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Introduction

This submission presents recommendations underpinned by good practices and challenges that have emerged in the implementation of the GP20 initiative since 2018. Observations draw from discussions on experiences on preventing, addressing and resolving internal displacement mainly in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Ukraine. Discussions took various formats, including national workshops, regional State to State exchanges, webinars and global events. They were multi-stakeholder in nature by bringing together representatives of governments, UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Regional Economic Communities and the World Bank and, where possible, internally displaced persons themselves or their representatives.

The examples included here are non-exhaustive and drawn from the documents in the references section listed at the end of this submission as well as input from some GP20 partners in UN agencies, NGOs and other entities at the national and global level. All lessons and recommendations in this document should be understood and pursued in full compliance with the following basic principles and standards: the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention); the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons; the centrality of protection; humanity, neutrality, independence, impartiality and ‘do no harm’; a people-centred, community-based and human rights-based approach; and durable solutions principles of voluntariness, dignity, safety and non-discrimination.

The final product of the GP20 initiative will be the forthcoming *GP20 Compilation of Effective Practices on Preventing, Addressing and Resolving Internal Displacement*. This compilation is being elaborated for governments, UN agencies, NGOs, development finance institutions, Red Cross and Red Crescent movement to share and inspire action on prevention, protection and solutions to internal displacement. It will also serve as the GP20 initiative’s main substantive contribution to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Ongoing workstreams and upcoming events of the GP20 initiative will also continue to generate insights and recommendations throughout the remainder of 2020 that can inform the Panel on a range of topics related to internal displacement, including: financing opportunities, the role of local governments, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the use of data on internal displacement situations, peacebuilding efforts, and durable solutions.

National responsibility for prevention, protection and solutions

- **A “whole of government” approach is critical for effective national governance of internal displacement.** Successful whole of government approaches have often been anchored within the most senior level of government, with coordination across national and local level authorities and relevant line ministries (Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Somalia and Ukraine). Conversely, in countries in which responsibility for different aspects of internal displacement is fragmented across numerous agencies, the lack of coordination and coherence has stalled advances on addressing internal displacement. Challenges to implementing such an approach include insufficient resources and capacity and bureaucratic obstacles to coordination with stakeholders.
- **Laws and policies related to internal displacement help advance protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs).** Some 80 countries have laws or policies related to internal displacement (Niger, Ukraine) and others are in development or pending adoption (Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, Philippines, South Sudan). Although implementation remains laggard in many countries, research shows that these frameworks facilitate and increase the likelihood of compliance with international standards, instituting a coordinated approach and delineating roles.¹ Factors that catalyzed the development of such laws and policies include a process that helped foster consensus among government officials of the need thereof, a trusted expert or entity supporting the development and drafting process, training on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and Kampala Convention, a consultative process, and support from international agencies, donors and civil society. Advocacy on accession to the Kampala Convention also supported efforts to move towards development of national legislation to domesticate the Convention.
- **In the absence of a law and policy framework related to internal displacement, other means to promote IDP protection can be useful.** Some government authorities have successfully taken the lead to uphold IDPs’ rights within the scope of their mandated responsibilities by using or adapting existing laws, policies, programs and services to address IDPs’ specific needs and circumstances. Honduras developed a special process to record IDPs’ abandoned property in the national property registry with UN and civil society support. The Philippines’ Electoral Commission set up satellite electoral polling stations near IDP settlements so that people displaced by disaster and conflict could vote. South Sudan’s draft Land Policy includes provisions for restitution of land rights for returnees and IDPs. Whether a state decides to adopt a dedicated law or policy or amend existing legislation, States should quickly take measures for IDP protection and assistance and facilitate solutions.
- **International technical expertise can spur action to address internal displacement.** Several national governments have been able to mobilize domestic action to address internal displacement by drawing on international technical expertise. Experts include representatives of the UN mandate on the human rights of IDPs, ProCap Advisers and others, such as the Joint IDP Profiling Service, which helps generate domestic ownership of data on internal displacement through profiling exercises. Leveraging these experts’ convening power, knowledge and advice, national governments have partnered with them in efforts to adapt effective practices to their own specific context (Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia and Sudan), to coordinate the process and drafting a law on internal displacement (Ethiopia, Niger, South Sudan), and advise on durable solutions, governance and other issues related to internal displacement (Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Ukraine).
- **Integrating displacement into national plans and strategies is essential to prevent the conditions that lead to displacement and progress towards durable solutions.** Some countries with internal displacement situations have integrated the causes, impacts and solutions to internal displacement into their national development plans (Colombia, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine), a quintessential element for countries struggling with protracted internal displacement to sustainably address this challenge. Some countries have also integrated displacement causes, impacts and solutions in peacebuilding, reconciliation and social cohesion processes (Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia). Numerous

¹ Orchard, P. (2019). *Protecting the Internally Displaced: Rhetoric and Reality*. London, United Kingdom: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Protecting-the-Internally-Displaced-Rhetoric-and-Reality/Orchard/p/book/9781138799226>;
Cardona-Fox, G. (2018). *Exile within Borders*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill | Nijhoff. <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004375567>;

countries have integrated displacement considerations in their disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans (South Sudan) as well as Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.² Yet, less than half of the UN Member States that adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 have national disaster risk reduction strategies, and only half of those strategies integrate displacement as a driver and/or consequence of vulnerability and disaster risk.³

- **Urban development plans should include a consideration of the needs, capacities and intentions of IDPs and displacement-affected communities and not lead to further displacement.** There is increasing recognition that linking the response to internal displacement to urban planning and land management is essential, even more as it is believed that most internally displaced live in urban areas and many do not wish or are unlikely to return. This includes identifying potential relocation zones following disasters (Nepal, Uganda), facilitating access to existing housing stock (Ukraine), ensuring measures to prevent evictions are carried out according to national and international standards (Somalia) and exploring land value sharing tools to generate revenue to finance durable solutions (Somalia). Local-level contingency plans, enforcement of building codes and a coordinated response to displacement risk and impacts are also essential for displacement prevention and preparedness in urban areas (Fiji, Indonesia). Data collection and analysis on internal displacement in cities is critical to developing urban plans that contribute to addressing internal displacement (Somalia).
- **Managing the risk of displacement is as important as managing displacement crises.** Preventing the conditions that lead to displacement includes, inter alia, developing disaster risk profiles and district - level intervention models (Ethiopia), early warning alerts for slow-onset disaster situations (Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia), strengthening self-reliance of communities at risk of displacement ahead of climate-related shocks (Mongolia, South Sudan), improving food security, soil quality and conservation (Ethiopia), and supporting preparedness initiatives of communities at risk of disaster displacement (Indonesia). Ultimately, however, as climate change is exacerbating displacement drivers, States need to curb climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent by 2030 as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- **Opportunities to prevent and mitigate violence also need to be seized,** including during the transhumance season between local populations and cross-border pastoralists. These include social cohesion and peacekeeping initiatives (Central African Republic, Iraq, Ukraine), and measures to address underlying issues related to inter-communal violence and cattle raiding, including community dialogue, reconciliation and peacebuilding initiatives (South Sudan).
- **Regional cooperation can incentivize government action on internal displacement.** State to State exchanges on internal displacement in the ECOWAS and IGAD regions co-convened with the GP20 initiative prompted some states to make further commitments to the issue (Cape Verde, Senegal, Somalia). Among other outcomes, ECOWAS agreed to move ahead on incorporating the Kampala Convention into ECOWAS community law, while IGAD agreed to galvanize further momentum on internal displacement through appointed National Coordination Mechanism on Migration focal points. Also in Africa, Regional Protection Dialogues on the Lake Chad Basin have resulted in legal tools to support and advocate for IDP protection, and Ethiopia learned directly from Somalia's experience in designing, gathering support for and implementing a durable solutions initiative. The Council of Europe and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's work on internal displacement has catalyzed improved protection of IDPs in Member States (Kosovo, Georgia, Ukraine). In the Americas, the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action (2014), Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have all spurred commitment and action on internal displacement at the national level.

² Taskforce on Displacement (2018): Report of the Task Force on Displacement.
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2018_TFD_report_17_Sep.pdf

³ Platform on Disaster Displacement, October 2018, Mapping the Baseline: - To What Extent Are Displacement and Other Forms of Human Mobility Integrated in National and Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies?, p. 11, available at: <https://disasterdisplacement.org/portfolio-item/drrmapping>

Durable solutions obstacles and catalysts

- **Planning for and moving towards durable solutions is possible even amidst crisis.** Building IDPs' and displacement-affected communities' resilience from the beginning of displacement by harnessing their capacities and reducing their vulnerabilities through their participation can help them regain self-reliance more quickly (Colombia, Somalia, Ukraine). This requires an immediate understanding of IDPs' capacities and matching those to livelihoods opportunities. Multi-stakeholder and collaborative profiling exercises of internal displacement situations have informed durable solutions planning while improving coordination and consensus on data collection, analysis and use (South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia). The government and other actors can conduct joint analysis and identify activities to address the underlying causes of protracted displacement, including through Durable Solutions Working Groups (Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Somalia) and adoption of durable solutions strategies (South Sudan, Ukraine). Development actors should engage from the outset of displacement to the degree possible, before displacement becomes protracted and harder to dismantle. Peace and security actors have a key role to play where pillaging, proliferation of small arms, recurring armed violence and conflict continue to displace people and undermine efforts to achieve stability and security required for durable solutions as in Central African Republic, Colombia, DRC, South Sudan.
- **Return is not always physically possible or desired by IDPs** (Colombia, Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia), especially when the underlying issues that triggered their displacement have not been addressed, their personal security and safety is at risk and when the means to address human rights violations, losses, impoverishment and rebuilding of community ties are insufficient. Displaced persons themselves are generally best positioned to know when it is wise and safe to return to their homes and can advise on the feasibility (South Sudan), including through intention surveys (Central African Republic). Due diligence on housing and land ownership in return areas and replacement of property documents supports safe, dignified return, increases IDPs' awareness of their rights and prevents disputes and secondary displacement (South Sudan, Ethiopia).
- **Return areas require support to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of IDPs.** Return is often promoted as the preferred settlement option for IDPs, at times to show tangible signs of progress from stalled processes or catalyze refugee returns. However, the premature return of displaced persons to their homes, in the absence of security and sustainability, can lead to new displacement and instability (Afghanistan, Iraq) or returnees fearing for their security more than IDPs due to ongoing violence in areas of origin (Central African Republic). Particular support for female IDP returnees is required, including on access to employment and housing, land and property rights (Ethiopia, Central African Republic). Access to education and improving social cohesion with local communities have been important interventions for returned IDPs in Burundi, while livelihood assistance is critical for sustainable returns in South Sudan. The reintegration of returnees requires longitudinal monitoring, especially as they are not always welcomed (Iraq, Central African Republic).
- **Local integration and settlement elsewhere should be pursued at par with return**, particularly in protracted situations. However, this could involve different strategies and advocacy approaches than return (Georgia, Iraq). Continued support to IDPs who are unable or not wanting to return is important for a dignified life in displacement. Reframing the benefits of local integration of IDPs (Ukraine) and aspiration surveys capturing the settlement wishes of IDPs (Somalia) and indicators measuring the degree to which IDPs have integrated in their area of displacement (Somalia, Iraq) or areas of return or settlement elsewhere can be used in advocacy and planning with governments. The risk of eviction of IDPs in cities can be reduced through an area-based approach that includes allocation of housing and land with tenure security and access to public utilities and services for IDPs and vulnerable host communities with inclusive community planning (Somalia, Ukraine) and engagement of local businesses (Somalia).
- **Immediate investments in peacebuilding and social cohesion are crucial** in areas hosting IDPs as well as in return areas (Burundi, Colombia, South Sudan, Venezuela). Local communities may see IDPs as a burden, and this can be alleviated by allocating resources to local authorities and showing how IDPs can be an asset to the community (Nigeria, Ukraine). Awareness raising sessions with the public can address displacement issues while bolstering political will; radio programmes and mobile text messaging has served as an effective medium for this (Somalia). The support of religious leaders, family networks and local businesses can be crucial to IDPs and reinforce community ties (Ethiopia, Iraq).

Other key activities include disarmament, support for traditional justice mechanisms, participatory planning, resilience and livelihood opportunities for marginalized groups, youth and women, promotion of gender equality and eradication of gender-based violence, protection monitoring, inclusion of IDPs in peacebuilding and peace processes and activities to build trust with security and military forces (Uganda, Ethiopia, Philippines, Georgia, Iraq, South Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ukraine). Establishing mechanisms for meaningful participation of IDPs in peace processes is also key to peacebuilding efforts (Cyprus, Georgia, Philippines, South Sudan).

- **Establishing a legal or de facto IDP status is not provided in international law.** IDPs, as citizens or habitual residents, should be able to exercise the same rights and entitlements as any other citizen or resident as a matter of good governance. Such a status may be beneficial to uphold IDPs' rights in certain contexts, for example make it possible to receive assistance and reparations (Colombia, Ukraine, Iraq). However, IDPs who wish not to be identified as IDPs because of security and discrimination would be excluded. In addition, an IDP status may entrench the distinction of IDPs from others and be used for political gain and complicate reaching durable solutions (Ukraine, Georgia). Ultimately, the choice must be carefully made with the goal to ensure that IDPs can access their rights without discrimination as soon as possible, and that support for IDPs does not distort the local economy or create disparities or tensions between and among IDPs and others including host communities.
- **Access to livelihoods, housing and land are often the main blockages to durable solutions.** Securing resources for livelihoods at the onset of and during a crisis is difficult since humanitarian funding is often limited to lifesaving interventions. While there is immediate funding for camps and temporary shelter, more durable housing solutions are rarely found (Georgia, Ukraine). Facilitating IDPs' access to identity documents, livelihoods, housing and land can enable access to their rights, strengthen their self-reliance, and eliminate the risk of secondary displacement, though this requires financial investment, market understanding and time for advocacy and negotiation of land (Djibouti, Somalia, Uganda, Sudan). Due diligence and mechanisms to remedy lost housing, land and property in the area of origin need to be developed and supported to address IDPs' dispossession and facilitate durable solutions. Restoration of IDPs' rights for their property in their place of origin do not require their return and may begin early through collecting information on their pre-displacement tenure situation (Honduras), and raising awareness on restitution rights, including the obligation to protect abandoned property (Ukraine).

Financing prevention, protection and durable solutions

- **There is a need to scale up forecast-based financing to strengthen resilience in the face of climate-related shocks.** Forecast-based financing is being provided to communities at risk of displacement in 60 countries. Experience thus far shows that displacement is not an inevitable consequence of disasters; it can be avoided by addressing the conditions that lead to displacement through anticipatory finance, climate change adaptation and resilience building measures that increase harvest yields, for example (Mongolia, India). This requires an understanding of local climate patterns and community vulnerability, reliable early warning (including meteorological) data, financial resources, participation of communities and local partners, including the private sector.
- **Donors should offer more flexible and multi-year funding** for the long-term work required to prevent the conditions that lead to displacement, protect IDPs and displacement-affected communities and achieve durable solutions. Short term and micro-investment with humanitarian funding is inadequate to build long-term resilience, secure IDP protection or achieve durable solutions. It also risks perpetuating a culture of humanitarian assistance and dependency and can thus be a barrier to supporting longer-term development and durable solutions. Multi-year, flexible funding that transcends the humanitarian-development divide has proved effective to reduce the vulnerability of communities at risk of displacement, address protection and assistance needs of IDPs and build resilience of displacement affected populations (South Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic). Actors involved in aid coordination and effectiveness should familiarize humanitarian donors and partners with the functioning, benefits and processes related to multi-partner trust funds.

- **Divided and differing funding structures are a challenge to addressing internal displacement** as a humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction and climate change challenge. These include the different timeframes for development and humanitarian planning cycles. Current financing structures and donor restrictions also place hurdles on growing efforts to develop joint responses that span humanitarian and development action. This includes the funding silos for development and humanitarian programmes.
- **Alternative sources of funding should be further explored**, including crowdfunding platforms, diaspora, the private sector, development and social impact bonds, as well as global mechanisms proposed in the UNFCCC work on climate change-induced displacement and other innovative sources of finance.⁴ Examples have included the Zakat donations system (Sudan), donations of solar energy panels to IDPs by a telecommunications company as part of their corporate social responsibility efforts (Uganda) and a public-private partnership linking farmers at the agricultural input level and at the market level for output (Sudan).
- **National and local level funding mechanisms should be strengthened**: Allocations of national funds for addressing internal displacement (Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda) or Trust Funds for planned relocations as a result of climate change (Fiji) can serve as models for other countries. Government allocations to local government authorities often rely on census data reflecting the regular population, rather than the actual population that includes IDPs. As a result, local governments may lack enough resources to meet displacement-affected communities' needs. Plumbing the vertical relationship between national and lower levels of government to ensure funding reaches local governments and removing obstacles for donors to fund local governments can ensure local governments have the means and the authority to address the needs of IDPs in addition to the existing community. Greater accountability and commitment to transparency in reporting of government development funding is required.

Data and evidence challenges and opportunities

- **Despite progress over the past decade, significant challenges remain regarding the quality of data on internal displacement.** Some governments lack the capacity, support, or will to collect internal displacement data, and in many cases key data needed for an effective response is missing. This includes data disaggregated by sex, age, specific risks and needs, and location as well as national IDP figures for many countries. Challenges to improving the quality of data include some that are common to any data collection effort in contexts of humanitarian crisis or high human mobility (lack of physical access to some areas with IDPs, including due to insecurity and multiple movements of IDPs; survey fatigue; lack of an effective system and software for monitoring population movements; multiple organizations collecting similar data; limited will to share and harmonize collected data), whereas others are more specific to situations of conflict or violence-induced internal displacement (IDPs choosing not to be counted due to stigma or fear for their safety; lack of harmonisation of concepts and standards between countries, especially on durable solutions; lack of consensus on when IDPs should be removed from the tally; and political sensitivity on IDP figures).⁵
- **Better understanding internal displacement situations requires stronger coordination, information-sharing, interoperability and transparency throughout data collection, evidence production, analysis and use.** Humanitarian, development, disaster risk reduction and climate change actors use different approaches and definitions on internal displacement. This inhibits making better use of existing resources and data at both the local, national and global levels, and makes joint and longer-term programming challenging. Even within the humanitarian sector, confusion over the scope of institutional mandates can lead to a lack of coordination and result in a lack of clarity on the interoperability or complementarity of datasets. Without coordinated and well-documented methodologies and approaches, as well as improved data responsibility and sharing practices, the

⁴ See for example UN General Assembly, 15 July 2019, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, available at:

<https://undocs.org/en/A/74/161> and CARE International, 6 June 2019, Innovative Finance Sources: Complement to Strong Count Contributions for GCF Replenishment?, available at: <https://careclimatechange.org/publications/innovative-finance-sources/>

⁵ UNHCR, 'Obtaining representative data on IDPs: challenges and recommendations', UNHCR Statistical Series 2017/1, Available at <https://www.unhcr.org/598088104.pdf>

usability of available data remains limited. A workshop with all actors collecting data on internal displacement can be a good first step to meet altogether face to face, map data efforts, discuss challenges and opportunities, and harmonize the data collected by different actors (South Sudan, Central African Republic).

- **Longer-term planning and investment, as well as inclusive and comparative approaches are required when producing data on internal displacement.** Data efforts should move beyond short project cycles to account for the time required to strengthen government engagement, ownership and technical capacity, build trust with affected groups and overcome difficulties of monitoring the situation of IDPs. More longer-term thinking and investment are required when collecting data to plan for and measure progress towards durable solutions. Comparing the situation of IDPs to those of non-displaced host communities helps to better understand vulnerabilities and protection needs that are specifically linked to displacement on the one hand, and challenges faced by both displaced and non-displaced population groups which thus require broader programming, on the other. This data is required for prioritizing investments and informing programming, policymaking, and advocacy for the protection and assistance of those most in need in line with local planning processes in these areas.
- **Analysing durable solutions and measuring progress towards durable solutions must be done jointly by government and other relevant actors to inform effective, long-term responses.** Reporting on the implementation of IDP durable solutions strategies requires strong horizontal coordination between responsible state authorities (Ukraine). Engaging development actors on measuring durable solutions is also important since data on social cohesion, peacebuilding, security and stabilization are key to understanding and ensuring the sustainability of solutions (Iraq, Ukraine). Improving monitoring and data collection after IDPs' return is critical to avoid secondary displacement or failed return and new protection issues (Iraq, Ethiopia). Important lessons on measuring durable solutions can be compiled from the application of the Interagency Durable Solutions Indicator Library and Analysis Guide⁶ (Sudan), the use of the ReDSS solutions framework to measure progress towards durable solutions⁷ (Somalia), longitudinal qualitative studies on the achievement of durable solutions (Iraq) and the ongoing development of tools to operationalize the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs (Somalia, Iraq). The 10th anniversary of the Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs in 2020 offers an opportunity for reflection on the utility, successes and limitations of the Framework.
- **New and existing data systems and processes should be linked** and, where possible, harmonised, in order to avoid duplication and to ensure the best use is made of available resources and data. The first-ever International Recommendations on IDP Statistics⁸ developed through the multi-stakeholder Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2020 are an important opportunity for building more inclusive and efficient statistical systems. This would allow for aligning national IDP data to make it comparable across contexts by applying common concept, definitions and methodologies. Dissemination of and training on the recommendations should be supported. The work of meteorological institutes should also be supported as weather forecasts can be used to anticipate and manage disaster displacement risk (Indonesia, Mongolia).

Response management, coordination and accountability

- **Opportunities to generate a more holistic approach to internal displacement should be seized** across humanitarian, development, peace, climate change adaptation, environmental and disaster risk reduction actors. There is a need to improve the understanding of how displacement cuts across the work of all these actors, strengthen coordination, harmonise funding efforts, improve collaboration and ensure accountability towards collective outcomes on internal displacement. For example, displacement risks in disaster contexts are not widely acknowledged or understood by disaster risk reduction and climate change-related actors. A more holistic approach can be supported through

⁶ Interagency Durable solutions Indicator Library and Analysis Guide, 2018, available at: <https://inform-durablesolutions-idp.org/>

⁷ Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, Solutions Framework, available at : <https://regionaldss.org/index.php/research-and-knowledge-management/solutions-framework/>

⁸ Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics, March 2020, International Recommendations on IDP Statistics, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3n-international-recommendations-on-IDP-statistics-E.pdf>

experience sharing and discussion of challenges and lessons learned as has been facilitated through the multi-stakeholder GP20 initiative and the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics, partnership strengthening and deployment of technical knowledge. Such fora may become more relevant in the post-COVID-19 environment as funding, programming and strategies are forced to change. IDPs should participate in these discussions and contribute to decisions on solutions.

- **Early and long-term engagement of development, peace and private sector actors and international and regional financial institutions is essential.** Despite some advances, internal displacement is still primarily viewed as a humanitarian issue that is addressed through short-term individual projects. Areas considered stable and in which humanitarians have withdrawn have fallen back into humanitarian need in the absence of development support (Central African Republic). IDPs' needs often exceed available funding and go beyond the scope of the Humanitarian Needs Overview, particularly in protracted contexts (Ukraine). Humanitarian action alone cannot address the drivers of crises or support the drivers of peace, and development and peace tools, approaches and instruments need to be better used to decrease humanitarian need.
- **A longer-term approach and investment are required for a more effective response.** Achieving durable solutions requires support, expertise and investment for the costly and lengthy task of physical rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction, identifying and eliminating underlying causes of protracted displacement, and supporting IDPs' and affected communities' self-sufficiency from the early stages of displacement, including by matching their capacities to livelihood opportunities. There is a challenge in transitioning into systems and approaches that properly inform longer-term interventions since data collection systems and needs assessments focus on short-term information needs to inform immediate humanitarian interventions rather than durable solutions planning. Efforts need to be scaled up to strengthen protection of the most vulnerable, have a real impact and facilitate progress towards durable solutions, while social cohesion, peace and stability take hold in parallel.
- **The UN can improve coordination and coherence among its agencies on internal displacement.** The UN Resident Coordinator's strengthened role and convening power is enabling the UN to better support "one-UN" responses to internal displacement. Durable solutions units with dedicated staff positions in the Resident Coordinator's Office have catalyzed the development of government-led Durable Solutions Initiatives and strategies by systematizing cooperation among humanitarian, development and political actors on IDP-related issues (Ethiopia, Sudan, Iraq, Somalia). At the same time, there is room for a more deliberate "one UN" approach where relevant UN agencies include IDPs as a target group in their policies and programming and combine expertise and networks to address internal displacement through joint analysis, assessments, planning and programming.

Engagement of internally displaced persons⁹

- **A "whole-of-government" approach should be coupled with a "whole-of-society" approach** that ensures the participation of IDPs, host and religious communities as well as the private sector in planning the response to internal displacement and achieving durable solutions. IDPs often know best what they need and their participation in decisions that affect their lives is a right. Their participation also improves the effectiveness of the response. Particular attention should be paid to women, girls, youth, older, disabled, marginalized and other particularly vulnerable IDPs. This is critical for informing analysis and programming, and for ensuring solutions are durable, locally relevant and supportive of social cohesion. Community-driven, area-based planning processes are facilitating the ability of displacement affected communities to prioritize their humanitarian, development and peacebuilding needs (Somalia, Sudan).
- **Community participation in disaster displacement risk reduction and response is critical** and should include women, older persons, children, youth and persons who are disabled (South Sudan, Nepal). Community-generated and -led disaster preparedness, early warning and response initiatives facilitated and supported by the government show particular promise when planned relocation is to a village with similar background and livelihoods, IDPs can access land, a reliable data system can be developed and the receiving village benefits in the process (Fiji, Indonesia).

⁹ UN General Assembly 24 July 2017, Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IDPersons/A-72-202.pdf>

- **Political participation of IDPs is an important step for resuming life as a normal citizen.** In some countries, the legal framework or local practice obliges IDPs to register and vote in their district of origin (Iraq, Afghanistan). This is an unreasonable demand as many IDPs may prefer not to return to an insecure area or an area where they have suffered human rights abuses to vote. Some countries have facilitated IDPs' access to electoral processes by establishing voting stations near IDP camps (Philippines), or conducted sustained multi-stakeholder advocacy on IDPs' obstacles to voting that resulted in legal amendments and guidance for IDPs on changing their voting address (Ukraine). Protection Clusters (DRC, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine) have developed guidance, conducted advocacy and provided training to support IDPs' access to voting rights in a protected environment. Some countries have developed policies that include IDPs in specific voting exercises (Nigeria).
- **The participation of internally displaced women and girls needs to be expanded.** Challenges to the participation of internally displaced women and girls include consultation fatigue, gender-based violence, cultural practices that view women's rights as foreign concepts, militarization of humanitarian spaces, loss of personal agency and autonomy, and the fact that the majority of their time and energy is spent on meeting basic needs. Internally displaced women should also participate in negotiations and resolution of conflicts and/or matters of peace and security at the national and local levels, which can be facilitated through the implementation of National Action Plans for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Cyprus, Philippines).
- **IDPs have an important role to play in law and policymaking and peace processes.** The inclusion of IDPs in law and policy (Niger, South Sudan) and peace processes (Syria, Iraq, South Sudan) is critical. Vice-versa, research has shown that the continued presence of large number of internally displaced populations is a key predictor for a return to war following a peace agreement. Peace can be more sustainable if built from the ground up with an inclusive approach (South Sudan, Philippines). The link between internal displacement and mine action, safety of return, social cohesion and reconciliation is why IDPs must be included in peacebuilding and peace processes. With a foot in the place of displacement and a foot in the place of origin, IDPs can be a bridge in regulating conflict and sustaining peace. However, displacement itself, poverty, marginalization and limited access to information impede their participation.

References

GP20 regional state to state exchanges

[GP20/IGAD Regional Exchange on Experiences in Supporting Resilience and Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement in the IGAD Region](#)

[GP20/ECOWAS, West Africa Regional Exchange on Law and Policy to Prevent and Address Internal Displacement](#)

GP20/GPC roundtable reports

[Public and Political Participation of Internally Displaced Persons – 2018](#)

[Peace Agreements and the Road to Resolve Internal Displacement – 2018](#)

Thematic reports

[Towards Sustainable Urban Development in Somalia and IDP Durable Solutions at Scale](#)

[Displaced populations and urban poor no longer left behind](#)

[Tearing Down the Walls – confronting the barriers to internally displaced women and girls' participation in humanitarian settings](#)

[Lessons Learned on Development Responses to internal displacement](#)

[The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Promoting and Protecting the Human Rights of IDPs](#)

National events

[Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons: A Way Forward](#). Kyiv, Ukraine, 25 November 2019

[Upholding the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Organizing, Empowering, Delivering](#). Abuja, Nigeria, 29-30 October 2019

[Conférence sur les solutions durables pour les personnes déplacées de force en République démocratique du Congo](#). Kinshasa, DRC, 22-24 October 2019

[Cities of Solidarity Forum](#). Kharkiv, Ukraine, 3 October 2019

[Conference on Internal Displacement devoted to 20th Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) Tbilisi, Georgia, 5 July 2019

GP20 Steering Group meetings

[GP20 Steering Group Meeting 9 March 2020 – Disaster displacement](#)

[GP20 Steering Group Meeting 4 December 2019 – IDP participation](#)

[GP20 Steering Group Meeting 27 June 2019 – Protracted displacement and durable solutions](#)

[GP20 Steering Group Meeting 4 March 2019 – Data on internal displacement](#)

[GP20 Steering Group Meeting 4 December 2018 – Law and policy](#)

[GP20 Steering Group Meeting 5 July 2018 – GP20 Plan of Action](#)

GP20 webinars

[GP20 Webinar 16 January 2020](#)

[The essential link between IDP Data and Laws and Policies on internal displacement](#)

[GP20 Webinar 12 December 2019](#)

[Putting words into action: Reducing disaster displacement risks through local measures](#)

[GP20 Webinar 25 February 2019](#)

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