



GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2020

Protection Dimension of Solutions to Internal Displacement

28 September at 11h30- 13h00 (Geneva time)

Link : <https://unhcr.webex.com/unhcr/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb68924ee115cde7b078917d16f32e50>

Event number : **128 453 5782**

Event password : **Yb64JqFUcm8**

Rationale

In the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement a multi-stakeholder, three-year action plan was spearheaded to prevent and address internal displacement. This plan (GP20 Plan of Action) proposes joined up and strategic action across four areas which includes addressing protracted internal displacement and fostering durable solutions. This webinar is part of the GP20 initiative launched for the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and is one of the thematic webinar organized under the 2020 Global Protection Forum. The debates and exchanges of the Protection Forum will contribute to collective efforts under the GPC 2020-2024 Strategic Framework to support effective and predictable field coordination and delivery of life-saving protection services and outcomes.

At the end of 2019, approximately 45.7 million people were living in internal displacement, forced from their homes by armed conflict and insecurity and an additional 25 million displaced due to natural disaster. This marked the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) ever recorded globally and accounted for 57% of the total global conflict-related displacement. Between 5.3 – 13 million¹ IDPs made some degree of progress toward durable solutions.

IDPs are particularly vulnerable and grapple with several protection concerns. They have lost their homes and, as a result, may need shelter. In some cases, they may be compelled to seek shelter in crowded camps or settlements, which can give rise to various protection risks. They have often lost access to their properties, including land, and other and are cut off from their livelihoods and sources of income. As a result, they may suffer poverty, marginalization, exploitation and abuse. Access to food, safe water and public services, such as education like health assistance, becomes difficult. Family and community-structures often collapse, sometimes resulting in family separation. Unaccompanied and separated children, single-female headed households, elderly and persons with specific needs are often at heightened risk of abuse, including sexual exploitation, child labor or forced recruitment into armed forces or groups. Identity documents are often lost, destroyed or confiscated during displacement, leading to challenges in accessing services but also the risk of detention. In many cases, IDPs are displaced to areas where they face marginalization, discrimination and hostility. In addition, tensions in

¹ Numbers from UNHCR Global Trends reports 2019 and IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019.



these areas can be exacerbated by, for instance, competition over scarce resources or an increased risk of attacks and violence because of the presence of IDP settlements.

Above mentioned specific protection concerns are equally persistent in recovery settings and when pursuing durable solutions. As per the Interagency Standing Committee Framework on durable solutions for internally displaced persons (hereafter the Framework), “securing a truly durable solutions is often a long-term process of gradually diminishing displacement- specific needs,”² which may become durable only after decades. The search for durable solutions should also be understood as a complex process that address human rights, humanitarian, development reconstruction and peace- building challenges and requires coordinated and timely engagement of different actors.

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic, further exacerbated IDPs’ protection risks and challenges, as worldwide they live in densely populated areas and face challenges in self-isolating and access to basic services like water, sanitation and basic healthcare. Furthermore, the pandemic has an impact on achieving durable solutions due amongst other to the confinement and more general movement restrictions.

While governments have the primary responsibility for protecting and addressing the needs of IDPs and creating conditions necessary to achieve durable, humanitarian organizations work to meet the immediate needs, however all protection concerns cannot be addressed by humanitarian action alone. The Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity and the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit focused the world’s attention on the need to adopt a new approach to protracted crises, including addressing internal displacement and fostering durable solutions. The IASC Policy on Protection of IDPs, of 1999, emphasises that the protection of internally displaced persons must be of concern to all humanitarian/development agencies.

As per the New Way of Working, humanitarian, development, peace actors and donors must work together to achieve collective outcomes that reduce vulnerabilities and support sustainable solutions to protracted internal displacement. The New Way of Working is meant as ensuring the effectiveness of available humanitarian and development resources by providing continuity depending on the specific context and dynamics in each area. The programming aspects of protection are useful for development actors when initiating and designing activities, as is timely coordination on the criteria for identifying vulnerable people for assistance, understanding the risks faced by affected people and identifying positive coping mechanisms.

This session focuses on the centrality of protection, the importance of addressing protection challenges, throughout the pursuit of durable solutions, through joined up action between humanitarian, development and peace actors and that without enhancing such collaboration all efforts will not be sustainable. Protection is not only a concern for humanitarian programming but will need to be addressed by other actors too although from different angles, with latter more focussed on addressing the drivers of vulnerability. This session will explore how national governments, as main duty bearers, are integrating protection principles and considerations in their planning and programs and in the search for

² IASC Framework on durable solutions for internally displaced persons, the Brookings Institution, 2010

