

Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
7-9 July 2020

Agenda item 4

Oral update on internal displacement

UNHCR's "[Initiative on Internal Displacement 2020-2021](#)" released during the March Standing Committee, serves as a further expression of the organization's commitment to address situations involving internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a more decisive, predictable and effective manner. The initiative is consistent with the updated "Policy on UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement" of September 2019, which guides the organization's work in 33 operations.

During the seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee, UNHCR will provide an update on the progress made in the implementation of the IDP initiative, focusing on four areas in accordance with its main objectives:

- *The generation of good practices between countries and across regions to inform the continued operationalization of UNHCR's updated IDP policy.*

Of particular note are cash-based interventions, which have proved critical in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Cash assistance is being delivered in 13 IDP operations, representing a significant increase compared to previous years, and important controls have been put in place related to targeting and post-distribution monitoring. More than \$9 million in cash assistance has been distributed in only three months, providing a vital lifeline for IDPs that also enables choice and increases empowerment.

- *Contribute to heightened visibility and advocacy on the impact of internal displacement on affected populations.*

This objective has been advanced in multiple ways, including through enhancing UNHCR's inter-agency coordination leadership commitments. Protection cluster coordinators have now been placed in 32 locations at the national level; camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) cluster coordinators in 9 locations; and shelter cluster coordinators in 16 locations. UNHCR has stepped up to co-lead the CCCM cluster in Sudan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has strengthened the protection cluster in the Cabo Delgado region in northern Mozambique. With respect to its operational engagement, UNHCR seeks to leverage its field presence by increasing the engagement of local stakeholders, including affected communities, civil society and local authorities. Regionally, UNHCR engaged in consultations with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on the ratification, domestication and implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), under the Plan of Action launched in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20).

- *Ways in which UNHCR can better inform resource mobilization strategies and equitable resource allocation.*

To achieve this objective, measures are being undertaken to improve the analysis of data collected during protection monitoring and to establish a clear link between the analysis and the organization's revised results-based management framework. This evidence-based approach will guide UNHCR's resource allocation and mobilization efforts for 2020 and beyond. The funding gap for global IDP projects under pillar four of the biennial programme budget for 2020 is estimated to be around \$700 million, or approximately 54 per cent.

- *The need to facilitate focused support to the nine target operations under the IDP initiative on specific thematic, strategic and operational issues.*

Some positive examples in this regard include new initiatives in Ethiopia and Somalia to support IDP resilience and solutions in cooperation with the authorities and other stakeholders. UNHCR recognizes the importance of partnership with development actors and others in realizing solutions, including through early action and evidence-based, integrated programming. UNHCR's approach in advancing durable solutions is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.