

**93<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE | 17– 19 JUNE 2025**

**Regional Activities and Global Programmes**

**Engagement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons**

**Principal Advisor on Internal Displacement, Axel Bisschop**

**Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour to address you today and to reaffirm UNHCR's unwavering commitment to the protection and support of internally displaced persons — a population that remains among the most vulnerable, yet too often overlooked.

UNHCR recently release Global Trends report indicate that by the end of 2024, the number of individuals displaced within their own countries due to conflict and violence reached a staggering **73.5 million**—a 9 per cent increase from the previous year. IDPs now outnumber refugees by more than two to one, making them the largest displaced group of people.

In 2024, **20 million people** were newly displaced—primarily in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Ukraine, and Haiti. Sudan alone accounted for more than **11 million IDPs**, marking the largest internal displacement crisis ever recorded.

Encouragingly, some **8 million IDPs** returned to their areas of origin. The majority of returns occurred in Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Syria, and Ukraine.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

Jointly with our partner agencies in the **Inter Agency Standing Committee** and in alignment with the **Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement**, UNHCR supported the respective RC/HC with protection, assistance, and solutions for IDPs across more than 30 countries.

UNHCR continues to lead the **Protection, Shelter, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters**, ensuring effective, coordinated responses in complex operational environments.

In addition, UNHCR also serves as a **Solutions Champion**, actively contributing to global mechanisms established following the conclusion of the mandate of

the UN Special Adviser on Internal Displacement—including the Solutions Hub and the Global Solutions Working Group.

Together with our partners, UNHCR supported **government-led solutions** in countries such as Colombia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Yemen, and contributed to the development of the UN system-wide approach to internal displacement. This included a new Protection Risk Assessment Tool which was piloted in Afghanistan, Chad, and Mozambique to better inform responses.

Grounded in the **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** and the **Kampala Convention**, our work emphasized inclusive processes—amplifying the voices of displaced communities and working closely with national authorities to ensure IDPs’ rights are protected and reflected in decision-making.

The **2024–2030 Strategic Plan on Internal Displacement** provides the foundation for our engagement, aiming to ensure IDPs can benefit from national legal frameworks, access essential services, and rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

This year, we supported over **25 countries** to strengthen legal and policy environments, launched the IDP Law and Policy Dashboard, and published the second edition of the Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement.

Together with the **Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs**, we co-led the **Protection Expert Group**, facilitating country missions and peer exchanges—including a visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a regional forum in Senegal. We also supported the **IDP Advisory Group** consisting of IDPs, ensuring those affected are heard.

UNHCR remains fully engaged in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and supports the **Emergency Relief Coordinator’s** leadership on the humanitarian architecture reform and in the 17 priority countries, as well as in 8 deprioritized and 3 transition settings.

Our leadership extends to **28 protection clusters**, supporting strategic protection frameworks that reaffirms protection as the cornerstone of durable solutions.

In 2024, the **CCCM Cluster** supported 21 million IDPs across **27 countries**, emphasizing dignified living conditions.

The **Global Shelter Cluster**, co-led with the IFRC, coordinated assistance for 93 million people, directly reaching **17 million** with shelter and non-food items.

These efforts were supported by UNHCR's needs-based budget of with **\$670 million, approximately 25% of UNHCR's total budet** dedicated to internal displacement responses by year-end.

**Chair,**

As we look to the future, we must build on effective partnerships and practices, **scale nationally efforts**, and strengthen the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus**. Success must ultimately be measured not in statistics, but in our collective ability to restore lasting solutions for internally displaced persons.

Despite financial challenges, UNHCR remains **firmly committed** to the protection of IDPs and the pursuit of durable solutions. Our **unique mandate and experience** across the displacement continuum continue to be recognized by host and donor States alike.

The increasingly **complex nature of displacement**, including the risk of internal displacement escalating into cross-border movements, demands continued partnership and proactive coordination. As we often say, **today's IDP can be tomorrow's refugee**.

At headquarters, we are consolidating our IDP engagement through the **Division of International Protection (DIPS)**, guided by the findings of the **2023 evaluation** and aligned with our long-term strategic priorities.

In the field, our engagement is anchored in the **five-year Focus Area Plan for the Protection and Solutions of IDPs**, ensuring a coherent, rights-based approach across contexts.

**Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

Let us reaffirm our shared responsibility to ensure that internally displaced persons are not left behind. Let us continue working together to provide the protection, solutions, and hope they so urgently need and rightfully deserve.

**I thank you.**