



GP2.0 Spring Meeting

Enhancing Nationally Owned Accountability and Inclusion on Displacement Solutions

Wednesday, 26 May 2021, 20.00-22.00 (ICT) | 14.00-16.00 (CEST) | 08.00-10.00 (EST)

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

Internal displacement has reached an all-time high. In [2010 UNHCR recorded 27.5 million](#) people living in a situation of forced internal displacement. This figure almost doubled by 2019, with over 50 million people forced to move within the boundaries of their own states due to conflict, violence and disasters. This trend reflects rising inequality around the globe, and is driven by increases in conflict and climate-related disasters. Internal displacement also tends to last much longer. In 2014, more than 50 countries reported that sections of their populations had been in internal displacement for more than 10 years, and the proportion of those in long-term displacement has certainly increased since.¹ While some displacement-affected communities progress towards durable solutions, the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to live in protracted displacement experiencing day-in, day-out poverty, abuses such as sexual and gender-based violence, limited access to services and decent housing, as well as socio-political exclusion.

The [GP20 Compilation of National Practices on Durable Solutions](#) points to “the reconceptualizing of IDPs as ‘citizens with displacement specific needs’ [...] reinforc[ing] the notion of the State’s primary responsibility to protect IDPs’ rights as members of the country citizenship”. This is echoed by the positions emerging from the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, which notes that joined up approaches that integrate humanitarian, peace and development responses must be “anchored around the primary responsibility of Governments and IDPs as citizens with rights.”²

Principles of accountability, inclusion and gender equality are central to the success of sustainable development and durable solutions, as they generate a space for internally displaced persons, communities and governments to restore a viable social contract necessary for the prevention of forced displacement. This requires, first, that women and men in a situation of internal displacement become the main partners and agents defining the solutions to their needs. Local processes of social and political accountability are essential for a sustained demand for reforms in transformative sectors such as justice, rule of law, employment, and housing. They are also key for devising fairer fiscal policies resulting in the creation of services for the most vulnerable. Second, public demands for reforms to prevent, protect and resolve protracted mass internal displacement compel national and local governments to create the institutional infrastructure to start and implement a durable solutions agenda. These processes not only require redefining partnerships in a way that ensures the agency of displaced men and women, but they also warrant a change in role taken by international partners, in particular with an eye to decentralization and localization. Externally subsidized service delivery should dwindle in favour of services financed by taxation and delivered publicly or through the private sector and public-private partnerships. International partners may transition from off-budget to on-budget contributions, where the budget needs to be approved by national parliaments. Finally, international partners, who initially are called by governments to support coordination of disaster responses, can adopt hybrid models, progressively increasing their investment in the capacity of authorities to lead effectively and equitably to crises.

¹ Walter Kälin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, [Breaking the Impasse](#), OCHA, 2017

² UN SG High Level Panel on Internal Displacement, [Concept Paper on Issues and Challenges before the Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), February 2020



Objective of the session:

The overarching objective of this session is to generate a debate among government, civil society, international community and IDP rights activists on accountability towards communities affected by displacement. Through the GP2.0 platform, recommendations and salient points that emerge during the discussion, may be shared with the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, at a time when the Panel is formulating its recommendations to the UN Secretary-General.

Key questions:

The Spring session of the GP2.0 Group aims to investigate how mechanisms of social and political accountability have contributed to successful processes of local integration, return or resettlement. In particular the meeting aspires to offer a space for dialogue and reflection on:

- What are successful elements of IDP engagement that have shaped, driven and contributed to the delivery of a public agenda specifically aimed at the prevention of and solution to internal displacement?
- What has contributed to create a sustainable feedback loop between authorities and communities before, during and after displacement?
- When do inclusion and participation result in accountability at the national level and ownership/leadership at the community level? And what are the vital spaces that contribute to citizen and IDP engagement?

Proposed themes for the panel discussion

- Pathways for accountability and co-ownership of solutions. The role of decentralization in rebuilding trust between displaced-affected communities and state authorities through participatory, inclusive and bottom-up systems.
- Stories of internally displaced persons shaping up their own solutions. What are the enabling factors and barriers, and how can the international community best support to empower this agency?
- Spaces for social accountability – schools, faith centres, workplace. Where do IDPs get organized and how free should these spaces be from organized support in order to be successful?
- How an international system becomes responsive to national accountability.

References:

UNHCR, [“Sixty Years and Still Counting – UNHCR Global Trends, 2010”](#), 2010

GP20, [“Working Together Better to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement. GP20 Compilation of National Practices”](#), 2020.

Walter Kälin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, [Breaking the Impasse](#), OCHA, 2017

UN SG High Level Panel on Internal Displacement, [Concept Paper on Issues and Challenges before the Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), February 2020