



Working Together Better to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement: GP20 Compilation of National Practices

Launch Event

Monday, 23 November 2020

SUMMARY

The launch of the GP20 flagship publication entitled *Working Together Better to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement: GP20 Compilation of National Practices* was held on 23 November 2020. This report showcases 22 promising practices on internal displacement in 16 countries as well as related wisdom shared and generated over the three-year multi-stakeholder *GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons 2018-2020*. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons moderated the event. The GP20 Coordinator presented key insights from the report and government and NGO representatives from Niger, Somalia, Sudan and Ukraine presented examples from their country featured in the report.

Opening remarks

Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

The GP20 initiative emerged following a stakeholder consultation in Geneva in September 2017. Led by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the consultation led to a draft Plan of Action that was consulted widely. The three main sponsors of the resolution on internally displaced persons in the UN Human Rights Council, Austria, Honduras, and Uganda, launched the GP20 Plan of Action in Geneva on 17 April 2018 with UN Member States, UN agencies, academics and key experts.

The GP20 Plan of Action received high-level endorsement. The Interagency Standing Committee principals endorsed the GP20 Plan of Action in May 2018. Then in July 2018, the heads of OCHA, UNHCR, IOM and UNDP sent a joint letter to all UN Resident Coordinators calling on them to implement the Plan of Action. In parallel, a joint letter signed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons was sent to all OHCHR field offices.

From 2018 to 2020, the GP20 initiative has convened and supported numerous events at the global, regional and national levels and contributed to other processes, including the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The focus has been on national implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in four areas: participation of internally displaced persons, law and policy, data and analysis, and durable solutions. GP20 has been a methodology by which experts

and practitioners from different constituencies have worked together, including on policy and communications.

The GP20 Steering Group led by States, UN agencies and NGOs held regular meetings which graduated from in-person gatherings in Geneva to open online meetings. Internally displaced persons also participated in GP20 events, which is a theme unto itself in the GP20 process. The panelists of the first GP20 side event convened by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons in 2018 was composed entirely of internally displaced persons from Sudan, Nigeria, Mexico, and Japan. There is keen interest at the international level to listen to, consult and interact with internally displaced persons themselves.

The protection of internally displaced persons must be at the center of our discussions. We need to focus on how internally displaced persons fair with regard to the guarantee of their human rights in policy and also in practice. We must advance on how international stakeholders can support this. The GP20 Compilation of National Practices shows us how we can overcome practical challenges and seize opportunities to ensure internally displaced persons can access their rights. This compilation is meant for all practitioners and policy makers, not only at the international and regional levels, but also those who are protecting internally displaced persons at national and local levels.

GP20 Compilation of National Practices: Key insights and recommendations

Nadine Walicki, GP20 Coordinator

The compilation includes 22 examples of promising practices shared in GP20 discussions over the three-year multi stakeholder process. They cover 16 countries across all continents and focus on the four GP20 areas of inquiry: participation of internally displaced persons, law and policy, data and analysis and durable solutions. The examples cover contexts of conflict, generalized violence, disasters and climate change. Only practices that were a collaborative effort and implemented using a multi-stakeholder approach were included, as well as those that had a positive impact on the lives of IDPs or the protection environment. Far from a complete anthology of best practice on displacement, these examples contribute to the existing community of practice on internal displacement and can help reflections on the issue.

The examples in the compilation show us how six well-established facts and recommendations on preventing, addressing and resolving internal displacement are being implemented on the ground.

1. **Political will can be generated and sustained in numerous ways.** This is being done through quality and agreed upon data on internal displacement (Somalia), sustained advocacy campaigns (Ukraine), international expert visits and technical support (South Sudan) and where there is an incentive to be seen as an international and regional leader on preventing and addressing internal displacement (Fiji).
2. **Internally displaced people are part of the national population.** The lives of internally displaced persons may be normalized more quickly if they are considered as citizens or residents with displacement related needs, rather than displaced people with humanitarian needs. In this way, they do not lose entitlement to services and programmes upon displacement and they gain access to services and programmes that can help address their displacement-related needs (Ukraine: housing and voting). This could help avoid creating parallel structures.
3. **Conscious steps are needed to build trust with internally displaced persons.** Key steps include deploying interlocutors who speak the same language as internally displaced people (Nigeria) and carefully selecting the persons who are directly interacting with internally displaced people (Philippines). Meaningful engagement and consultations can strengthen leadership of internally displaced communities to identify priorities themselves (Somalia and Sudan).
4. **Data is a powerful tool to identify, understand and address internal displacement.** Having regular longitudinal collection and analysis of data on the progress of internally displaced persons toward durable solutions is essential for designing integrated solutions programmes (Iraq). Data

should be collected, analyzed, used in all contexts where displacement happens (Philippines). Data is required beyond the numbers of internally displaced people and the needs that they have, but also on the property left behind (Honduras).

5. **Integrated approaches to internal displacement show promise for durable solutions.** Different sectors and constituencies coming together in an integrated way can pave the way for durable solutions (Ethiopia, Somalia). Dedicated support in the UN Resident Coordinators' Offices has been a catalyst to setting the foundation for integrated approaches by bringing together international and local actors for a shared vision and developing common indicators.
6. **Humanitarianism and beyond: more can be done to support government leadership.** Humanitarian assistance and action is critical and lifesaving in displacement crises. However, it is not enough to achieve durable solutions to internal displacement. There is more room for development action, action on peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, and addressing the impacts of climate change (Afghanistan, Mongolia, Somalia). Donors can help facilitate a coherent, timely and integrated response to displacement.

Somalia: The Midnimo Project's Experiment in Integrated Programming on Durable Solutions

Abdullahi Ali Watiin, Director of Durable Solutions and Urban Resilience and Chief of Staff, Office of the President South West State of Somalia and former District Commissioner and Mayor of Baidoa

In Baidoa city, 417 sites host 59,921 internally displaced families or 392,274 internally displaced people. As part of the Midnimo project, the Baidoa Community Action Plan (CAP) was developed through community consultations and participatory discussions. Communities identified drivers of instability and conflict resolution mechanisms as well as opportunities for peaceful co-existence, recovery and durable solutions in their localities. The Baidoa CAP is a living document updated periodically and accepted by humanitarian and development partners in Baidoa, including the World Bank.

The Midnimo project was government-led and aimed to enhance local leadership capacities to facilitate return, recovery, social integration and peaceful co-existence of displacement-affected persons, returnees, other migrants and host communities in South West State, Jubaland and Hir-Shabelle. IOM and UN HABITAT supported the project. The office of the Mayor and relevant government ministries committed to provide land to IDPs while managing increasing urbanization in parallel. A city extension plan and draft land law were awaiting approval of the Southwest State parliament in November 2020.

Over 842,000 people (54% female; 49% male), including internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities, directly benefitted from improved access to education, health, water, safety and security, markets, livelihoods, recreation and transport. This was achieved through improvement or construction of community prioritized schools, hospitals, water sources, markets, police stations, prisons, stadiums and the airport. Vulnerable youth, women and men were employed on some of the community-identified projects. Art, sports and culture events led to improved acceptance, tolerance and integration.

The project strengthened trust and cooperation between the government and the community, improved social cohesion between local clans as well as between IDPs, host communities and returnees. The government exhibited leadership and accountability to project stakeholders including donors and the municipality proved it could deliver services to communities more widely. While successful on several fronts, the project did not continue because of limited expertise, funds and capacity of all stakeholders to understand the durable solutions concept. Recommendations include capacity building for authorities on durable solutions and resilience-building, state-level durable solutions strategies that are compatible with national development plans and creating an environment conducive to investment.

Ukraine: Adapting Pre-Existing Housing Schemes to Meet the Needs of Internally Displaced Persons

Svetlana Shtenda, Director of Assets Division, Mariupol City Council, Ukraine

The municipality of Mariupol viewed the arrival of internally displaced people to the city as an opportunity for local development. The departure point for the municipality's approach was to consider IDPs as new Mariupol residents, and this provided a sense of integration among IDPs from the early stages of displacement which Ms. Shtenda and her family felt as internally displaced from Donetsk in 2014. This is even though there was no legal foundation or experience to draw on to address the protection and assistance needs of IDPs.

The main problem which both the city and its new residents faced was housing. The municipality took several measures, including establishing temporary accommodation in collective centres and facilitating access to private ownership of apartments and homes. Towards the end of 2020, a state programme for housing was adopted whereby IDPs can purchase new housing for 20% of the cost while 80% is shared between the municipality (30%) and the state (50%). While these measures have helped some internally displaced families, the municipality has not been able to house all in need.

Mariupol's experience in facilitating access to housing for IDPs is being replicated elsewhere in Ukraine. In 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted legal provisions for social housing distribution among IDPs based on the Mariupol model. UNHCR also recognized Mariupol as the first City of Solidarity in Ukraine for its achievements on integration of IDPs. Such success is due to consolidated efforts of the municipality and state authorities, community members and international organizations.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons Informing Durable Solutions Action Plans

Ahmed Yassein, former Durable Solutions Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator's Office; currently Programme Campaigner, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Durable solutions plans were developed in Um Dukhun from 2018 to 2019 as a pilot project. A rural area that accommodates about 36 different ethnic groups, Um Dukhun has witnessed two waves of conflict-induced displacement in 2003 and 2013. The first wave displaced around 140,000 people internally and abroad. Gradually, the security situation has improved and some IDPs and refugees have returned to their area of origin.

Development of the durable solutions plans followed the 5-step methodology in the Durable Solutions Handbook using an area-based and consultative and joint planning approach with displacement-affected communities. First, the Governor of Central Darfur, the Locality Commissioner of Um Dukhun and displacement-affected communities were consulted and endorsed the project. Over 90% of IDPs were willing to return to five areas of origin and they mainly wished to practice agriculture.

IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities were separately consulted on what they viewed as a solution to their displacement, what the obstacles were to achieving that solution, how they thought the obstacles could be removed, what they as a community could do or had done to remove the obstacles and what additional support could help remove the obstacles. This led to further consultations on programming that would be best for their communities.

Available natural, human and financial resources were taken into the consideration to develop the action plans. The youth promised to rehabilitate the infrastructure, farmers agreed to share their cash crops and men agreed to establish social cohesion committees in the areas of return to avoid any kind of dispute or clashes among the community. The programme was designed to generate revolving income and profit to make them self-sustainable over time.

The community and IDPs built the durable solution project and owned the process, which was a unique aspect of this pilot initiative. It is also a good example of an integrated programming approach. The programme was interrupted due to the change in local authorities following the revolution in Sudan in

2019 though the Transitional Government of Sudan is taking a leadership role on durable solutions and the peace agreement includes a protocol on IDPs and refugees. In 2020, an NGO consortium advanced the action plans into a multi-year project. Um Dukhun locality has also since been selected to be a target under the Peacebuilding Fund.

Other challenges were lack of funds to implement the action plans and limited support from the international community at that time. Lessons include more time is needed for communities to transition from relief to development and more funding and time for recovery is essential. Coordinating closely with national government to establish police stations in return areas to ensure security before the return of IDPs.

Niger: Development of the Law on Protection and Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons

Habou Moussa, General Inspector of Services, Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management

Four out of eight regions in Niger are affected by displacement as a result of armed conflict, violence, widespread human rights violations and natural or manmade disasters: Taboua, Tillabéry, Diffa and Maradi. Displacement increases vulnerabilities of the displaced and others and addressing the phenomenon and its consequences is the responsibility of states. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) set out the obligation of State Parties towards the displaced.

Due to the increasing number of internally displaced persons in Niger, the government launched and led the process of integrating the Kampala Convention into the national legal framework of Niger. Three main lessons were learned from this process:

1. An inclusive and multi-stakeholder process was essential to developing the law. Elaborating the law was inclusive in that it has involved many stakeholders, including national and international experts, government members of the Technical Committee for the validation of texts, humanitarian agencies, IDP representatives, civil society and the Protection Cluster.
2. Conducting a sensitization campaign in parallel with an analysis of the national legal framework is good time management. It was important to begin raising awareness and building buy-in from early stages and throughout the process. Momentum was maintained due to good time management: the entire process took around one year.
3. National ownership of the process by the government was key. Many ministerial departments and the National Assembly that had stakes in IDP protection played an active role.

After adopting the law in December 2018, further decisions were taken to determine the organizational and operational modalities of the National Coordination Committee of IDPs protection and assistance and the application modality of the new Law on Protection and Assistance of IDPs. In addition, an order from the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management created the National Committee for data collection and information management on IDPs. The same committee was created at a regional level in the four regions. Those committees are actively working jointly with the humanitarian agencies and organizations and NGOs in protecting the IDPs in the different regions.

The adoption of the law clarified the difference between IDPs, refugees, forced migrants and returnees and filled a legal gap on the specific protection and assistance of IDPs. Thousands of IDPs are now receiving protection from the responsible ministerial department in collaboration with other stakeholders, namely humanitarian agencies, through coordination mechanisms established in every region.

Q&A Session

Somalia, Mr. Abdullahi Ali Watiin: Can you please give us more detail on the Midnimo project's lack of continuity? And how can this be addressed in your opinion? To what extent would it be possible for the local or state government to take over the project and continue activities through public funding?

Over its three-year lifespan, the Midnimo project improved the trust between the community and the government, government capacity and the understanding of community priorities. The project was not extended due to the lack of funding.

Achieving durable solutions is a long-term development project that can be from 20 to 30 years in an urban area since finding solutions to housing, land and property issues are especially time intensive. This is one element of the growing global challenge of rural to urban migration and urbanization that Baidoa is experiencing. Management of public lands with a long-term vision is critical in this process, as is ensuring tenure security for IDPs and other city residents.

By January 2021, over 2000 internally displaced and other households will have been relocated in Baidoa. In June 2019, 1000 households were relocated and another 1009 households are currently being relocated. The land has been cleared and the land plots have been demarcated.

Sudan, Mr. Ahmed Yassein: Can you explain how the consortium of NGOs came to know about the community action plans for durable solutions in Um Dukhun and how they were involved?

Partners such as Catholic Relief Services, Triangle Generation Humanitaire, Danish Refugee Council and local NGOs planned together, consulted the community and IDPs in the field together and established the plan of action together. More recently, six NGOs joined the Durable Solutions Working Group led by UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF.

Niger, Mr. Habou Moussa: How is the law on protection and assistance to IDPs being implemented? And how is its implementation being monitored?

The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management has representatives in the four regions as does the Committee for Data Collection and Information Management of IDPs. They are working with stakeholders, namely humanitarian agencies, NGOs and donors to plan registration of all IDPs in the region. From this, we have now in Taboua 55,625 in Tillabéry 82,604, Diffa 102,726 and Maradi 17,262. Based on this data, the government will take measures to assist IDPs.

All panelists: How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the response to internal displacement in your country?

In Ukraine, IDPs are treated the same as other residents and can access health care on a par with their non-displaced neighbours. Children of IDPs receive meals free of charge in kindergartens and schools.

In El Fasher, Sudan, IDPs receive a monthly food basket. Humanitarian activities follow the directives set out by the Ministry of Health. CAFOD is implementing livelihood programmes for people adversely affected by the lockdown.

In Niger, campaigns were conducted in every region to equip IDPs and others with information, masks and hand sanitizer to protect themselves against COVID-19.

In Somalia, the government and others have focused on awareness raising, social distancing, establishing quarantine centres and research on how COVID-19 has affected IDPs and other communities in terms of their health and household economy. The authorities in Baidoa recently conducted a community consultation to determine how to link the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic into the existing Community Action Plans.