



IDP Advisory Group

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, INCLUDING ENHANCING IDP PARTICIPATION

Since January 2024, the IDP Advisory Group – consisting of members from internally displaced and impacted communities in Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Uganda, Ukraine, South Sudan, and Yemen – has served as a consultative body for the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement (OSA).

Since being established, the group has engaged with OSA members, UN Agencies, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees International and other IDP leaders. Based on these engagements and their own experiences, the Group has formulated the following recommendations.

1. Enhance National Ownership and Government Accountability

- **Embed Participation in National Law:** Governments should enshrine the participation of IDPs in decision-making for solutions within national laws and regulations. This legal foundation will ensure that IDPs have a recognized and formal role in shaping the policies that affect their lives. At the same time, formal participation mechanisms do not guarantee participation will be effective, and should be complemented by genuine mechanisms for participation.
- **Adopt a Decentralized Approach:** Policymakers should be brought to the local level to hear directly from communities. This approach empowers local communities and expands upon the work they are already doing, ensuring that solutions are grounded in the realities faced by those affected.
- **Strengthen Legal Frameworks and Accountability:** Governments must develop and enforce robust legal frameworks to protect IDPs, facilitate their participation, and ensure the enforcement of these laws. Mechanisms should be in place to monitor and report on progress towards durable solutions for IDPs, holding governments accountable for their actions. Responses should be adjusted when they are not working properly. Those without IDP action plans should develop and implement national action plans to address internal displacement, outlining clear objectives, strategies, and responsibilities.

2. Promote Durable Solutions with Inclusive Participation

- **Engage IDPs in Decision-Making:** Governments, with support and capacity building from international organizations, should actively engage IDPs in community-based planning and decision-making processes. Particular attention should be given to the inclusion of women, youth, national minorities, and people with disabilities, ensuring their voices are integral to the development and implementation of solutions.
- **Support and Empower IDP representative bodies to advocate for their rights and interests:** Governments and international organizations should focus on creating and supporting the work of IDP self-organized bodies. These bodies should be empowered to coordinate effectively with local authorities and actively participate in decision-making processes.
- **Support from International Actors:** International actors should provide technical and financial support to build the capacities of local governments and civil society organizations in managing displacement and supporting solutions. This includes funding opportunities for local NGOs and IDP-led organizations to enhance their capacity. UN agencies and donor organizations must strengthen partnership mechanisms with local organizations led by the displaced, as they are the only ones capable of responding directly during emergencies, especially with the climate changes witnessed by the region.

- **Long-Term Planning and Sustainability:** Participation should involve strategic long-term planning with governments, local and international organizations, and donors. To ensure sustainability, there must be a shift from reliance on donor-driven emergency responses to community ownership of solutions. This requires robust localization and capacity-building efforts. Current solutions efforts should be reviewed to ensure this approach.

3. Strengthen International and Regional Cooperation

- **Continue and Strengthen the IDP Advisory Group:** The advisory group that has supported the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement should be continued and strengthened, with its mandate formally defined and supported by the UN. This will enhance coordination with the IDP community, build trust among stakeholders, and ensure continued visibility for IDPs globally.
- **Foster Exchange and Decentralized Engagement:** It is important to continue fostering exchanges between different regions and countries, building capacity and providing networking opportunities. Additionally, UN steering groups at regional and national levels should engage directly with IDPs and their organizations to ensure that local needs and perspectives are adequately represented.
- **Enhance Online Connectivity:** Consider creating a global platform or website that allows IDPs from across the world to connect with each other, share experiences, and collaborate on solutions. While challenges such as resource limitations and internet access need to be addressed, this platform could serve as a valuable tool for global IDP solidarity and exchange.

4. Enhancing Strategies for Addressing Internal Displacement (IDPs)

- **Establish Inclusive Data Collection Systems:** To effectively address the needs of IDPs, strong and inclusive data systems must be established. These systems should track displacement trends and identify the needs of displaced populations, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and national minorities. Ensuring all groups are represented in data collection is crucial for making targeted interventions.
- **Minimizing the Root Causes of Displacement:** Efforts should focus on minimizing the root causes of displacement, such as conflict, violence, and disasters, with an emphasis on preventive measures, including conflict resolution and disaster risk reduction. Peace is also critical to ensure lasting solutions, and a triple nexus approach should be applied.
- **Ensure Women's Participation:** Women's involvement in decision-making is critical, especially in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery. Ensuring the participation of women requires an inter-sectional approach, taking into account additional factors, including race. This should be done in alignment with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, ensuring their active role at all stages.
- **Sustainable Long-Term Planning and Support for Reintegration:** For sustainable solutions, it is important to reduce dependency on international donors and instead build local capacities. Long-term planning should empower local communities to independently manage solutions while providing IDPs with access to essential services, livelihoods, and infrastructure. This comprehensive support is necessary to ensure successful reintegration and long-term, sustainable returns.
- **Consider Resettlement as a Solution:** Resettlement should be explored as a practical option when returning to their original homes or integrating locally is not possible, and when the risks have been reduced, resolved, or minimized.
- **Financial commitments:** For planning to be sustainable, it is necessary for States to make clear financial commitments to allocate resources to implement solutions strategies and plans.
- **Retaining culture:** cultural practices may be lost as a result of displacement – it is important that measures to mitigate this are reflected in frameworks for solutions.



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