Commissioner's 2009 Dialogue on Protection Challenges focused on urban refugees, but called for specific policy approaches towards IDPs in urban areas and outside of camps. This year's Dialogue offers an opportunity for follow up. Given the evolution of the inter-agency response to IDP situations, UNHCR is developing a specific policy on IDPs and will draw upon this year's Dialogue to inform it.

Beyond generating high security risks and impeding access to populations, armed hostilities in urban areas produce more civilian deaths and injuries as well as destruction of property, due to population density, resulting in high numbers of IDPs. Violent conflict in Somalia and, more recently, in the Syrian Arab Republic has had a particularly devastating impact on cities, causing massive internal displacement in addition to movements across borders. Emergency interventions can address the most acute needs, but the social and economic costs of displacement linger well beyond the emergency phase and, if not tackled systematically, can have an impact on the durability of available solutions. A holistic vision of the rights of IDPs calls for a solutions orientation from the very beginning of any emergency response and throughout displacement.

At least half of the countries with IDPs have few or no formal camps or collective centres for those displaced by conflict and violence. Camps can offer immediate access to assistance in times of emergency and may become necessary for safety reasons in certain situations. In the longer term, however, they may encourage development of parallel services, breed marginalization and disempower local authorities.

Living with host families or in private or makeshift lodging in a host community is the norm for the vast majority of IDPs, both in cities and rural areas. Host communities, therefore, play a critical role in assisting the internally displaced. Often times, they are the first responders, offering their homes to the displaced and enabling them to benefit from community-based protection mechanisms, local services and livelihood opportunities. However, this can drain local resources and may prompt hostility if the IDP population is singled out for support. More needs to be done to ensure outreach to both out-of-camp IDPs and the communities that host them.

For many IDPs, urban areas promise greater security as people seek safety in numbers and anonymity, along with better economic opportunities in the informal economy. At the same time, living in urban areas also brings with it exposure to a variety of criminal elements and a daily struggle to meet basic needs and access services. Urban violence and criminality is emerging as a new cause of displacement in such areas.

While much work has been done in recent years to better understand the situation of urban refugees in cities, less information is available about IDPs in such environments. Relatively little programming is designed to address the specific needs of IDPs that stem directly from their displacement. Furthermore, cities are complex operational contexts in which to deliver protection and assistance. For example, identification of IDPs is a challenge, especially where their most visible needs are similar to those of the urban poor. Although there has been much progress in developing urban-based profiling methodologies,

more analysis is needed to determine the particular needs, vulnerabilities and strengths of IDPs in relation to their host communities. There are circumstances where IDPs prefer to blend in with the urban poor rather than to identify themselves as IDPs. Therefore, inclusive community or area-based protection interventions are seen to be more appropriate and effective than interventions exclusively focusing on IDPs.

Government institutions are also severely impacted by conflict, affecting their capacity to set in place a protection response for the displaced. Authorities in villages, cities and towns play the role of first responders, but local capacities are often soon overstretched. National emergency budgetary provisions often fail to provide the necessary additional funds to local authorities to permit them to address an influx of IDPs. Civil society, especially local faith-based leaders or communities, is also an important source of support in responding to situations of internal displacement.

Particularly challenging are situations in which the roles and responsibilities of national and local authorities vis-à-vis the displaced are unclear. A diversity of interlocutors and unclear decision-making can significantly slow down the emergency response for IDPs. Power mapping and stakeholder mapping techniques are helpful tools to better understand the local context.

### **Questions for consideration:**

*On protection of IDPs in emergencies:*

1. How can international interventions be more supportive of the national response effort, including on solutions?
2. How can protection be better mainstreamed throughout all interventions and services provided to IDPs, particularly at the outset of an emergency?
3. How can an age, gender and diversity approach be ensured from the outset?
4. What successful, innovative practices have yielded protection outcomes for the most vulnerable IDPs?
5. How can the needs of marginalized groups (which, depending on the situation, can include indigenous populations, ethnic minorities and stateless people) be better addressed?

*On IDPs outside camps and in urban areas:*

1. To what extent is UNHCR's policy approach to urban refugees also applicable to urban IDPs?
2. How can the identification of IDPs outside of camps and in urban environments be improved?
3. How can services to IDPs be improved in out-of-camp settings?
4. How can action to meet displacement-specific protection needs, for example those of women and girls, be combined with a community and area-based protection approach?

### **Relevant tools and guidance:**

Global Protection Cluster, Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, June 2010:

[http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news\\_and\\_publications/IDP\\_Handbook\\_EN.pdf](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news_and_publications/IDP_Handbook_EN.pdf)

The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, 2011 (rev.)

<http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook>

The Brookings Institution – London School of Economics Project on Internal Displacement, From Responsibility to Response: Assessing National Approaches to Internal Displacement:

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/events/2011/12/05%20responsibility%20response/from%20responsibility%20to%20response%20nov%202011doc.pdf>

Joint IDP Profiling Service:

[www.jips.org](http://www.jips.org)

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, *Camp Management Toolkit*:

<http://www.globalccmcluster.org/system/files/publications/9295458.pdf>

Global Protection Cluster, Placing Protection at the Centre of Humanitarian Action: Study on Protection Funding in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies, 17 September 2013:

[http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news\\_and\\_publications/GPC\\_funding\\_study\\_online\\_EN.pdf](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news_and_publications/GPC_funding_study_online_EN.pdf)

## **Session 2. Promoting durable solutions: restoring peace and rights for IDPs**

A humanitarian exit strategy cannot be equated with the achievement of solutions. The absence of development investments increases the risk of IDPs being displaced a second or even a third time (e.g. due to forced eviction, lack of funds for housing, or insecurity), or their settling in fragile communities and conditions (e.g. urban slums). Effective development programming can contribute to the protection of IDPs and to addressing the root causes of conflict. Sustained engagement and advocacy are needed so that protection is not ‘lost in the transition.’

The resolution of internal displacement is an incremental and complex process. The return or local settlement of IDPs does not resolve the needs of the population and does not, necessarily, indicate that the root causes of displacement have been addressed. A further deterioration of the situation can be avoided with considerable political will, institutional capacity and international support. Unfortunately, however, these elements are not always in place and a deterioration of the situation over time is often a reality. The main impediment to the attainment of solutions for IDPs is often the absence of willingness or capacity to address the root causes. The resolution of internal displacement, especially where such displacement is massive, needs to be a key component of any peace process.

As citizens or habitual residents of the countries in which they are displaced, IDPs may find a durable solution by returning and reintegrating, integrating locally in their areas of displacement or settling elsewhere in the country. The development of solutions, however, must be tailored to the needs of the population concerned. For many IDPs with a pastoral or otherwise nomadic background, for example, settlement options may not provide for a durable solution. Return to their former lifestyle and habitual living space, rather than settling somewhere within their country, is often their preferred solution. In many countries, IDPs opt to integrate locally in urban areas, often mingling with the urban poor and living with the constant risk of eviction.

The active involvement of IDPs in decision-making about and planning for durable solutions is the most critical guarantor of sustainability, but so is the will of national and local authorities to enable and actively support such involvement.

When the displaced are no longer living in settlements and have moved voluntarily or been obliged to move to alternative accommodations – or when there is an official policy to eliminate signs of past displacement – the support of national authorities is especially key. There is a risk that, with IDPs establishing themselves in urban areas, the needs stemming from their displacement can become less visible and be deemed less pressing. Community-based approaches can address some of these needs. However, issues such as the loss of property and personal documentation; family separation; trauma and

loss of political voice, stemming from displacement, require focused attention. For example, progress towards security of housing tenure and the resolution of land disputes are crucial factors for solutions, as are measures to address land grabs and the presence of unexploded ordnance.

The implementation of short-term political objectives to fulfill peace agreements and the overwhelming needs, often render IDP-specific programming a secondary priority for many governments and development actors. Key to success is recognition by all actors that there can be no lasting peace or sustainable development if the needs of IDPs are ignored.

An essential element of any successful peace process or solutions plan is the involvement of IDPs themselves, as well as the engagement of the communities in which they settle, either upon return or after relocation. Methods for empowering IDPs and community groups to participate meaningfully in solutions planning must be further developed so that their needs and perspectives are taken into account from the earliest stages.

Where the arbitrary deprivation of nationality and statelessness are root causes of conflict and forced displacement, durable solutions will require the restoration of nationality. Oftentimes, required action will include reform of nationality laws or policies as well as streamlining of procedures for confirmation of nationality and issuance of identity documentation. UNHCR's statelessness mandate is relevant in this context and the Office can provide technical support to States in this area.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs sets out the main criteria for the achievement of durable solutions as follows:

- long-term safety and security, and freedom of movement;
- access to subsistence rights and basic services;
- access to employment and livelihoods;
- restoration of housing, land and property;
- access to personal and other documentation;
- family reunification;
- participatory rights; and
- effective remedies and access to justice.

As these criteria make clear, solutions go beyond what humanitarian actors can provide. Displacement needs to be addressed in national development priorities (such as agriculture, infrastructure and education), strategic planning and budgeting. In supporting governments, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors involved in IDP protection and response are often confronted with gaps in developmental support, requiring investment in areas such as the construction of housing or schools, improvement of livelihoods, preparation of a national censuses and police training.

Achieving durable solutions remains a challenge for humanitarian, development, human rights and peace-building actors. Practical collaboration on solutions for IDPs remains ad hoc and uneven, despite the efforts of the inter-agency early recovery cluster. Sustainable partnerships across sectors are therefore needed to create conditions for durable solutions. A human rights perspective can help build bridges between diverse disciplines and overcome institutional differences. This is the thrust of the Secretary-General's framework on durable solutions, which establishes priorities and responsibilities for durable solutions and entrusts an explicit role to Resident Coordinators (RCs) and Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs), supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNHCR, as global cluster lead agencies for early recovery and protection. Support from donors through flexible funding arrangements is critical in strengthening such partnerships.

UNHCR, as a protection-mandated agency, plays an essential role in supporting durable solutions. While appreciating that solutions for IDPs are distinct from those for refugees, in reality, however, solutions for the two groups are often closely intertwined. If IDPs remain without solutions, this can be an indicator of what refugees will encounter upon return. For example, if IDPs do not return to a certain area owing to prevailing insecurity, it is unlikely that refugees' return in safety and dignity can be ensured. Similarly, if IDPs seek to integrate locally in urban areas but face discrimination and regular evictions, the sustainable settlement of returning refugees is unlikely. Care is therefore required to avoid former refugees from becoming IDPs following repatriation to their home country. A comprehensive approach to solutions is therefore needed.

### **Questions for consideration:**

1. How can humanitarian actors design their interventions and coordination structures so as to be supportive of government and development actor engagement in IDP responses and in solutions from the earliest stage of an emergency?
2. What are the obstacles to IDP participation in national development planning, durable solutions and peace processes, and how can participatory approaches be better implemented by all actors?
3. What can humanitarian actors and civil society do to encourage national governments, international development actors and donors to address obstacles to achieving durable solutions for IDPs as national priorities beyond the emergency phase?
4. Looking at urban and rural responses to displacement, are there different lessons to be drawn that should influence post-crisis planning and priority setting?
5. How can UNHCR and other humanitarian actors phase out their interventions without creating a protection gap for IDPs? What does the role of "provider of last resort" entail in the context of durable solutions?

### **Relevant tools and guidance:**

Global Protection Cluster, Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, June 2010:

[http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news\\_and\\_publications/IDP\\_Handbook\\_EN.pdf](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news_and_publications/IDP_Handbook_EN.pdf)

IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, April 2010:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2010/4/durable%20solutions/04\\_durable\\_solutions.PDF](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2010/4/durable%20solutions/04_durable_solutions.PDF)

UN Secretary-General's Decision on the Framework on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict, 4 October 2011:

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/\(httpKeyDocumentsByCategory\)/D3152FA6C910768EC125799500425ABB/\\$file/UN%20framework%20ending%20displacement.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/(httpKeyDocumentsByCategory)/D3152FA6C910768EC125799500425ABB/$file/UN%20framework%20ending%20displacement.pdf)

## **Session 3: Enacting legal instruments and policies to protect IDPs: experiences and lessons**

### Legal basis

The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* provide that IDPs are not only beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance, but also rights-holders. They also state that IDP protection and the development of laws and policies on internal displacement are the responsibility of States. The *Guiding Principles* are grounded in international humanitarian, human rights and criminal law. Regional treaties and standards

provide important supplements to the international standards. As mentioned earlier, the essence of the *Guiding Principles* is reflected in IDP instruments, notably the Kampala Convention.

In situations of armed conflict, international humanitarian law (IHL) will also apply, and IDPs receive the same protections afforded to all civilians. IHL obligations include: prohibition of attacks against civilians and their objects; prohibition of forced displacement except where imperative military reasons or the civilians' own security may require it; and required free, rapid and unimpeded access of relief consignments. In addition, the ICRC has identified a number of rules of customary international law that are specifically applicable to displaced populations.

### National instruments

Having a national instrument on internal displacement provides a common basis from which to address displacement in a systematic and strategic way, eliminating ad hoc approaches. Such instruments are particularly important in the context of durable solutions. In developing national instruments on internal displacement, consultative processes help ensure broad buy-in by all stakeholders. For example, Kenya passed the Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act in 2012, after more than two years of broad-based consultations and policy development to reach a consensus.

An increasing number of States have developed national instruments on internal displacement or are in the process of doing so. For countries such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, the Philippines and Yemen, developing IDP legislation has become a national priority. For countries party to the 2006 Great Lakes Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs or to the Kampala Convention, the development of a law on internal displacement is an obligation. Supporting States in the development of laws and policies in line with these instruments should be a high priority for the international community.

States, however, often face two main challenges. First, the development of a national IDP policy or law is a demanding process, whereas the capacity needed is often limited. The second and bigger challenge remains the effective implementation of such national legislation and policy on internal displacement.

UNHCR, in partnership with relevant international organizations, NGOs and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, plays a support role in advising States in the development of their laws and policies on IDPs. UNHCR and other members of national protection clusters are particularly well suited to support this due to their deep field presence and daily contact with displaced communities.

### **Questions for consideration:**

1. What are good practices for the adoption and implementation of laws and policies regarding internal displacement?
2. Since IDPs are nationals or habitual residents and protected by non-displacement-specific laws and policies, at what points in the displacement cycle is an IDP-specific policy most useful?
3. How can displaced communities be included in decision-making and priority setting in their areas of displacement?
4. What role can and should civil society play in the development of IDP policies and laws, so as to ensure that inclusive responses to displacement are the norm?
5. How can IDP policy development and implementation be used to support the prevention of further displacement?



### **Relevant tools and guidance:**

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, February 1998 (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2):

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IDPersons/Pages/Standards.aspx>

African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), entered into force 6 December 2012:

[http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/african\\_union\\_convention\\_for\\_the\\_protection\\_and\\_assistance\\_of\\_internally\\_displaced\\_persons\\_in\\_africa\\_\(kampala\\_convention\).pdf](http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/african_union_convention_for_the_protection_and_assistance_of_internally_displaced_persons_in_africa_(kampala_convention).pdf)

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, 30 November 2006:

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/29D2872A54561F66C12572FB002BC89A/\\$file/Final%20protocol%20Protection%20IDPs%20-%20En.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/29D2872A54561F66C12572FB002BC89A/$file/Final%20protocol%20Protection%20IDPs%20-%20En.pdf)

IPU/UNHCR Handbook on Internal Displacement: Responsibility and Action, October 2013:

<http://www.unhcr.org/525bee0c9.html>

Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Protecting Internally Displaced Persons: A Manual for Law and Policymakers, October 2008:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2008/10/16%20internal%20displacement/10\\_internal\\_displacement\\_manual.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2008/10/16%20internal%20displacement/10_internal_displacement_manual.pdf)

IDMC, NRC and Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, National Instruments on Internal Displacement: A Guide to their Development, 2013:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/5242d02d4.html>

### **Session 4. Strengthening partnerships and capacity: how can we all do better?**

Improving responses to internal displacement calls for a holistic approach, necessitating humanitarian, development, and peace-building actors working closely with national authorities, civil society, and the communities themselves. There is growing recognition of the need to view displacement not only as a humanitarian challenge, but also as a sustainable development challenge, requiring innovative partnerships and creative approaches. The United Nations post-2015 development agenda offers an opportunity to ensure that greater attention and resources are dedicated to addressing and resolving IDP situations.

Given the current number and magnitude of crises, it is expected that the number of internally displaced people worldwide will continue to grow in the coming years, requiring renewed and strengthened coordination to address both new and protracted situations. Coordination is a shared responsibility and necessary for effective responses. Participants in this breakout session are invited to share their views on how the international community can work better together with States and all other actors to improve IDP protection and achieve solutions. This session will also encourage suggestions on how partnerships amongst a wider array of actors can reinvigorate and further enhance responses to IDP situations.

### **Questions for consideration:**

1. What can governments do to encourage learning across borders and to ensure that protection is central to contingency planning and preparedness?
2. What can humanitarian actors do to reach beyond the humanitarian community in search for more systematic and effective partnerships?

3. What can UNHCR do, as the Global Protection Cluster lead agency, to support the undertakings of the participating agencies?
4. What can NGOs do to facilitate and strengthen partnerships as members of protection clusters?

**Relevant tools and guidance:**

IASC, *Guidance Note on Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response*, 24 November 2006:

[http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/about\\_us/IASCGN\\_using\\_the\\_Cluster\\_Approach\\_to\\_Stengthen\\_Humanitarian\\_Response\\_24NOV2006-EN.pdf](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/about_us/IASCGN_using_the_Cluster_Approach_to_Stengthen_Humanitarian_Response_24NOV2006-EN.pdf)

Global Humanitarian Platform, *Principles of Partnership: a Statement of Commitment*, 12 July 2007:

[http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/about\\_us/Principles\\_of\\_Partnership-EN.pdf](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/about_us/Principles_of_Partnership-EN.pdf)

IASC Transformative Agenda Protocols, December 2012:

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pagelader.aspx?page=content-template-default&bd=87>

Global Protection Cluster Seminar on “*Protection in Humanitarian Crises: Recommendations to the SG Working Group on the follow-up to the Sri Lanka IRP Report*,” 15 March 2013:

[http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news\\_and\\_publications/GPC\\_Seminar\\_Summary\\_Conclusions\\_Recommendations\\_EN.pdf](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news_and_publications/GPC_Seminar_Summary_Conclusions_Recommendations_EN.pdf)

UNHCR, *Guidance Note on Partnership in Advocacy for Protection*, June 2013:

<https://www.icvanetwork.org/node/6315>

Good Humanitarian Donorship, *Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship*, 17 June 2003:

[http://www.goodhumanitarianandonorship.org/Libraries/Ireland\\_Doc\\_Manager/EN-23-Principles-and-Good-Practice-of-Humanitarian-Donorship.sflb.ashx](http://www.goodhumanitarianandonorship.org/Libraries/Ireland_Doc_Manager/EN-23-Principles-and-Good-Practice-of-Humanitarian-Donorship.sflb.ashx)

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