



IGAD Regional Consultative Process 2019
A Regional Exchange on Experiences in Supporting Resilience and
Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement in the IGAD Region
Addis Ababa, 7-8 October 2019

Introduction

The 2019 IGAD Regional Consultative Process will be organised in collaboration with GP20, a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together UN entities, NGOs, academia, UN Member States, the World Bank and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to advance prevention, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs). This event will also contribute to the African Union's Project 2019. The AU declared 2019 "the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa". This is to mark the 50th anniversary of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Convention on Refugees) and the 10th anniversary of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention). The conclusions and commitments agreed at this regional exchange will feed into a continental event dedicated to the Kampala Convention.

Preventing displacement, protecting IDPs and achieving durable solutions to internal displacement remains a major global challenge. It is not only a humanitarian concern, but also a human rights, development and, in some cases, a peace building and security concern. Resolving displacement requires strong government leadership and political will, a collective, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector coordinated response as well as a long-term focus from an early stage. Consequently, humanitarian, human rights, development, peace and security actors all have a distinct but important role to play in supporting governments to address internal displacement.

At the end of 2018, there were an estimated 41.3 million people internally displaced by conflict and violence. Additionally, during the same year alone, over 17.2 million people were estimated to have been displaced by disasters. Approximately 9.2 million IDPs reside in the IGAD region. Millions of other internal displacements are not systematically captured or monitored.¹ This trend shows no sign of abating and an increasing number of IDPs remain displaced while many of those who manage to return to their areas of origin, attempt to integrate locally, or settle elsewhere in their countries face long-lasting challenges to access their rights as solutions remain elusive.

Protracted displacement can erode the resilience, skills and capacities of IDPs, and entrench their impoverishment, marginalization and inequality. It can exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and inter/intra communal grievances as well as give rise to new ones. It can also affect host communities and local governments by putting pressure on resources, services, utilities and labour markets, potentially creating tension at the community level. This is increasingly the case in urban areas where many IDPs seek refuge, creating additional pressure for municipalities and host communities. All combined, this impedes sustainable development for countries and regions and may also reverse development gains, thereby rendering it more difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²

Working towards safe, voluntary, dignified and informed durable solutions means diminishing the needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs, returnees and affected communities, while strengthening their capacities, skills and resilience and addressing the factors that led to their displacement in the first place. It also requires that needs, specific vulnerabilities, capacities and skills are identified through quality data collection, use and analysis.³ A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement. This can be achieved through return of IDPs to their place of origin or habitual

¹ IDMC, GRID 2016, Global Report on Internal Displacement, p. 60, available at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/globalreport2016/>

² As shown in the 2017 OCHA study by Walter Kälin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, Breaking the Impasse: Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement as a Collective Outcome, see key findings p.83, available at <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Breaking-the-impasse.pdf>

³ See Durable Solutions Indicator Library and Analysis at <http://inform-durablesolutions-idp.org/>

residence, local integration in areas where IDPs have sought refuge, or settlement elsewhere in the country.⁴ The achievement of solutions in these locations should be voluntary, feasible, viable and enduring. In this way, a truly durable solution means protection is no longer required and contributes to the prevention of conditions that lead to displacement.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to achieving durable solutions. However, the leadership, collaboration and support from national and local authorities are key in the initiation, development and implementation of durable solutions plans, as well as in building the evidence base needed to inform them. The role of the international community and other partners is to complement and support the authorities' efforts. Consultation and joint planning with IDPs and affected communities and having the active involvement of the local authorities, ideally in a leadership role, is key in all contexts.

The responsibility of national authorities to facilitate the achievement of durable solutions to internal displacement is expressly stated in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.⁵ Regional instruments such as the Kampala Convention also outline obligations of national authorities to facilitate the achievement of durable solutions.⁶ In the IGAD region, Djibouti and Uganda have signed, ratified and deposited the Kampala Convention, South Sudan has signed and ratified it, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan have signed it, while Kenya is not a signatory.

Progress towards and the achievement of durable solutions cannot be accomplished by a single actor alone. Strong local and international know-how, a whole of government and whole of society approach as well as multi-sectoral partnerships between State and non-State actors are essential for progress on identifying and achieving solutions. This includes first and foremost national and local authorities, as well as IDPs, their hosts and affected communities who are the greatest resource in driving solutions to displacement. Civil society, the UN Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators, UN agencies, NGOs, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the private sector, the diaspora and development finance institutions have also all designed and implemented programmes for solutions. Regional organizations and international experts also play a key role. The number of relevant stakeholders can present coordination challenges whilst bringing essential contributions.

Over the last decades, the IGAD region has been particularly affected by internal displacement leading to the development of innovative approaches to support the search for durable solutions. One example is the Durable Solutions Initiative implemented in Somalia since 2016. Led by the government and supported by international partners and affected populations, the initiative is a collective endeavour based on evidence from a collaborative profiling exercise⁷ aiming to harmonize efforts and facilitate progress for IDPs in four areas to achieve a jointly defined collective outcome on durable solutions: collective methodological tools, joint programming, coordination and advocacy, and normative frameworks. Interventions are participatory, comprehensive, rights and needs-based, as well as gender and age sensitive.

Sudan has also developed pioneering interventions facilitating durable solutions to internal displacement. With the active engagement of the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and other actors, it recently implemented a collaborative multi-sectoral profiling exercise to inform joint programming and local planning for durable solutions.⁸ Plans of Action for durable solutions in two locations were developed using an area-based and bottom-up approach with engagement of IDPs in the process.

Uganda has decades of experience on resolving internal displacement that it has offered to share as part of efforts to mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Kenya can also bring significant experience in addressing internal displacement since the 2008 elections and adoption of its law on internal displacement in 2012. More recently in 2017, South Sudan adopted a durable solutions framework for IDPs and Ethiopia also established a National Durable Solutions Working Group. In the Somali region of Ethiopia, the local regional government collaborated with international organizations to develop a durable solutions strategy for internal displacement in the region.

To promote the exchange of experiences among these IGAD member states and share lessons learned with the wider international community, a regional exchange is proposed. The wealth of the diverse experiences of these countries, including their lessons learned and best practices, are worth sharing and disseminating. Through

⁴ IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, 2010, available at:

https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/IDP_april2010.pdf

⁵ UN OCHA, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998, available at:

<https://www.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/GuidingPrinciplesDispl.pdf>

⁶ African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 23 October 2009, available at: <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-protection-and-assistance-internally-displaced-persons-africa>

⁷ Joint IDP Profiling Service, "Somalia," available at: <https://www.jips.org/jips-country/somalia/>

⁸ Joint IDP Profiling Service, "Sudan," available at: <https://www.jips.org/jips-country/sudan/>

knowledge sharing, other countries with internal displacement situations can capitalize on the expertise acquired elsewhere and improve planning and programming to support resilience and achieve solutions to internal displacement.

Objectives

This regional exchange will provide a platform for government officials and other stakeholders to share their experience and expertise in supporting resilience and durable solutions to internal displacement in their contexts.

Specifically, this event aims to:

1. Take stock, draw lessons and document operational practices and their lessons learned on supporting resilience and durable solutions to internal displacement in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda;
2. Identify the current needs and challenges in preventing displacement, supporting the resilience and improving the protection of IDPs, and achieving durable solutions to internal displacement in the IGAD region, including ratifying and implementing the Kampala Convention and other policy frameworks;
3. Take stock, draw lessons and document operational practices on the provision of resources and support provided by UN agencies and international NGOs to the government and local organizations on fostering resilience and promoting durable solutions, and learn how this support can be improved.

Ethiopia will host this event. It currently hosts the highest number of IDPs in the IGAD region, and the government has recently given more attention to internal displacement in the country. While it has not yet ratified the Kampala Convention, the Ethiopian government has made pledges. The Government of Switzerland will financially support this event and the Global Protection Cluster will assist GP20 and IGAD with its organization.

Participants

This event will gather experts from IGAD Member States currently implementing programmes for IDPs and other displacement-affected communities. Participants will include: technical representatives from national ministries; regional and local authorities from areas highly impacted by internal displacement; National Human Rights Institution representatives; AU, IGAD and other Regional Economic Community representatives; UN Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators; UN agencies; National Protection Cluster Coordinators; NGOs; the ICRC; private sector; international donors; development finance institutions; representatives of displacement-affected communities; as well as other local, regional and international experts.

Agenda and format of the event

This two-day event will include presentations, plenary discussions and breakout sessions. Selected government officials from each of the countries will present their experiences and lessons learned on enhancing protection while fostering resilience of displacement-affected communities and facilitating durable solutions to internal displacement. Thematic experts will lead discussions organized around four areas: the importance of data collection and analysis and information management for solutions; partnerships for solutions planning and programming; financing efforts for durable solutions and laws and policies for solutions. A background paper will serve as a foundation for these discussions.

Key resource persons

The following persons will be approached to serve as advisors and facilitators for the event:

- Professor Walter Kälin, Professor emeritus of International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Bern
- Commissaire Maya Sahli Fadel, African Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Dr. Mehari Maru, Robert Schuman Fellow, Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute, and Lead Consultant to IGAD, AU and GIZ.

They will advise on the scope of the event, substance of the discussion and participants, and open and close the event with reflections and recommendations based on the discussions.

Outputs

This event will have three outputs:

1. Outcome document with key conclusions, recommendations and commitments on durable solutions to internal displacement
2. IGAD Regional Consultative Process 2019 meeting report

3. Inclusion of lessons learnt into a global compilation of good practices and lessons learned to address internal displacement that will be published in 2020 as a product of the GP20 Plan of Action for IDPs (2018-2020) and fed into relevant global processes.