

## IDP ADVISORY GROUP

The IDP Advisory Group is a group of global IDP leaders that contributes to the work of the UN Solutions Hub, UN agencies and bodies, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights of internally displaced persons, the IDP Protection Expert Group (IPEG) and other global actors active in the field of prevention, protection and solutions for internally displaced people.



**Ahmed Al-Zabidi**

**Ahmed Al-Zabidi**, representative of Shabwah Youth Organization, is a humanitarian worker with experience in various sectors, including protection, education, human rights, peace building and conflict resolution. In 2015, he was internally displaced by war in Yemen and when he saw the suffering due to the lack of services and forced displacement, he established a civil society organization to help those affected and provide humanitarian services. He currently works as a regional manager on the Middle East and North Africa team for the Youth and Children Group of the UN and volunteers in his community.



**Hasen Ali Kalla**

**Hasen Ali Kalla** is the Executive Director of a national civil society organization operating in the Somali region of Ethiopia, Pastoralist in Action Development Organization (PIADO). Hasen has over 14 years of experience in various sectors of humanitarian work. In 2016, Ethiopia entered a period of prolonged drought and conflict, specifically in the Somali region. Since that time, Hasen witnessed many pastoralist communities lose their livestock, and be forcibly displaced from rural areas to kebeles (villages) and towns with limited support. Hasen himself was displaced following conflict in his home town, and was able to return after two months. During the conflict, most of the houses in his hometown were burnt down. Hasen actively participated in re-building the town by mobilizing local efforts and fund-raising. This work led to the establishment of PIADO in July 2019, which aims to support people affected by drought and conflict, including the internally displaced.



**Kaumi Wakil**

**Kaumi Wakil**, who was born, raised, and educated in Damboa local government in Borno state of Nigeria, completed his university education in Maiduguri at the age of 36. The Boko Haram insurgency in Maiduguri in 2009 profoundly altered his life. Despite the challenging situation, Kaumi remained in Damboa until 2013. As the conflict escalated, he escaped to Maiduguri with his family, seeking refuge approximately 100 km away from the Maiduguri capital. Shortly after, his home and property were destroyed, which barred his return and marked the start of his life as an internally displaced person in a camp for eight months. The dire situation in Maiduguri, grappling with displacement from over 18 local government areas, inspired Kaumi to volunteer in IDP camps, helping those in distress. This led to the establishment of the Grassroot Initiative for Strengthening Community Resilience (GISCOR) in 2017, a voluntary organization committed to providing services and support to vulnerable groups. Since then, GISCOR's coverage has expanded to 12 local government areas in Borno state in collaboration and partnership with UN agencies and INGOs.



**Luz Marina  
Becerra Panesso**

**Luz Marina Becerra Panesso** has been a Leader of the Afro-Colombian Social Movement in Colombia since 2001. She is currently the Secretary General of the National Association of Displaced Afro-Colombians (AFRODES), where she has previously held prominent positions including as President and legal representative. Since the creation of AFRODES, Luz Marina has led and coordinated organizational processes for women victims of the Colombian armed conflict that have led to the creation of the Coordination of Displaced Afro-Colombian Women in Resistance - La COMADRE. La COMADRE is an independent organization supporting women as one of the most impacted group of survivors of the armed conflict. Luz Marina is a survivor herself.



**Nyajima Gatloth**

**Nyajima Gatloth** was born in Sudan in 1997. She is South Sudanese from Unity State, Bentiu. She is one of seven siblings – two girls and five boys. During the South Sudan crisis, Nyajima and her family were first forced to move to Bentiu town, and then later were displaced again to an IDP camp in Juba. Life in the camp has been far from easy, but her family still placed great importance on an education for Nyajima and her siblings. Nyajima is currently studying to complete high school, as well as helping her younger siblings to do so. Nyajima also works for Non-Violent Peaceforce in IDP camps in South Sudan, engaging in their programmes for unarmed civilian protection through capacity building for local communities to establish community-based protection mechanisms. Nyajima has always been motivated to participate in community empowerment activities, despite the difficult conditions of the camp. She has spoken about solutions to internal displacement at several global online events and radio talk shows, including for the UNHCR's Executive Committee in 2023, to represent the voices of IDPs.



**Rose Kobusinge**

**Rose Kobusinge**, is a Ugandan advocate whose engagement stems from her lived experience of climate change and growing up in a region hosting disaster-displaced IDPs. Rose is actively involved in bringing together IDPs, host communities, youth and leaders in Uganda to collaborate for inclusive decision-making, climate adaptation, and durable solutions. Her recent work involved working with flood-displaced communities in and around Muhokya IDP camp in Kasese, which hosts over 1,000 people, to implement climate adaptation strategies, enhance educational opportunities for IDP children, and amplify the voices of IDPs and host communities through advocacy. Her research also focuses on bridging the gap between rhetoric and action, and the participation of communities in displacement settings in the just transition. Rose champions durable solutions such as planned relocation, resettlement, and resilience building.



**Valeriya Vershinina**

**Valeriya Vershinina** is a lawyer and human rights defender, who has been working in the public sector in Ukraine since 2008. Since 2014, she has been advocating for the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and addressing the consequences of internal displacement for the social protection system in Ukraine. She co-authored the concept for establishing Internally Displaced Councils in Ukraine. In 2019-2020, as part of the team at the CF "SSS" she implemented a pilot project in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhia regions to create the first IDP Councils within government bodies. The project later gained nationwide support from the Ukrainian government, resulting in the establishment of over 700 councils across the country. Valeriya has contributed to the creation of more than 100 IDP councils in Ukraine and has organized their strategic sessions. She is also a co-author of three national integration strategies for internally displaced persons in Ukraine and their corresponding operational plans.



**Yana Liubymova**

**Yana Liubymova** is a lawyer, human rights defender, and expert in Women, Peace and Security. She has been internally displaced person twice, first in 2014 and then again in 2022. She was the Head of the first IDP Council in Ukraine, which was created in 2019, and co-authored the concept of IDP Councils. She is currently the Head of the IDP Council under the Luhansk Regional Administration (temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine). In 2023, Yana was an adviser to the Vice-Prime Minister on reintegration in temporarily occupied territories. She is currently a member of the IDP Coordination structure within the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories. In 2022-2023 worked as the deputy head of the Secretariat of the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine of Human Rights, where she was responsible for the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons, socio-economic rights, protection of equal rights, freedoms, political and religious views, and the protection of children's rights. She was also a member of the Ukrainian government delegation to the UN at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She co-founded a public organization for IDP women "Active community" in 2015.



**Veen Farqad**

**Veen Farqad** is a 21-year-old internally displaced person originally from Al-Qosh, Mosul, residing in Erbil. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in pharmacy, currently in her fourth year at Hawler Medical University. She was first displaced in 2006 from Baghdad to Alqosh after her father received death threats and the city was in a state of lawlessness and chaos. She was displaced again in 2014, when Alqosh was attacked by Daesh. While in Erbil, she completed her education in IDP schools. Since 2017, she has volunteered with a local organization assisting new IDP families with registration and actively listening to their needs and experiences. Currently, Veen is a member of UNHCR and Terre des Hommes', youth mobilization volunteer programme in Erbil, aimed at promoting social cohesion by empowering youth and encouraging active engagement in their communities. She is committed to enhancing the lives of displaced youth by linking them with the right opportunities.