16 February 2021

**TTLP meeting**

Presentations by Protection Cluster Coordinators from countries where draft IDP laws have been fully developed, but challenges remain to their adoption:

* **Honduras**
  + Government recognised internal displacement in 2013, first country in the region. An inter-institutional commission for the protection of people displaced by violence was established
  + A very consultative process led to the development and finalisation of a draft law on internal displacement in 2018. Consultations included IDPs, civil society, different government ministries. However, the law has not been adopted yet
  + Challenges:
    1. Awareness on the need for the law is still limited
    2. Since 2021 is an electoral year, strategies need to be developed to address the challenges with regard to internal displacement. We need to create public engagement and awareness of the emergency internal displacement faces
  + How we are trying to address this:
    1. Promoting awareness-raising: through a youth-led community-based organisation (Youth Against Violence), which developed a great campaign (see [here](https://proceso.hn/piden-al-parlamento-hondureno-aprobar-una-ley-para-atender-y-proteger-a-los-desplazados/))

→ TTLP chair: Very important! in **Ethiopia**, similar efforts to promote the adoption of the draft IDP law are being promoted by the national university in collaboration with CSOs through monthly webinars

* + 1. Capacity-building: the Dep Minister for Human Rights attended the first Sanremo Course on Internal Displacement in Spanish last year, and was enthusiastic about it. A project was initiated through the MoU between UNHCR and the Ministry to create and make available an online course on internal displacement for Ministry staff

→ TTLP chair: along similar lines, colleagues in **the Philippines** for example have organised information sessions on international standards on IDP protection and existing draft laws at the national and regional level, and continue to work closely with the NHRI on promoting legislative progress

* + 1. Strategic Human Rights Engagement: we supported the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs in publishing a joint statement with the Inter-American Rapporteur advocating for adoption, see *UN and IACHR Experts Urge Immediate Adoption of Law to Protect Internally Displaced People*. Press release [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.oas.org%2Ffr%2FCIDH%2FjsForm%2F%3FFile%3D%2Fen%2Fiachr%2Fmedia_center%2FPReleases%2F2021%2F014.asp&data=04%7C01%7CCATERINA%40unhcr.org%7Ccf2668edd4374f36548908d8edbf95dc%7Ce5c37981666441348a0c6543d2af80be%7C0%7C0%7C637520754396505508%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=AcbL8RpD3wSBhhAmpso74IxDGaS1PrZSwf33M4AVLgY%3D&reserved=0)

→ TTLP chair: Similar statements or joint letters have been sent to Governments jointly with Inter-american or African SR as relevant for several countries, important to pursue these avenues! As well as UPR mechanism

* **Chad**
  + The domestication of the Kampala Convention really moved forward in 2019 when a technical committee was established by the Government in April. This committee developed a draft law in September that year. However, the law has not yet been adopted
  + Current objective: Re-energise the drafting Committee to take the next steps. PC’s and partners’ plans:
    1. Field visit for parliamentarians
    2. Sensitizing local authorities and HCT
    3. Have a second High-Level reviewing the draft law
  + Challenges:
    1. The upcoming Presidential and legislative elections (related risk of civil unrest)
    2. Funding
* **Mali**
  + Mali has witnessed an increase in protection crisis as more civilian casualties are reported, civilians have become targets of attacks, more internal and cross-border movement has been recorded, and the number of displaced persons has doubled in the last year
  + Draft Legal framework exists, but not adopted.
    1. Government has supported the formation of a technical committee set up for the domestication of the Kampala Convention (2015)
    2. In 2016, a study on the normative frameworks was conducted by UNHCR, GPC, and other partners
    3. In 2019, a consultant was hired to develop a draft national bill which was adopted in August. Its presentation to the national assembly has been delayed due to COVID-19 and the elections
    4. In 2020, support for this draft bill has continued but there has been no progress due to the change of government after the coup d’etat in August. We are currently in an 18-month transition period.
  + The adoption of the law has been included as a priority for the Mali Protection Cluster. There is momentum now, because there has been a shift in the government’s approach to internal displacement.
  + Next steps:
    1. Have a discussion on adopting the law during this transition period, we need to analyse the risks of pushing this now
    2. Make an analysis of the key stakeholders needed to push this bill forward
    3. Maintain support from HC, HCT, the TTs on L&P, on human rights engagement and on advocacy
* South Sudan:
  + Consultative development of an IDP law domesticating the KC in 2019. However, the draft was never adopted and it now sits with the Minister of Justice. Currently, the country is going through a process of reconstituting its government and parliament, so it is almost the right time to push again. This would complement the 2019 Framework for Return and reintegration and related action plan
  + A Land Act also exists since 2018, but a Land Policy is currently in draft form and this is crucial for protection actors

Ideas of how TTLP can support technically and through advocacy to promote such efforts:

* IDP Law & Policy Flagship publication
* National workshops on Law & Policy
* Sanremo Courses on Internal Displacement (in Eng, Fr, SP)
* Organisation of activities such as information sessions for Parliamentarians, consultations with communities etc.
* Technical review of draft IDP laws and policies (or others as relevant, see Land policy)
* Support for legal review of national legislation relating to the protection of IDPs
* Human rights engagement for law & policy change
* Tool development e.g. stakeholder mapping

Discussion

* Working with authorities for law and policy changes on housing, land and property rights
  + HLP AoR interested in supporting HLP working group there on the policy and beyond
  + This is relevant for South Sudan, but for example also for Mali and Honduras
* Support from Regional
  + ECOWAS: has prioritised supporting domestication of Kampala Convention in Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso, and will organise field visits to these countries)
  + SADC: in its MoU with UNHCR, KC domestication features prominently
  + AU: discussions are ongoing on the organisation of the Second Conference of State Parties.
* There is a strong interest in questions regarding law and practice and durable solutions
* Training and shared learning at distance need to continue
* National ownerships of these processes? In Chad, CSOs’ involvement is really where the TTLP can help! In Mali, the point is also well noted - now it’s the time to push for this, there is momentum with the government

**Academic research on Law & Policy:**

David Cantor presented the ongoing work of Refugee Law Initiative and the establishment of the IDP Research networks (it’s quite a fragmented research community) and projects (in Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East) to

1) provide a centre of gravity for scholars and researchers on IDP issues, and

2) to shift the profile of IDP research agenda which compared to others, it’s not on the radar just as much as other areas.

What would be the role of an academic institution or researchers in the TTLP? What can independent academic research provide? There are some ways in which academic research can support (see recent RSQ collaboration with High Level Panel). Discussion:

* We agree that a longer term relationship would be better than occasional consultancies
* Gaps that TTLP would be interested in addressing:
  + Impact of laws and policies: what can help us understand the impact of such instruments on the life of affected people. Would we focus on a sub-set of rights? Either way, we would need a much more in depth understanding of that
* With regard to publications, they should be aimed at broader academic audiences or policy actors since it enables more fresh thinking from parallel disciplines
* Mapping wider trends in development of the law need to continue (David will develop a paper on the future of IDP law and policy)

**AOB:**

Update on E-learning course

* The completed product should be ready by July. It will be translated in 3 languages (French, Spanish, Arabic).
* The new curriculum packing for the workshop package is to be more skills based and will be shared for feedback in April.