Republic of Yemen
Council of Ministers
Executive Unit for IDPs

National Policy for Addressing
Internal Displacement in
Republic of Yemen
PREFACE

In recent years, conflict, violence and, sometimes, natural disasters have uprooted half a million Yemenis in their own country. After fleeing their homes, these internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to be exposed to a range of particular challenges and risks. Life as an IDP often is very difficult and is characterized by uncertainty about when they will find a solution to their plight.

Assisting, protecting and finding solutions for IDPs primarily are responsibilities of the Government. Experience around the world underscores that having a national policy for addressing internal displacement is a key indicator of national solidarity towards IDPs and of national responsibility to resolve their situation. A national IDP policy also can serve to enhance coordination and resourcing of national and international efforts.

The Government of the Republic of Yemen, under the leadership of the Prime Minister His Excellency Salim Basindowa, is committed to assist and find durable solutions for IDPs in Yemen and is prioritizing such efforts during Yemen’s transitional process. As the Transitional Program for Stabilization and Development in Yemen 2012-2014 recognizes, strengthening the national legal and policy framework for vulnerable persons including IDPs will improve not only the lives of IDPs but also can contribute to the stability of Yemen overall.

The National Policy to Address and Resolve Internal Displacement in the Republic of Yemen was prepared further to a decision of the Prime Minister on 17 November 2012 commissioning the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and the Executive Unit for Internally Displaced Persons to develop a national policy for resolving internal displacement, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

A highly consultative process engaging relevant Government ministries and offices, local authorities, civil society, host communities, the United Nations, international non-governmental organizations, donors and most importantly IDPs and returnees themselves greatly enriched the document and enhances its authority.

The adoption by Cabinet of this Policy in June 2013 makes Yemen the second country in the Middle East region and one of over 20 countries worldwide that has adopted a national IDP policy. Covering IDPs from conflict as well as natural disasters, the Policy seeks to comprehensively address and resolve internal displacement in Yemen through three goals: preventing future involuntary displacement; assisting and protecting IDPs and host communities; and finding safe and lasting solutions for IDPs, including by supporting their return and the reconstruction of conflict-affected areas. Priority actions for achieving each of these goals are specified in the Policy, as are coordination arrangements within Government, namely the creation of a Supreme Committee for Internally Displaced Persons, as well as collaboration with civil society and the international community.

The adoption of the policy is a significant landmark for Yemen and it will help to advance all of those goals without delay.

Moving forward, of vital importance will be the comprehensive and robust implementation of the policy in order to find durable solutions for IDPs in Yemen.

The international community encouraged the development of the Policy and welcomes its adoption by Cabinet.
The Executive Unit for IDPs led the effort to develop the Policy and will continue to play a leading role in its implementation. UNHCR is pleased to have assisted the Government of Yemen throughout the process and will remain a strong advocate for supporting the Policy's implementation.

The Executive Unit for IDPs and UNHCR express deep appreciation to His Excellency Prime Minister Basindowa for his leadership, to the Cabinet for their engagement in the process and for prioritizing adoption of this Policy considering all of the other challenges currently facing Yemen, and for all stakeholders who contributed to the Policy's development.

July 2013

Mr. Ahmed Al-Kuhlani
Head Executive Unit for Internally Displaced Persons
Gov. of Yemen

Mr. Naveed Hussain
Representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Gov. of Yemen
Republic of Yemen  
Presidency of the Council of Ministers  
Secretariat  
Department of follow-up and evaluation of performance  

"Unofficial Translation"

Date: 06.07.2013  
Ref.: 14/26  
To: Minister of Foreign Affairs  
To: Minister of Planning and International Cooperation  
To: Head of Executive Unit for IDPs  

Subject: Cabinet Decree no. (148) for the year 2013 on the approval of the National Policy for Resolving Internal Displacement in the Republic of Yemen 2013

Attached is a copy of the cabinet decree no. (148) for the year 2013 referred to above subject which was taken in the cabinet meeting no. (24) dated 25.06.2013, for your information and to take the executive procedures and provide us with the results of the implementation.

Best regards,

Hasan Mahmoud Hubaishi  
Secretary General of the Cabinet

Copy to:  
- Prime Minister  
- Director of the Office of the Presidency of the Republic  
- Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs  
- Assistant Secretary-General of the plans and programs  
- Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and External Relations  
- Cabinet Secretary  
- Heads of departments
Republic of Yemen
Council of Ministers
Secretariat

Cabinet decree no. (148) for the year 2013
on
The Endorsement of the National Policy for Resolving Internal Displacement in the
Republic of Yemen 2013

The cabinet was informed by the Head of the ExU for IDPs camps about the latter no. (301) dated 17.06.2013 on the development of a National Policy for Resolving Internal Displacement in the Republic of Yemen 2013, and approved the following:


2- The Head of ExU for IDPs camps management have to:
   - Coordinate with the Minister of Legal Affairs for follow up the completion of the necessary legal procedures.
   - Coordinate with the concern departments to undertake the executing procedures that mentioned in point (1) above and submit periodic reports on the implementation level to the Prime Minister.

3- This decree is effective as of 25.06.2013 and ends with the implementation of its provisions.

4- The decree is implemented by the appropriate administrative means.

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Duration of the decree: temporary

Content of the decree: service/ IDPs camps – National Policy for Resolving Internal Displacement in the Republic of Yemen 2013

Form of the decree: general provision

Implementation body: joint
The National Policy for Addressing Internal Displacement in the Republic of Yemen

First Edition

2013
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INTRODUCTION

Background

Internal displacement is one of the challenges currently facing the people and the Government of the Republic of Yemen. Conflict and violence in recent years, in particular the wars in the Governorate of Sa’ada (2004-2010), the crisis of 2011, and confrontations in the Governorate of Abyan (2011-2) have displaced nearly half a million Yemenis in their own country as “internally displaced persons” (IDPs)\(^{(1)}\). Natural disasters, such as floods, landslides, rockslides and earthquakes, also cause internal displacement in Yemen.

Having been forced to flee their homes, IDPs are exposed to a range of challenges and risks. IDPs suddenly find themselves without shelter, food, water, and other basic needs, separated from their community and sometimes from their family, disrupted in their education, and cut off from their usual livelihood and coping mechanisms. They urgently must find new ways to ensure their safety and survival in an unfamiliar place, sometimes amidst an unstable security situation, and without knowing whether or when they might be able to return home. Life as an IDP often is very difficult and is characterized by instability.

Beyond being a traumatizing experience for IDPs, internal displacement also affects a broader group of people, in particular the host communities in the places to which IDPs flee in search of safety, the communities to which IDPs eventually return or where they resettle, and the people who stayed behind in the areas from which IDPs fled. Internal displacement directly impacts 13 out of

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\(^{(1)}\) See Definitions section, below.
the 21 governorates in Yemen. It is a truly national problem, requiring a comprehensive solution.

The Government considers that IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities are among the most vulnerable persons in Yemen currently. Meeting the urgent humanitarian needs of IDPs and developing national policy and legislation to address the needs of IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities is one of the priorities of the Government for promoting stability and development in Yemen.\(^{(1)}\)

Despite the efforts undertaken by the Government to address the needs of IDPs, internal displacement remains a significant problem in Yemen which requires greater international attention and support, especially considering the limited resources of Yemen.

In November 2012, the Prime Minister instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and the Executive Unit for Internally Displaced Persons (ExU for IDPs) to draft a national policy for addressing and resolving internal displacement in Yemen. A technical committee comprised of representatives of these three Government offices was formed for this purpose, with the office United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) invited to share technical assistance. The draft developed by the Technical Committee then was discussed at a workshop in April with staff of the ExU for IDPs and a workshop in May with relevant ministries. The draft was enriched by their comments.

The development of this Policy also was informed by a broader consultative process, facilitated by the ExU for IDPs and UNHCR, that brought together representatives of government minis-

tries engaged on IDP issues, governorate and district authorities in the governorates most affected by displacement, civil society organizations, members of host communities, community leaders, United Nations humanitarian and development agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), donors and, certainly, IDPs and returnees themselves. The consultations generated consensus on the need for this policy as well as on the core principles and recommended priority actions for the Government to take into consideration in the drafting process.

This Policy provides a national framework for addressing and resolving internal displacement in Yemen. It consolidates into one document the main Government decisions regarding internal displacement, identifies current strategic goals and priority actions, reaffirms the rights of IDPs, outlines institutional responsibilities, and defines next steps for its implementation, in particular the development of an implementation plan.

This Policy will be widely disseminated among government authorities, at central and local levels, as well as to other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, international NGOs, donors, displacement-affected communities and, above all, to IDPs and returnees themselves. Effective and expeditious implementation of the Policy is an essential tool for helping IDPs to find solutions to their problems and, in so doing, also can contribute to stability in Yemen.

**Purpose of the Policy**

1. This Policy provides a coherent and comprehensive national framework for responding effectively to internal displacement in Yemen. In addition to restating the rights of IDPs and the responsibilities of the authorities towards them, this Policy identifies current goals and priorities of the Government for responding to internal displacement.
2. The Policy addresses internal displacement in all phases through the following three inter-related goals:

**Goal 1** - Protecting civilians from involuntary displacement and being prepared to respond to possible displacement;

**Goal 2** - Protecting and assisting IDPs during displacement and supporting displacement-affected communities;

**Goal 3** - Creating conditions enabling safe, voluntary and durable solutions to internal displacement.

3. This Policy will guide the Government’s response to current situations and any future situations of internal displacement, in particular when caused by armed conflict or natural disaster. The Policy shall facilitate strategic planning and guide operational responses by the Government to:

(a) Protect individuals from involuntary displacement;

(b) Be prepared to respond in a timely, effective and coordinated manner to any possible displacement that occurs;

(c) Address the specific needs of IDPs;

(d) Protect the rights of IDPs in compliance with national legislation and international law;

(e) Ensure adequate and dignified living conditions for IDPs throughout their displacement;

(f) Create conditions for voluntary, safe and durable solutions to internal displacement;

(g) Promote and support the capacities of IDPs and their participation in all efforts to address and resolve their situation; and

(h) Support host communities and other displacement-affected communities to cope with the impact of displacement on their communities.
4. This Policy will facilitate implementation and coordination of the above-mentioned efforts by serving to:

(a) Clarify roles and responsibilities as well as the coordination mechanisms among Government institutions, at all levels, to respond to internal displacement;

(b) Restate core principles of international humanitarian assistance and coordination of national and international efforts;

(c) Guide the Government to allocate resources in the national budget to support IDPs and displacement-affected communities; and

(d) Enhance advocacy efforts for the mobilization of resources from the international community when national resources are insufficient to address and resolve internal displacement.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, the terms below are defined as follows:

- **Yemen**: Republic of Yemen
- **Government**: Government of the Republic of Yemen
- **Supreme Committee**: Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement
- **Executive Unit for IDPs**: Executive Unit for Internally Displaced Persons
- **Internally displaced persons (IDPs)**: Persons or groups of persons(1) who had to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of violence, violations of

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(1) Civilian persons; combatants therefore are excluded from this definition.
human rights or natural disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.\(^{(1)}\)

All persons whose situation meets this definition shall be considered IDPs, irrespective of whether they have been registered\(^{(2)}\) as such and regardless of whether they live in or outside of camps. This definition does not confer any legal status to a person whose situation this definition describes; it simply describes the factual situation of being internally displaced. Nor does registration as an IDP automatically entitle IDPs to food or other specific assistance, for which eligibility is determined on the basis of an assessment of need.

- **Displacement-affected communities**: Communities who remained in their home areas during the armed conflict or natural disaster, host communities in the areas to which IDPs flee, and communities in the areas where IDPs choose to settle in the long-term.

**STANDARDS and PRINCIPLES**

**Legal Standards**

1. This Policy is to be implemented in accordance with the Constitution and national legislation of the Republic of Yemen.

2. The Policy also is based on and to be implemented in accordance with the commitments of the Republic of Yemen under international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.\(^{(3)}\)

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\(^{(2)}\) See below, Goal 2, section on Registration of IDPs.

\(^{(3)}\) International humanitarian law also applies to non-state armed groups.
3. This Policy takes into account the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. (1)

**General Principles**

1- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) shall enjoy in full equality and without discrimination the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country.

2- The Government of Yemen has the primary responsibility to protect civilians from involuntary displacement and to minimize the negative effects of any displacement that occurs, to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to all IDPs in Yemen and to create the conditions enabling IDPs to access a safe and durable solution to their displacement.

3- The Government of Yemen's efforts should be supported by the international community in order for the Government to be able to fully assume its responsibilities towards IDPs.

4- IDPs have the right to request and to receive protection and humanitarian assistance from the Government.

5- Humanitarian assistance shall be provided expeditiously, on the basis of need. Certain IDPs, such as children, especially unaccompanied minors, expectant mothers, mothers with young

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children, female heads of household, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, are entitled to protection and assistance required by their condition and to treatment which takes into account their special needs.

6- The human dignity of IDPs and returnees shall be respected by supporting their capacities, in order to strengthen their resilience and promote their self-reliance.

7- The participation of IDPs and returnees in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programs and policies concerning their essential.

8- IDPs and returnees shall be provided by the authorities with accurate and reliable information regarding their rights to assistance and protection and regarding; the policies, programs and procedures related to their situation.

9- The needs of the broader “displacement-affected communities” also shall be addressed while addressing the specific concerns of IDPs.

GOALS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

Goal 1 - Protecting Civilians from Involuntary Displacement and Being Prepared for Displacement

Every person has the right to be protected against being involuntarily displaced from her or his home or place of habitual residence. This prohibition of displacement applies as a general rule, including during armed conflict and natural disasters:

(a) In situations of armed conflict, it is prohibited to displace civilians unless their security or imperative military reasons so demand;
(b) In cases of natural disasters, displacement is prohibited unless the safety and health of those affected requires their evacuation.

In order to realize this goal, the Government shall take the following measures:

1. Prevent and avoid conditions that might lead to involuntary displacement of persons;

2. Identify and regularly monitor, in particular through the Executive Unit for IDPs in collaboration with other relevant Government authorities, areas at risk of armed conflict and tensions or natural disasters, report any potential or actual displacement of populations to all relevant authorities, and thereby serve as an early warning mechanism;

3. Take all necessary measures to prevent any armed conflict, other hostilities and tensions and to contain and avoid escalation of any such situations that do occur in order to avoid any potential involuntary displacement;

4. Protect the civilian population against any violent actions or natural disasters;

5. Enhance early warning systems and emergency preparedness regarding displacement due to natural disasters, in particular by:

   (a) Monitoring and reporting on, through the General Authority for Geological Survey and Minerals and the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, areas at risk of natural disasters;

   (b) Preparing, through the Executive Unit for IDPs in collaboration with all relevant Government authorities, contingency plans that include measures to reduce the risk of displacement and minimize the effects of displacement in the event of natural disasters;
(c) Informing persons residing in areas classified as inhabitable as a result of natural disasters or potential natural disasters of this risk and supporting them to safely move from the area and to resettle in a safe location;

(d) Establishing, in the event of natural disasters, an operational cell comprised of all relevant Government entities, to coordinate the response to the natural disaster;

(e) Taking all necessary measures to assist and protect affected persons including IDPs;

6. Ensure, in particular through the Executive Unit for IDPs, that an adequate supply of humanitarian assistance, including food and medicine, is stockpiled for use in emergencies.

**Goal 2 -**

**Protecting and Assisting Internally Displaced Persons and Supporting Displacement-Affected Communities**

Displacement exposes IDPs to a multitude of risks, which shall be addressed through respect for the following principles and implementation by the government of the following measures:

**Physical safety and security**

1. Every human being has the right to life and security of person; no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of her or his life.

2. IDPs’ right to life and security shall be protected by the Government by taking all possible measures including to:

   (a) Protect all IDPs, against any attacks, violent acts or other physical harm, including in situations outside of armed conflict;

   (b) Ensure respect for the civilian and humanitarian nature of IDP camps, settlements and other sites;

   (c) Provide law enforcement and security in and around IDP camps, settlements and other sites;
(d) Protect IDPs against any attack on their personal dignity and on their physical, mental and moral integrity, including any form of indecent assault.

**IDP Registration**

1. Every IDP meeting the eligibility criteria and procedural requirements specified in the Standard Operating Procedures for IDP Registration in Yemen shall be registered as such without delay by the government represented by the Executive Unit for IDPs, in cooperation with international partners.\(^{(1)}\)

2. Registration as an IDP does not automatically entitle IDPs to food or other specific assistance, for which eligibility is determined on the basis of an assessment of need.

3. The Government will consider establishing a system for issuing a specific IDP registration card to facilitate access by IDPs to any special assistance and benefits for IDPs provided for in public services.

**Adequate Living Conditions**

The Government shall ensure that IDPs have safe access to, and shall provide IDPs according to available resources: essential food and potable water; adequate shelter; appropriate clothing; essential health care and medical services; and sanitation. The following sections specify the actions to be taken in the priority areas of concern for IDPs in Yemen: food, shelter and essential household items, water and sanitation, and health care.

**Food**

Food insecurity is a widespread problem in Yemen: currently over 10 million people (44 percent of the population) are food insecure, of whom five million (22 percent of the population) are

\(^{(1)}\) Such IDP registration is for administrative purposes only. It does not affect the legal status of IDPs nor their rights under national and international law.
severely food insecure. As a result of displacement, IDPs are at heightened risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. They urgently require emergency food assistance immediately once displaced, and due to the loss of livelihoods most IDPs typically also require food assistance for the duration of their displacement.

1. Every person has the right to essential food.

2. To ensure this right for IDPs in all phases of displacement, the Government, in particular through the Executive Unit for IDPs, and with international assistance as required, will:

(a) Ensure that food-insecure IDPs have safe access to adequate life-saving food assistance without delay;

(b) Provide food assistance, in-kind and through other modalities (e.g. vouchers), on a regular and timely basis according to assessed needs and prioritization of assistance to persons most in need;

(c) Inform in advance IDPs and returnees of the scheduling of food distributions and their frequency, the content and quantity of the food assistance package, and advance notice of any change to these distributions;

(d) Adjust food assistance rations for persons with special needs (e.g. pregnant women, infants, and older persons) and based on changes in family size and changes in family units (e.g. due to marriage, divorce);

(e) Provide food assistance directly to women heads of household, unaccompanied minors, and the elderly, ensuring special arrangements are in place to distribute food assistance to persons who have disabilities or are facing any other obstacles;

(f) Plan and implement, as soon as possible, early recovery and livelihood activities, including agricultural-related livelihood activities, to strengthen the resilience of IDP and displacement-
affected communities, mitigate food insecurity, and avoid creating dependency on food assistance among IDPs and other food insecure populations.

**Shelter and Essential Household Items**

Loss of shelter is an inevitable consequence of displacement and one of the most urgent needs that IDPs face. In Yemen, only a small fraction (5%) of the total IDP population live in camps, where they have been living for a several years in tents that are ill-suited to the harsh weather conditions and provide limited privacy. Some IDPs initially found accommodation with host families; however, as displacement has become protracted and the socio-economic conditions in the country more difficult, the host families also face significant challenges. Some IDPs were able to rent rooms or apartments; however, with limited income-generating opportunities, they often find it difficult to pay the rent for more than a few months and face the threat of eviction. Several thousand IDPs found shelter in unused public buildings, such as schools when these were out of session; however, these buildings were not designed for human residence, are overcrowded and do not meet minimum living standards. Moreover, use of these buildings to accommodate IDPs for a prolonged period disrupts the normal use of these buildings, which can lead to tensions with the host communities. Many other IDPs live in scattered, often remote, spontaneously-established informal settlements on private or public land which lack access to basic services including water and sanitation and IDPs' right of stay is highly tenuous. Some IDPs are living in caves, where living conditions are extremely poor, especially regarding water, sanitation and hygiene.

Ensuring that IDPs have access to safe and adequate shelter is essential for their security, protection from the elements, and their overall health and well-being in all phases of displacement.
In addition, adequate living conditions also must encompass access to basic household items including cooking equipment, mattresses, blankets and other essential non-food items (NFIs).

1. Every person has the right to safe and adequate shelter.

2. To ensure this right for IDPs, the Government, with international assistance as required, will:

(a) Ensure that IDPs have access to safe and adequate shelter;

(b) Identify and designate, through the Executive Unit in coordination with local authorities, locations for providing safe and adequate shelter for IDPs, legally ensuring IDPs’ right of stay in these locations, and establishing camps only as a measure of last resort after exploring all other feasible options, in consultation with IDPs;

(c) Ensure that any public buildings (e.g. schools) used as shelter for IDPs are strictly a temporary measure of providing emergency shelter and that alternative, more suitable, and adequate shelter is provided to IDPs as soon as possible;

(d) Rehabilitate schools and any other public buildings that served as emergency shelter for IDPs in order that these buildings can be restored to their original function;

(e) Replace other basic emergency shelter (e.g. tents) for IDPs with suitable transitional shelter (e.g. mud-brick shelters) as soon as possible;

(f) Provide IDPs and persons most in need in displacement-affected communities with essential household items (NFIs);

(g) Provide support, to the extent possible, to families hosting IDPs, in order to mitigate the economic repercussions of doing so;

(h) Develop, through social assistance programs of the Government, a mechanism for providing rental subsidies to IDPs in need;
(i) Monitor and safeguard against potential arbitrary eviction of IDPs from the places where they reside while displaced, ensuring that any removal of IDPs occurs in accordance with the law;

(j) Adjust shelter assistance to take into account changes in the family unit (e.g. marriages and births).

**Water and Sanitation**

An estimated 13.1 million people in Yemen lack access to safe water and sanitation. Conflict, natural disasters and the displacement of populations create additional barriers to access to safe water and sanitation. The sub-standard and often overcrowded living conditions in which many IDPs live often lack safe access to water and to adequate sanitation. Moreover, the influx of a large number of IDPs into a community can strain existing infrastructure and also affect the host community’s access to water and sanitation. In the absence of safe access to water and sanitation, communicable diseases run rampant, malnutrition increases, and women and girls who are required to walk long distances to collect water or to use sanitation facilities are at increased risk of harassment and attack.

1. Every person has the right to have safe access to water and sanitation.

2. To ensure this right for IDPs, the Government, with international assistance as needed, undertakes to:

   (a) Ensure that IDPs, whether or not they are living in camps, have safe access to water and sanitation in all phases of displacement;

   (b) Maintain and expand water and sanitation services in localities that witnessed an increase in population as a result of an influx of IDPs, in order both to ensure these basic needs for IDPs and to mitigate the impact on host community’s access to water and sanitation;
(c) Disseminate information and raise awareness among IDPs of the importance of hygiene and sanitation, in particular in areas where a concentration of IDPs reside (e.g. emergency shelters, camps, informal settlements).

Health Care

As a result of the conflict or natural disaster that uprooted them as well as the poor living conditions, food insecurity and other problems they typically experience once displaced, IDPs experience a range of health concerns, including injuries and disabilities, acute or chronic illnesses, psychological trauma, and increased risk of exposure to infectious diseases and epidemics. At the same time, IDPs face difficulties obtaining health care due to obstacles including: lack of financial resources; lack of documentation; and inadequate health care infrastructure in the localities to which IDPs flee or hope to return. The influx of a large number of IDPs into a community also may strain the capacity of existing health care facilities, with repercussions for access to health also for the host communities.

1. Health care is a right of all persons.

2. To ensure this right for IDPs, the Government will assist all wounded and sick IDPs as well as those with disabilities receive to the fullest possible extent and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention they require. In particular, the Government, with international assistance as needed, will:

(a) Provide health and medical services, free of charge to IDPs, including medical examinations, diagnostic services, pharmaceutical interventions (medicines), surgical operations, ambulatory services, and life-saving treatments, and will waive or reimburse all admission fees and other governmental fees. This applies at all levels of primary health care services provided at public hospitals, medical centres, diagnostic and specialist
therapeutic centres\(^{(1)}\). The Ministry of Public Health and Population, in coordination with the Executive Unit, shall supervise and ensure the provision of these services;\(^{(2)}\)

(b) Provide appropriate remedial responses to address emergency medical cases and other severe, chronic or critical medical cases that require additional medical examinations and/or surgeries;\(^{(3)}\)

(c) Organize, through the Ministry of Health, mobile health teams that regularly are accessible to IDPs and to displacement-affected communities and are adequately resourced with essential supplies and medicines;

(d) Develop and implement special measures to ensure specific attention to IDP women’s health care, including reproductive health care and counselling;

(e) Ensure that internally displaced children and other children in displacement-affected communities receive essential immunization and are included in all national immunization drives;

(f) Identify and implement special measures for the prevention of contagious and infectious diseases among IDPs and displacement-affected communities;

(g) Expand psychological health care and psychosocial counselling services to IDPs and displacement-affected communities;

(h) Promote hiring from among IDPs qualified medical service professionals (female and male) in order both to ensure access to health care by IDPs and returnees and to create employment opportunities for qualified medical professionals.

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Freedom of Movement

1. Every person, including every IDP, shall enjoy freedom of movement and the freedom to choose her or his residence.
2. IDPs, as other civilians, have the right to seek safety in another part of the country.
3. The Government shall protect IDPs against forcible return to or resettlement in any place where their life, safety, liberty or health would be at risk.

Education

Approximately thirty percent of IDPs in Yemen currently are school-aged children (6-18 years). As a result of displacement, IDPs face a number of obstacles accessing education including: loss of educational certificates and identification documents; unavailability of, or long distances to, educational facilities; overcrowding of any existing facilities in the host communities; inability to pay school fees and for school materials; poverty resulting in higher dropout rates; psychological trauma; and damaged educational infrastructure in areas of possible return. Displacement also disrupted the education of youth who are no longer of school age. In addition, the influx of a large number of IDPs also may have repercussions for access to education for the host community as a result of the sudden increase in the number of students and in those cases where schools are used as emergency shelter for IDPs.

1. Education is a right of all persons, to be guaranteed and facilitated by the Government. Primary education is compulsory and free. Free education at all levels is a principle which the State guarantees and is committed to achieving.
2. To facilitate access to the right to education for IDPs, the Government shall:
   (a) Ensure that all internally displaced children, whether or not they are living in camps, receive education;
(b) Ensure equal opportunities in education, taking into account the social and economic conditions which prevent some families from taking advantage of their children's right to education;

(c) Facilitate, through the Ministry of Education and local authorities, the registration and enrollment of IDP children of school age in schools in host communities without delay;\(^{(1)}\)

(d) Admit IDP children to school at their existing level of educational achievement, ensuring that in cases when IDPs are unable to provide their educational records that the procedures specified by the Ministry of Education for addressing this particular problem are implemented\(^{(2)}\), including by replacing without delay any educational certificates lost by IDPs;\(^{(3)}\)

(e) Ensure, through the Ministry of Education and Educational Bureaus in the district or governorate, that whenever schools are unavailable, inadequate, or saturated in the areas to which IDPs flee, that additional schooling facilities and necessary educational materials for schools and students are provided without delay;\(^{(4)}\)

(f) Provide, through the Ministry of Education, an accelerated learning program for children and youth whose education has been disrupted as a result of displacement;

(g) Prioritize hiring from among qualified teachers in the IDP community any additional teachers (female and male) required in order to ensure educational services to children and to provide IDP teachers with employment opportunities;\(^{(5)}\)

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\(^{(1)}\) Instruction 1887 (2009) of the Ministry of Education "Enrolling Children of Internally Displaced Persons at Schools".

\(^{(2)}\) Instruction 1887 (2009).

\(^{(3)}\) Instruction 1887 (2009).

\(^{(4)}\) Instruction 1887 (2009).

\(^{(5)}\) Instruction 1887 (2009).
(h) Ensure that IDPs also have access to non-formal education, technical and vocational training;

(i) Train and support teachers and school administrators to identify and address post-traumatic stress due to conflict or displacement and support them, through the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, to provide psychosocial support to affected children, to strengthen their resilience, and to encourage them to continue to attend school;

(j) Promote, through educational curricula and the training of teachers and school administrators, understanding of the phenomenon of internal displacement in Yemen and sensitivity towards the plight and particular vulnerabilities of IDPs, including by disseminating this Policy.

**Livelihoods**

As a result of displacement, IDPs suddenly lose their usual means of livelihood. Consequently, IDPs face great difficulty in meeting basic needs for their survival, including food, shelter and medical care. The skills upon which IDPs had based their livelihoods prior to their displacement may not be relevant in their new places of residence, especially in cases of displacement from rural to urban areas. The loss of livelihoods that displacement entails increases economic pressures on the household, and can lead to higher incidence of attrition from education, child labour, child recruitment, early marriage and other protection risks. Further, employment opportunities are limited, potentially leading to tension with the host communities. Regaining a livelihood is critically important for IDPs: dignity, self-reliance, and for achieving a durable solution to their displacement.

1. Every person has the right to seek work and to participate in income-generating activities.
2. To ensure this right for IDPs, the Government, in particular through the Ministry for Social Affairs and Labour, the Ministry of Vocational Training and Education and the Executive Unit, with international assistance as required, will:

(a) Ensure that IDPs have access, on an equal basis, to vocational education and employment opportunities alongside the local community;

(b) Provide IDPs with information on vocational education and employment programs;

(c) Develop the skills of IDPs through the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, in areas that are relevant to the local market (e.g. tailoring, weaving, construction, mechanics, welding, bee-keeping, midwifery, and computers), taking into account the special circumstances of women;

(d) Provide IDPs and persons in need in displacement-affected communities with the basic tools and equipment (e.g. agricultural implements including tools, seeds and fertilizers, mechanical tools, fishing equipment) to be able to engage in livelihood activities;

(e) Encourage the hiring of qualified IDPs in the public and private sector;

(f) Encourage and facilitate the granting of micro-credit and other loans to IDPs and persons in need in displacement-affected communities, including women;

(g) Ensure that IDPs are able to access their entitlements to pensions and social protection.
Family Unity

1. Every person has the right to respect of her or his family life.
2. To ensure this right for IDPs, the Government of Yemen shall:
   (a) Ensure that family members who wish to remain together shall be allowed to do so;
   (b) Facilitate the reunification of families which are separated by displacement, as quickly as possible, particularly when children are involved;
   (c) Establish urgently, through the Ministry for Social Affairs and Labour, interim care arrangements for separated children.

2. Every IDP has the right to know the fate and whereabouts of missing relatives. To ensure this right, the Government shall:
   (a) Endeavour to establish the fate and whereabouts of IDPs reported missing;
   (b) Inform the next of kin on the progress of the investigation and notify them of any result;
   (c) Facilitate the return of any mortal remains to the next of kin or dispose of them respectfully.

Social Assistance

Adding to already difficult living conditions in Yemen before displacement, the experience of displacement exacerbates living conditions as a result of negative impacts such as loss of livelihood, separation from communities and sometimes even from family, new injuries or illnesses, psychosocial trauma, and the loss of usual coping mechanisms. Social assistance provides critical support for persons most in need among IDPs and in the broader community. Yet, IDPs can face difficulties accessing social assistance services due to obstacles including: registration
requirements based on physical presence in one’s place of permanent residence; loss of documentation; destruction of the records in government offices as a result of conflict or disaster; and difficulties transferring their eligibility or registering anew in the new localities to which IDPs flee.

1. The Government shall guarantee social assistance for all persons who require it.

2. To facilitate access by IDPs most in need to the social assistance they require, the Government shall:

(a) Ensure that all IDPs and returnees who meet the eligibility criteria for national social assistance programs, including the criteria of the Social Welfare Fund, are able to access this assistance regardless of their location;

(b) Facilitate IDPs’ initial registration or re-registration for social assistance, by addressing any obstacles IDPs face due to loss of required documentation;

(c) Re-register for social assistance IDPs who qualified for this prior to their displacement and who continue to meet the eligibility criteria, by transferring their records and registration from their place of origin to their current location, introducing appropriate and effective measures for re-establishing IDPs’ eligibility in cases where the original administrative records of the Government have been lost due to conflict or natural disaster;

(d) Allocate required funds, with the support of the international community, to expand social assistance programs, including in areas affected by displacement, to ensure access to social assistance by persons in need among IDPs and displacement-affected communities.
Documentation

1. Every person, including every IDP, has the right to have personal identification documentation. To ensure this right for IDPs, the Government will facilitate the issuance to IDPs of legal documentation or the replacement of any legal documentation (such as personal identification card, birth certificate, marriage certificate, family card, and passport) lost in the course of displacement, without imposing unreasonable conditions.

2. The Government also will assist IDPs to replace free of charge other relevant documentation that was lost or destroyed as a result of their displacement, including educational records, professional certification, certificates of vocational training and property deeds.

Protection of Property Rights

1. No one shall be deprived of property and possessions without a legal judgment. The property and possessions of all persons, including IDPs, shall be protected against damage in all circumstances.

2. The property and possessions left behind by IDPs in their place of habitual residence shall be protected against destruction and arbitrary or illegal appropriation, occupation or use.

3. The Government also will ensure that IDPs are able to reclaim their property, after proving ownership, and to receive compensation for any damage caused to their property(1).

Protection of Children from Military Recruitment

1. In no circumstances shall children, including IDP children, be recruited nor be required or permitted by any party to a conflict to take part in hostilities.

(1) See also below, Goal 3, section on Property Compensation and Restitution.
2. The Government shall undertake awareness-raising campaigns and take all necessary measures to protect children from military recruitment.

**Political Participation**

1. Every adult citizen has the right to participate in governmental and public affairs, including the right to vote.

2. To ensure this right for IDPs, the Government, through the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendums, shall:
   (a) Ensure that IDPs are able to participate in all elections and referendums on an equal basis to all other citizens;
   (b) Adopt special procedures to address obstacles that IDPs may face in exercising their right to vote and to stand for election (e.g. regarding voter registration and required documentation);
   (c) Allow IDPs to register as electors and participate in elections and referendums either in their place of origin or in their place of residence while displaced;
   (d) Provide IDPs with timely information on any specific procedures for their political participation as well as general voter information.
Goal 3 - 
Creating Conditions Enabling Safe, Voluntary and Durable Solutions to Displacement

Internal displacement should be a temporary situation, lasting no longer than required by the circumstances. IDPs have a right to a solution to their displacement and the Government has a responsibility to undertake all possible efforts to create the conditions enabling IDPs to attain a safe, voluntary and durable solution to displacement.

IDPs have the right to choose, based on accurate information and a voluntary decision, among three possible solutions to displacement: (1) returning and reintegrating into the community where they lived before being displaced; (2) settling and integrating in the locality where they resided while displaced; or (3) relocating and integrating in a different area of the country.

The Government with international support as needed, will take the following measures to enable durable solutions and to ensure the rights of IDPs upon their return, local integration, or resettlement in another part of the country:

1- Safety and security:
(a) Promote lasting solutions to conflicts and sustainable security, stability and peace;
(b) Ensure the rule of law throughout the country through the adequate presence of effective law-enforcement authorities, including in areas of IDP return and resettlement;
(c) Raise awareness of the risks of mines and unexploded ordinances (UXOs), and of their locations, in a timely manner to all civilians, including returning IDPs and displacement-affected communities, and provide tailored programs for specific groups such as children;
(d) Ensure without delay the removal of mines and UXOs, prioritizing areas of human settlement, agricultural areas, and roads.

2- Freedom of movement:

The rights and measures indicated in Freedom of Movement section in Goal 2 shall be implemented.

3- An adequate standard of living:

In order to ensure in areas of durable solutions an adequate standard of living in for IDPs and displacement-affected communities, all relevant measures specified in Goal 2 in Adequate Living Conditions sections will be implemented in addition to following:

Shelter:

(a) Assess the level of damage to shelter in areas of potential and actual return;

(b) Provide assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged housing of IDPs and other persons in the community as soon as conditions permit;

(c) Provide shelter assistance to IDPs who choose to seek a durable solution by settling elsewhere in the country.

Infrastructure:

(a) Assess the level of damage to infrastructure for basic services (water, sanitation, electricity, roads) in areas of potential and actual IDP return;

(b) Rehabilitate infrastructure (water, sanitation, electricity and roads) as soon as conditions permit.

Health:

(a) Ensure access to health care in places of IDP return or other places of durable solutions, including the availability of essential medical supplies and adequate stocks of medicine.
**Education:**

(a) Ensure access to education by IDPs in areas of return or other places of durable solutions for IDPs.

**Food:**

(a) Ensure that IDPs who are food insecure continue to receive food assistance after their return or resettlement in another area of the country;

(b) Support the resumption of agricultural activities for returning IDPs and others in areas of return.

**4- Access to livelihood opportunities:**

The Government will implement the measures from Livelihood section in Goal 2 in order to provide IDPs as well as displacement-affected communities with access to livelihoods in areas of durable solutions.

**5- Restitution of property and possessions:**

The Government will assist IDPs to recover, to the extent possible, the property and possessions they left behind or were dispossessed of during their displacement by establishing a mechanism for adjudicating claims and, when recovery is not possible, by assisting them in obtaining fair compensation or other form of just reparation.

**6- Documentation:**

The rights and measures indicated in Documentation section in Goal 2 will be implemented.

**7- Family unity:**

The rights and measures indicated in Family Unity section in Goal 2 will be implemented. In addition, the Government will take all possible measures to ensure that IDP families are not separated in the process of return or resettlement and to reunite any
families separated as quickly as possible.

8- Participation in public affairs:

The rights and measures indicated in Political Participation section in Goal 2 will be implemented also in the areas of IDP return and other places of durable solutions.

9- Justice:

The Government will ensure that IDPs and returnees have access to justice and redress.

10- The Government, in particular through the Executive Unit for IDPs, will enable IDPs to make an informed decision about their future by taking the following measures:

(a) Inform IDPs about durable solutions (return, local integration or settlement in another part of the country);

(b) Provide IDPs with objective, updated and comprehensive information on the conditions in areas of return or other possible places of durable solution and on the assistance they can expect to receive.

11. The Government will include representatives of IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities in the planning and management of assessments and assistance programs to support durable solutions to internal displacement.

12. The Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and Executive Unit for IDPs shall study the causes that hinder the return of IDPs and propose measures to address these causes, reporting their findings and recommendations to the Council of Ministers(1), in cooperation with Ministry of Human Rights.

13. The Executive Unit for IDPs will monitor and regularly report to the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement on the progress made towards durable solutions to internal displacement and on required assistance from the Government and, as needed, from the international community, to support durable solutions for IDPs.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Government

1. The Government has the primary responsibility to address internal displacement in all phases: addressing root causes of displacement and being prepared for displacement; protecting and assisting IDPs; and creating conditions conducive to safe, durable and voluntary solutions to internal displacement.

2. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Government shall implement this Policy through all relevant Governmental authorities, at the central and local levels.

3. The Government welcomes international assistance in addressing internal displacement, when national resources are insufficient. The Government shall ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and humanitarian assistance to IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities\(^\text{(1)}\).

4. The Government shall exempt humanitarian assistance from taxes and tariffs.

The Executive Unit for IDPs:

The Executive Unit for IDPs is the designated national institutional focal point on internal displacement, the mandate and responsibilities of which have been specified in Government decrees\(^2\). In addition to the specific responsibilities of the Executive Unit indicated in government decrees and in previous chapters, the Executive Unit for IDPs is assigned the leading role and responsibility for implementation of this Policy, as follows:

(a) Collecting and analysing data relevant to the implementation of this Policy, including updating the database on IDPs with disaggregated data on IDP numbers, locations and needs;

(b) Preparing and overseeing operationalization of the Implementation Plan for this Policy;

(c) Preparing any required regulations or guidance to support implementation of this Policy;

(d) Raising awareness of the Policy among all relevant Government actors, civil society, the international community, and IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities;

(e) Requesting, in coordination with the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement (see below), allocations from the national budget and, as needed, from the international community and non-governmental organizations to support implementation of this Policy and assist IDPs;

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(1) It is proposed to change the name of the Executive Unit for IDPs to the National Authority for Internally Displaced Persons Affairs.

(f) Coordinating with all relevant Government authorities, in particular the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement and with local authorities, for the implementation of this Policy;

(g) Coordinating with humanitarian and development organizations from the international community (UN agencies, NGOs, donors) and civil society which are providing assistance for IDPs;

(h) Providing IDPs and returnees with clear, comprehensive and accurate information about the assistance and protection programs available to IDPs and returnees, the procedures to access this support, and the Government actors or other partners responsible;

(i) Monitoring and regularly reporting on implementation of this Policy to the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement;

(j) Implementing the decisions of the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement.

Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement:

A Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement shall be established to provide overall strategic guidance and support in the implementation of the Policy and ensure a comprehensive and coordinated national response to internal displacement among all relevant Ministries and with the local authorities. The Supreme Committee shall meet at least quarterly to review progress in the implementation of the Policy and address any obstacles to its implementation. It shall be comprised of:
- Prime Minister (Chairperson)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
- Minister of Human Rights
- Minister of Social Affairs and Labour
- Minister of Public Health and Population
- Minister of Education
- Minister of Defense
- Minister of Interior, National Disaster Management Unit
- Head of the Executive Unit for IDPs (Vice Chairperson)
- Governors of all governorates affected by internal displacement and which IDPs fled to
- Assistant Head of the Executive Unit for IDPs (Rapporteur)

Other concerned ministries will be invited on ad hoc basis, as relevant.

Role of Local Local Authorities:

The governorate and district authorities are responsible, in coordination with the Executive Unit for IDPs and relevant central Government offices, to implement this Policy in their respective governorates and districts. The Executive Unit for IDPs and the Supreme Committee for Addressing International Displacement will support local authorities in fulfilling this responsibility through the provision of policy guidance, technical assistance and material and financial resources.

Coordination with Civil Society and the International Community

1. Civil society and international organizations can offer useful support to assist IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities.
2. Civil society and international organizations shall undertake their activities in conformity with national and international law and in full respect of humanitarian principles, in particular the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, international humanitarian standards, and the human rights and dignity of IDPs, returnees and displacement-affected communities.

3. Civil society and international organizations shall coordinate their activities in support of IDPs and displacement-affected communities with the Government, in particular the Executive Unit for IDPs and the local authorities, in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

4. International organizations are encouraged to procure, to the extent possible, materials and supplies for humanitarian assistance from the local market.

5. International organizations, NGOs and donors shall, to the extent possible, support the Government in the implementation of this Policy, through the provision of requested technical assistance and of adequate, predictable, timely, and flexible financial resources, when national resources are insufficient.

**Implementation of the Policy**

1. **Approval of the Policy**: This Policy will come into effect immediately upon its approval by the Cabinet of Ministers.

2. **Dissemination of the Policy**: This Government, represented by the Executive Unit for IDPs, will disseminate the policy, to all relevant Government authorities and to civil society, international partners and to IDPs and returnees.

3. **Implementation Plan**: The Executive Unit for IDPs will prepare an Implementation Plan for implementation of the Policy within
3 months of the adoption of this Policy and will raise to the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement for review and adoption for review and adoption in consultation with relevant line Ministries, international partners and civil society.

4. Financial Resources:
(a) The Government will allocate all possible resources from the national budget to support implementation of this Policy and its Implementation Plan.
(b) Where national resources are insufficient, the Government will seek additional resources from the international community to support implementation of this Policy.

5. Monitoring and Reporting:
(a) The Executive Unit for IDPs will report, on a quarterly basis, to the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement on the implementation of the Implementation Plan, including financial expenditures.
(b) The level of implementation of Implementation Plan shall be reviewed on an annual basis through a consultative process led by the Executive Unit for IDPs with all relevant Government offices and stakeholders from civil society, relevant international agencies and NGOs, donors, and representatives of IDPs and returnees.
(c) The National Policy and its Implementation Plan will be revised as necessary by the Supreme Committee for Addressing Internal Displacement.
KEY REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

• Constitution of Yemen


• General Education Law, Law No. 45 (1992)

• Instruction 1887 (2009) of the Ministry of Education “Enrolling Children of Internally Displaced Persons at Schools”


• Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministerial Resolution No. 4/3 (2010), 19 January 2010

• Presidential Law No. (31) of 1996 (amended by law No. 17 of 1999) on Social Welfare

• Prime Minister’s Decree No. 454 and No. 455 (2009) to establish an Operational Unit for the Camps of Internally Displaced Persons, 27 December 2009

• Transitional Program for Stabilization and Development, 2012-2014 (2012) by Ministry of Planning and International Coordination (MoPIC)

**ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS**

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