

**UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS
27 – 29 JUNE 2018**

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: *Addressing Protracted Internal Displacement and Driving Solutions*

Date: Friday 29 June

Time/Room: 10h30 – 12h30 – Room 5/6

Background:

Conflicts and disasters displaced 30.6 million people within their own countries in 2017 alone. New internal displacement due to conflict and violence reached 11.8 million in 2017, almost double the figure of 6.9 million in 2016. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 5.5 million of these displacements, followed by the Middle East and North Africa with 4.5 million. This brings the total number of people living in internal displacement due to conflict close to 40 million worldwide.

Disasters displaced 18.8 million people in 135 countries. Of these, 8.6 million were displaced by floods, and 7.5 million by storms, especially tropical cyclones. The worst affected countries were China with 4.5 million, the Philippines with 2.5 million, Cuba and the US each with 1.7 million, and India with 1.3 million displacements ([IDMC, 2018](#)).

As the global number of internally displaced persons remains at an all-time high, the length of displacement continues to increase with a rise in the number of IDPs being displaced for years or even decades. In 2014, more than 50 countries were reported to have people living in internal displacement for more than 10 years (OCHA 2017). The report [Breaking the Impasse](#) (OCHA 2017) (focusing on Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Philippines, Somalia and Ukraine) illustrates that a rapidly resolved internal displacement crisis where IDPs find solutions through sustainable return, local integration or relocation - has become a rare exception.

Yet the prevention of, response and solutions to internal displacement and the protection of IDPs have received less attention at the global level, in part due to the intense focus and

positive developments in 2016 and 2017 of the New York Declaration, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the two Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants.

Driving solutions to internal displacement is not a purely humanitarian concern. The traditional approach - prioritizing responses that meet short-term humanitarian needs, such as protection, immediate food aid, hygiene and shelter - has largely failed to achieve durable solutions for the ever-growing number of IDPs worldwide (OCHA 2017). Driving solutions and breaking the trend of protracted displacement calls for moving beyond care and maintenance to rebuilding lives, with the responsible State and local authorities, IDPs and their host communities, civil society, private sector, and international actors (including humanitarian, development and peace and security actors) at all levels each having a distinct and essential role to play. This requires far-reaching changes in how governments, UN agencies and national and international NGOs address internal displacement.

The 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20) in 2018 and the multi-year and multi-stakeholder [GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for IDPs](#) provide an excellent opportunity to work collectively and deliberately around a common vision and goal to bring attention to and reaffirm commitment to *prevent, respond to and support solutions to internal displacement and improve protection of IDPs*.

Objectives:

This session will focus on the efforts and experiences of addressing protracted displacement and how a diverse set of stakeholders can work together to facilitate and drive forward solutions to internal displacement.

The objectives of the session are to:

- Facilitate an interactive discussion and exchange, informed by research and practical operational experiences of facilitating and programming for durable solutions for IDPs;
- Debate key enablers for and impediments to driving forward solutions for IDPs in protracted displacement situations; and
- Provide recommendations that can inform global, regional and national law and policy making and practice on protection of IDPs and solutions to internal displacement, including to the forthcoming revised UNHCR IDP policy.

Key questions for the session:

- What are the key recommendations for mobilising, supporting and ensuring that **states and authorities at national and sub-national level take responsibility and lead** in addressing protracted displacement and driving forward solutions? How do involved stakeholders address challenges of perceived infringement on state sovereignty?
- What are the key considerations in ensuring **joint outcomes** and driving forward solutions to internal displacement in a collaborative manner? How do international and national actors organise themselves in the most relevant & effective manner for *joint outcomes* for IDP solutions, including through Protection Clusters, HCTs and other collaborative forums ensuring that planning and programming for solutions is

on the agenda from the outset? What national systems, programmes, and development initiatives can contribute to diverse dimensions of solutions to internal displacement (legal, civil/political, economic and social)?

- What does it take to **contextualise IDP solutions programming and response**? What are the key elements of solutions programming and response in urban internal displacement contexts?

Desired outcomes of the session:

- Reinforced understanding and operationalisation of the [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#) with examples of contextualised solutions programming for joint outcomes
- Contribute to the understanding of the key enablers and impediments to driving forward solutions for IDPs in protracted displacement situations
- Recommendations for global policy making on protection of IDPs and solutions to internal displacement.

Moderator:

- **Kim Mancini**, Global Solutions Lead, DRC, kim.mancini@drc.ngo

Speakers:

- **Salma Abdillahi Elmi**, Durable Solutions Officer, Somalia NGO Consortium (SNC) / ReDSS Somalia, S.Abdillahi@regionaldss.org

***Experience and Learning:** Perspectives from the Somalia NGO Consortium working with displacement-affected people in Somalia and collaboratively through and with the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). Reflections will focus on: developing collective outcomes and an area-based approach through multi-stakeholder, sectoral, rights and needs-based analysis; engaging with government and local authorities, specifically in urban settings, to support responsibility, leadership and coordination; engaging with host communities to ensure a displacement-affected communities approach inclusive of IDPs, returnees and host communities*

- **Simon Verduijn**, Analyst, Durable Solutions Platform (DSP) Middle East, simon.verduijn@drc-mena.org

***Research:** Focus on the complex process of local integration within the context of protracted displacement inside Syria; in-depth insight into the profiles, needs, intentions, push and pull factors of Syrian IDPs and host community members when it comes to progressing towards local integration; opportunities and challenges for humanitarian programming*

- **Erin Mooney**, Senior Protection Advisor, erin.d.mooney@gmail.com

Global Stock-taking: *What achievements and failures have marked the last decade of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement? What is new and innovative response to protracted displacement? What vital investments and challenges are key to unlocking solutions to protracted displacement in the coming decade?*
Methodology

Methodology:

The two first speakers will set the scene with short presentations on their experience, learning and research on protracted displacement in Somalia and in Syria. The third speaker will participate in a “Hard Talk” style interview which takes stock of the achievements and failures of the last decade of response to protracted displacement. Participants may interact and influence the session live through questions for all three speakers and through an online interactive survey tool.