

UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS
3 – 5 JULY 2019

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Title of session: IDPs and data: Evidence across the Displacement Continuum

Date: Wednesday, 3 July 2019

Time/Room: 13:30 – 15:30 – Room 4

Executive Summary:

This session will focus on specific challenges to obtaining reliable data and evidence in internal displacement situations, in line with the thematic priorities of the 2019 UNHCR-NGO Consultations. Structured in three parts, it will look at key data challenges in internal displacement contexts, covering risk assessment, early warning and prevention; collaboration and evidence-based planning for collective outcomes; and knowledge for better targeting, protection and inclusion. It will highlight initiatives and good practices to help overcome challenges to the analysis, collection and use of quality data, and through breakout sessions explore how NGOs and other humanitarian and development actors can enhance their engagement on these issues in each phase of the displacement cycle to assist and support internally displaced persons. Forced displacement can impact people differently depending on age, gender and diversity. Thus, analysis and collection of data will be essential to understand and analyze the impact of intersecting personal characteristics on people's experiences for an effective response to their needs.

Concept Note:

- **Background and link to the theme**

Recent global commitments, such as the GCR and the 2030 Agenda on SDGs, underpin the growing attention brought to the issue of forced displacement and also create significant opportunities for enriching and improving how the international community prepares and responds to these situations and to the concerns of the displaced persons. They collectively reinforce the centrality of quality data and strengthened statistical systems, and highlight the need for coordinated approaches to data collection and analysis, to ensure quality data and promote evidence-based decision-making to inform effective responses, policies and solutions. However, achieving these standards remains particularly challenging in internal displacement situations due to specific and recurrent issues that are linked to political and operational constraints as well as limited conceptual clarity and technical capacity.

Building off the sub-themes identified in the Concept Note for the 2019 UNHCR-NGO Consultations under 'Data and Evidence', this event aims to bring the attention to some of these key challenges related to data on internally displaced persons and through concrete examples to demonstrate good practices. The session will be structured in two main parts: a panel discussion on three thematic topics relevant at all stages of the displacement continuum with a Question and Answer session with the audience/participants. The topics covered by the panel discussion will include:

- **Risk assessment, preparedness and early warning:** Using early warning and preparedness tools can help to and prevent internal displacement and to identify and respond to specific vulnerabilities early in a displacement crisis. Similarly, analysis of the displacement drivers can help foster a better understanding of the conditions that trigger it and reduce the risk of future/repeated displacements in the long-term. Addressing data gaps for comprehensive risk assessments are an important part of addressing displacement across the continuum.
- **Collaboration and evidence-based planning for collective outcomes:** To effectively address internal displacement and inform collective humanitarian and development action in support of durable solutions, a wide range of actors – including national authorities and humanitarian and development actors – need to work together to enable coherent joint action. However, fostering and sustaining collaboration among such a diverse group of actors, including on information needs, data collection and analysis, may prove difficult, often due to the sensitive nature of many displacement contexts. Similarly, despite the conceptual definition advanced by the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions, no standard practice for establishing the end of displacement and analysing durable solutions exists – often leading to a number of operational challenges impacting UN and NGO partners alike. NGOs can play a critical role in enabling successful collaboration, which can be illustrated through examples of good practice e.g. from profiling.'
- **Knowledge for better targeting, protection and inclusion:** Data and evidence play a central role in ensuring accountability to and protection of affected populations as well as appropriate targeting of programmatic interventions. In the same way, strong evidence that adequately captures IDPs is critical to ensure they are accounted for in national planning and development processes. Yet, the provision of accurate, disaggregated and timely data can be exceptionally difficult in internal displacement situations, particularly in urban settings. The involvement of NGOs, which often have strong ties to affected communities, plays a vital role in ensuring the needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of internally displaced people are understood and addressed
- **Objective(s) of the session** [*Development of the executive summary provided for the detailed agenda*]

This session will focus on shedding light on specific challenges and examples to obtaining comprehensive evidence for internally displaced persons along the displacement continuum, in line with the thematic priorities of the 2019 UNHCR-NGO Consultations. The session will look at three broad topics with key recurring data challenges, covering risk assessment, early

warning and prevention; collaboration and evidence-based planning for collective outcomes; and knowledge for better targeting, protection and inclusion. It will highlight initiatives and good practices to help overcome challenges to the collection, analysis, and use of quality data, and through breakout sessions explore how NGOs and other humanitarian and development actors can enhance their engagement on this issue in each phase of the displacement cycle to address the concerns of IDPs.

- **Desired outcome of the session:** [*What would you like to achieve with this session? What would be the follow-up actions to it?*]
- Improved understanding of specific challenges to obtaining reliable and shared data at different phases of the internal displacement continuum, and the roles that NGOs, UNHCR and other humanitarian and development actors can play to overcome these
- Sharing of good practice examples, lessons learned and feedback for the humanitarian and development community on how to better support and collaborate with NGOs to produce quality data in internal displacement situations
- An expanded network

- **Methodology & choreography** [*panel discussion, break-out sessions, pigeonhole, video presentation, mixture of different elements*]
- A panel discussion with presentations in the form of a structured Q&A (i.e. no presentations but expert moderator), with the aim of having geographic/gender diversity and covering the above-mentioned thematic topics, followed by a Q&A with session participants.
- To bring in the perspective of an IDP youth (Ismael) concerning how data and evidence responded to his protection concerns.
- The interactive session would include both pigeonhole for questions and the "live word" cloud.