

GLOBAL IDP ADVISORY GROUP (2026-2027)

The Global IDP Advisory Group is composed of 12 leaders from internally displaced communities and serves as a consultative body to the UN Solutions Hub, UN agencies and bodies, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights of IDPs, the IDP Protection Expert Group (IPEG), and other global actors working on prevention, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons. Established in 2024 by the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, the Advisory Group is now in its second assembly of members. UNHCR acts as the Secretariat, providing strategic support and ensuring effective coordination of the Group's activities.



Mouyad Al-Ekhwan (Syria) is a Syrian humanitarian professional with over a decade of experience working with displacement-affected communities across multiple governorates in Syria, including Homs, Hama, and Idleb. He currently serves as Project Coordinator Support with Médecins Sans Frontières and previously served as Education & Protection Program Officer with Triangle Génération Humanitaire. His work has focused on education, child protection, community engagement, and accountability to affected populations, including through complaint and feedback mechanisms, with direct engagement with internally displaced persons, host communities, and returnees.

Having personally experienced displacement ten times over the past decade, Mr. Al-Ekhwan brings both lived and professional insight into the realities facing internally displaced persons. He has built strong networks within the protection and education sectors and brings a practical understanding of the drivers of displacement and the conditions needed for effective, inclusive, and locally grounded solutions. He takes a whole-of-life approach to solutions, spanning shelter and tenure, livelihoods, health, civil documentation, digital access, social cohesion, and education.



Nazh-Far Mariwa Berganio (The Philippines) is a visionary leader from the Philippines who co-founded in 2020 Ako Bakwit, Inc. with Samira Gutoc, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of IDPs in the Philippines. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, his team focused on locating IDPs and delivering relief aid. This effort revealed systemic challenges: IDPs infected with the virus faced barriers to accessing assistance due to lack of identification, and families of deceased IDPs often struggled to secure ambulance services because victims were not registered voters in their host communities.

Through his leadership and advocacy and drawing on his own personal experience having faced multiple episodes of displacement during his childhood, Mr. Berganio continues to champion the rights of displaced populations and address gaps in humanitarian response, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left behind.



Veen Farqad (Iraq) is an IDP originally from Al-Qosh, Mosul, residing in Erbil, Iraq. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in pharmacy, currently in her fourth year at Hawler Medical University. Ms. Farqad 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. Ms. Farqad 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, Ms. Farqad 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. Ms. Farqad is committed to enhancing the lives of displaced youth by linking them with the right opportunities.



Laura Marcela Borrero Fierro (Colombia) has been deeply affected by the armed conflict in Colombia. Her grandfather was killed by the FARC-EP when she was only one year old, forcing her family to be displaced multiple times. In 2014, due to threats, her family fled again. Despite these challenges, she excelled academically and earned a scholarship to study law at the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Barranquilla. Ms. Fierro graduated with honors and founded an organization called Semillas por la Paz (Seeds for Peace) to support victims of the conflict, and later created the Fundación Voces por la Paz (Voices for Peace Foundation). She represents young victims in various participation spaces, including the Mesa de Participación de las Víctimas del Atlántico and the Mesa Nacional de Víctimas del Conflicto Armado.

Ms. Fierro has engaged with the government to advocate for victims' rights and has participated in public hearings and processes such as the Truth Commission. Currently, Ms. Fierro is a lawyer, specializing in administrative law and is pursuing a master's degree in governance and human rights at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (Spain) to continue supporting victims' rights and strengthen her leadership.



Amat-Allah Abdullah Ghaleb Esmail (Yemen) is a humanitarian worker from Taiz, Yemen, whose personal experience as an IDP has driven her commitment to protection and women's empowerment since 2020. She is the founder of the "For Her" initiative (2020), which was formally established as Foundation in 2025, reflecting her dedication to advancing women's rights and social inclusion.

Mrs. Ismail serves as a member of the Community-Based Protection Network at Nahda Makers Organization (a UNHCR partner), advocating for displaced persons and marginalized groups to access rights and essential services. She has led initiatives to improve conditions in IDP sites, provide psychosocial support, and raise awareness on digital safety, harassment prevention, and gender-based violence.

At the national level, Mrs. Ismail champions women's participation in peacebuilding and has represented Yemen in international programs, including the Young Women Peacebuilders Program 2025. Her work continues to foster inclusive, resilient communities and promote gender equality in humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts.



Elhadj Mahamane (Mali) is the coordinator of the NGO Aid to Vulnerable Children of Timbuktu (AEDT) and an active member of the Malian Association for Peace and Development in the Sahel, where he supports community-based programs that foster peace, social cohesion, and development in vulnerable areas. His work focuses on strengthening resilience and promoting stability in communities affected by displacement and insecurity. Through this role, he has built strong connections with local stakeholders and contributed to initiatives that address the root causes of fragility and displacement.

At the national and regional levels, Mr. Mahamane plays a key role in humanitarian coordination through his engagement in UNHCR-led protection clusters, including the Child Protection Cluster and the Regional Protection Cluster, as well as the GBV Cluster coordinated by UNFPA. These platforms enable him to design and coordinate protection strategies for displaced populations, advocate for survivor-centered approaches to gender-based violence, and ensure that the voices of vulnerable communities are heard in decision-making processes.

His collaborative work with government authorities, NGOs, and community leaders demonstrates his leadership in mobilizing resources, closing protection gaps, and advancing durable solutions for IDPs across Mali and the wider Sahel region.



Juan Carlos Enamorado Méndez (Honduras) is a Honduran leader with more than a decade of experience leveraging urban art as a catalyst for social transformation in contexts of violence and internal displacement. He is the co-founder and Executive Director of Warriors Zulu Nation Honduras, a role he has held since 2011, spearheading initiatives that promote social innovation, youth engagement, and durable solutions for IDPs. Mr. Méndez's work combines art, dialogue, and advocacy to bridge local and international spaces. He has contributed to the development of protection mechanisms and legislation for displaced populations while fostering community-based programs that prevent forced recruitment and strengthen resilience in areas under territorial control. His leadership extends to global advocacy: Mr. Méndez has served as youth focal point for the European Union Youth Advisory Council in Honduras, represented communities in the Cartagena +40 process, and participated in major forums such as the Global Refugee Forum (Geneva), the Summit of the Future (New York), and CLACSO (Bogotá). He is also a representative of the Youth on the Move Network (REJUMOVI).



Ahmed Mhanna (Palestine) serves as the Executive Director of Programs and Operations at the Palestinian Housing Council (PHC), where he leads rights-based, protection-centered responses IDPs across Gaza. His approach is grounded in accountability and proximity—working closely with displaced families, municipal authorities, and grassroots committees to co-design conflict-sensitive interventions that uphold dignity. Drawing on his own experience as an IDP and a family history of displacement since 1948, he brings a profound and personal understanding of the needs, aspirations, and concerns of affected communities. At the national level, Mr. Mhanna represents PHC in key coordination platforms, including the National Shelter Cluster and its Strategic Advisory Group, the Site Management Cluster, the HLP Working Group, and the WASH Cluster. He has contributed to shaping guidance on safe site planning, essential service standards, and housing, land, and property (HLP) safeguards that protect tenure and enable equitable access.



Ibrahim Hassan Mohamed (Somalia) has a long-standing and direct connection with displaced communities through his leadership and engagement in multiple civil society and grassroots initiatives. As the Co-founder and Director of the Marginalized Community Advocacy Network (MCAN) and a founding member of the Somali Bantu Youth Association in Somalia, Mr. Mohamed has worked extensively with IDPs, refugees, and minority groups in Somalia and the wider East and Central Africa region. His work focuses on strengthening community protection mechanisms, promoting social inclusion, and facilitating access to essential services for displaced families. Ibrahim has coordinated field programs in displacement-affected areas, delivering interventions in protection, health, WASH, and livelihoods.

Mr. Mohamed has also engaged in advocacy at national and regional levels, representing displaced and marginalized voices in humanitarian coordination platforms, including cluster meetings and IGAD-led protection and resilience forums. Through continuous interaction with IDP camp committees, women-led groups, and youth networks, Ibrahim has built trust and partnerships that ensure the needs and priorities of displaced communities are reflected in humanitarian and development responses.



Chimda Musa (Nigeria) serves as the Executive Director of the Rural Agricultural Transformation and Empowerment Initiative (RATEI). Based in Adamawa State, Nigeria, Mrs. Musa is a visionary leader driving transformative change in rural communities. A dedicated advocate for displaced communities, her organization empowers women and IDPs, particularly those displaced from Borno State, through innovative agricultural initiatives. With extensive experience spanning Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, and Social Enterprise initiatives, she combines technical expertise with a deep commitment to ethical leadership.



Mx. Joyseph Sseruwagi (Uganda) is a former internally displaced person and a current refugee based in Kenya, serving as the Executive Director of Entrepreneur Empowerment and Advocacy–Health (EEA-H), a queer-refugee-led organization in Kajiado county. Their leadership is shaped by lived experience of displacement in Uganda and forced migration to Kenya.

Joyseph believes that survivors are central to making lasting change. Under their leadership, EEA-H operates a shelter for at-risk queer refugees and IDPs and delivers programmes on emergency response, legal aid and awareness, access to health services, livelihoods support, and gender-based violence prevention through strengthening refugee-led organizations. EEA-H is a trusted hub for displaced queer Kenyans and queer refugees from neighboring countries.

Mx. Sseruwagi is widely respected for survivor-centered leadership, advocacy, and collaboration, guided by the conviction that when survivors are supported, they lead and build systems of care and justice.



Valeriia Vershynina (Ukraine) 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 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, 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.

Mrs. Vershynina 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 IDPs in Ukraine and their corresponding operational plans.