

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

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: *Strengthening the evidence base on internal displacement through the collection and sharing of quality data*

Date: Friday 29 June

Time/Room: 10h30 – 12h30 – Room 4

Background:

In the context of the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, this session provides an opportunity to mobilise action to reduce and resolve internal displacement including through building a stronger evidence base. Quality data and analysis on internal displacement including the number of displaced, disaggregated by age, sex, location and diversity, the needs, intentions and capacities of IDPs as compared to the host communities, as well as their progress towards durable solutions may not be available. This data and evidence is essential to inform programming, policy, and planning as well as to protect and empower internally displaced persons.

At the same time, many of the discussions around evidence on internal displacement focus on data collected or published by Governments and the international humanitarian actors, with a strong focus on the donor community as users. This event shifts the focus to the role of national and local NGOs in strengthening the evidence base through good practices and innovative approaches.

Local and national NGOs are at the forefront of data collection, analysis, response and advocacy in situations of internal displacement. Their engagement with displaced populations and the communities that host them, and their understanding of the social, cultural and political nuances of local contexts, is invaluable in strengthening the collection and quality of evidence on internal

displacement. However, often these NGOs do not have the opportunity to share their knowledge, needs and experience with international actors, to better inform efforts to strengthen the evidence base on internal displacement.

Meaningful participation of displaced communities in the decisions and responses that affect them is strongly emphasized by the Guiding Principles on Internal displacement and the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs. Better partnerships between NGOs and international actors are needed to facilitate the participation of IDPs, and develop a stronger evidence base to inform advocacy and policy-making. Partnerships should be based on complementarities and a better understanding of the different roles that NGO and other humanitarian actors can play to implement effective and inclusive responses.

Objectives of the session:

This session aims to highlight best practices from NGOs (including in 'putting people first' in their work), map the key challenges and opportunities they face, and explore ways UNHCR and the broader humanitarian sector can better engage with NGOs in strengthening the evidence base on internal displacement.

Desired outcome of the session:

- An improved understanding of good practices and emerging challenges faced by NGOs and humanitarian actors in strengthening evidence on internal displacement
- An identification of which gaps in the evidence base local and national NGOs consider most critical to address, in order to support their policy-making and advocacy on internal displacement.
- An expanded network of humanitarian and NGO actors that can partner for the production, analysis and use of quality data in displacement contexts.
- Lessons and feedback for the humanitarian sector on how to better support and collaborate with NGOs to produce quality data.

Methodology:

The session is divided in three sections, starting with short presentations from three NGO representatives on the themes (approx. 10 minutes each), followed by break-out sessions with participants for more detailed discussions on the themes, and concluding with a plenary where groups will share key messages from the break-out sessions, and raise questions.

Themes to be presented will focus on:

- **Theme 1: Using data and evidence to inform policy-making**
Noah BULLOCK, Foundation CRISTOSAL, El Salvador
What do NGOs see as the key gaps in the evidence base to be addressed (including specific vulnerabilities, economic impacts of displacement etc.), in order to make NGO and humanitarian advocacy on internal displacement more effective?
- **Theme 2: Strengthening data and evidence in politically sensitive contexts**
Iryna ALEKSIEIEVA, Charitable Foundation – Right to Protection, Ukraine
What are some of the techniques and approaches that NGOs are using to strengthen data collection and evidence in politically sensitive contexts? How does the identification of needs and priorities in these contexts lead to better advocacy, protection and legal assistance to IDPs?
- **Theme 3: Involving IDP and host communities in the data process through participatory approaches**
Oscar PAZ, Urban Programming Coordinator, World Vision Honduras
What are some of the community engagement techniques NGOs are using to better engage and include IDPs and host communities in the data collection process? How can the humanitarian and development partner effectively with NGOs to enhance participation of IDPs in the data process?

Group discussions / break-out sessions (approx. 40min):

The audience will be divided in two-three groups, where they will join the NGOs in more detailed discussions to answer two questions on:

- What are the gaps in the evidence base local and national NGOs consider most critical to address, in order to support their policy-making and advocacy on internal displacement?
- How can the humanitarian and development sector support and coordinate better with NGOs for producing better quality data on internal displacement?

Plenary (40min):

Groups will report back on key outcomes of the discussions and proposals for way forward, including time for questions.

Concluding remarks from moderator (5min)