

Leaving No One Behind:  
Ensuring an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Inclusive Approach to Internal Displacement

**AGD Dialogue 1:**  
**Focus on the High-Level Panel (HLP) Work Streams**  
**1 (political will), 2 (prevention), and 3 (solutions/nexus)**

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

**OUTCOME REPORT**

**Background**

A virtual dialogue – focused on identifying innovative and concrete recommendations to better prevent, respond to, and find solutions for internal displacement – was co-hosted on November 24, 2020 by Canada, Plan International, Save the Children, and Women’s Refugee Commission, and co-sponsored by Australia, Denmark, Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, IDMC, Norway, and Oxfam. The dialogue was held in English with interpretation into Arabic, French, International Sign Language, and Spanish, with English captioning to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.

**The Importance of an AGD Approach to Internal Displacement**

Protecting and assisting internally displaced persons (IDPs) is fundamentally about respecting and upholding human rights. A person’s age, gender, disabilities, and various diversities can contribute to multiple forms of discrimination; specific protection risks; and can impact a person’s ability to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives, particularly during displacement. An age, gender, and diversity (AGD) approach is critical to ensuring an inclusive approach in the prevention of – and response to – internal displacement. An AGD approach enables responses to be adapted to different needs through meaningful participation.

The first age, gender, and diversity (AGD) and internal displacement dialogue followed the multi-stakeholder submission to the High-Level Panel (HLP): [Leaving No One Behind: Ensuring an Age, Gender, and Diversity \(AGD\) Inclusive Approach to Internal Displacement](#) (May 2020). The joint submission noted that a series of dialogues would be organised, bringing together those making the submission and other actors, “to develop bold and more concrete ideas around AGD and IDPs.”

**Challenges in Adopting an AGD Approach**

In the first part of the dialogue, speakers, including IDPs, were invited to elaborate, based on their own experience, the challenges for designing and implementing responses to IDPs that are sensitive to needs based on age, gender, and diversity (AGD). Some of the key challenges identified by panellists and attendees during the discussions were:

- Strong opposition and negative attitudes from actors at community, local, and national levels to address issues related to, for example, inclusive education, gender equality, and gender-based violence (GBV), as well as the direct participation of IDPs in all their diversity. Discrimination based on age, gender, and disability against IDPs often reflects existing trends in a country.
- Lack of resources directed to adapt and implement responses that are sensitive to age, gender, and diversity, including disability, such as inclusive consultations with diverse groups of IDPs.
- A lack of capacity and the right tools, in many contexts, to adapt and implement responses sensitive to age, gender, and diversity.

- A lack of accountability of governments in fulfilling the human rights of diverse groups of IDPs, particularly the ones who experience converging forms of discrimination based on their age, gender, and diversity, such as children with disabilities and, in particular, girls with disabilities.
- Power asymmetry: It was clear from participants that different power asymmetries exist between IDPs, host communities, and actors who have the power to provide long lasting change for their lives. This asymmetry is intrinsically linked to their age, gender, and diversity, in which some groups of IDPs experience even less power depending on their diverse identities.

## Breakout Groups

Participants were divided into groups to discuss three different themes, with the goal of finding common recommendations. Two common questions served as a basis for the discussions in the groups:

- 1) What conditions must be in place to foster AGD sensitive solutions?
- 2) What are key components to ensure that diverse groups of IDPs are part of decision-making?

## Recommendations

The recommendations arising from the dialogue cover a range of issues. Some of the recommendations need to be further unpacked to find ways to put them into action.

### Breakout group 1: How to foster political will, responsibility, and capacity for stakeholders to invest in AGD sensitive solutions for IDPs? (*HLP work stream 1: political will*)

- Capacity building of government officials: Capacity building and sensitisation of government officials on age, gender, and diversity should be prioritised by UN agencies, NGOs, and governments themselves to galvanize knowledge and sensitise key actors in political spaces to lead action. Such capacity building may also be needed for other actors supporting IDPs.
- Bottom-up approach: NGOs and UN agencies should leverage their positions to ensure that IDPs and host communities can access safe and inclusive decision-making spaces. For this purpose, they should work together with local groups to empower community-based networks and strengthen capacities, becoming a bridge between IDPs, host communities, and government.
- Political pressure and financing – the role of donors: Donors should use their political capital to give a spotlight to age, gender, and diversity in IDP policies in global spaces, as well as in responses at national level. Donors also have the shared responsibility to ensure sustained investment globally in scaling age, gender, and diversity sensitive responses.
- Leverage global and regional spaces to provide a spotlight on age, gender, and diversity issues: Existing global spaces and emerging ones should be used as complementary spaces to galvanise support and accountability for IDPs through an age, gender, and diversity lens. This means leveraging the voices of IDPs and ensuring shared responsibility to foster their rights in all their diversity. Existing mechanisms like the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) should be used to give a voice to particular issues affecting diverse groups of IDPs.

### Breakout Group 2: How can an AGD approach help prevent displacement? (*HLP work stream 2: prevention*)

One of the HLP's work streams is on the prevention of internal displacement in climate change, conflicts, and violence contexts. This discussion aimed to reply to the question, "What can we do to prevent internal displacement and notably how to use AGD to prevent it?"

- Create spaces and directly involve women, children, and young people in peace processes: Stakeholders must meaningfully consult and include women and young people in all their diversity in community-based structures to prevent conflicts. This involvement means also

abiding by existing frameworks on women's roles in peace building, such as the Security Council resolution 1325.

- Importance of community-driven prevention responses: All stakeholders working with the prevention of internal displacement must better consult children, young people, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons, and other potentially marginalised groups and include voices from the communities as part of prevention measures. Those same actors should include an age, gender, and diversity perspective from the beginning.
- Address root causes: All stakeholders should dedicate resources to use an age, gender, and diversity approach to the root causes of internal displacement, which includes understanding how to incorporate specific early actions of prevention that target diverse groups, such as women and girls, youth, and persons with disabilities.

### **Breakout Group 3: How can governments and other actors systematically adopt an AGD approach to facilitate solutions for IDPs, including by using an AGD approach in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus? (HLP work stream 3: solutions/nexus)**

- Collect and analyse disaggregated data: Collect and analyse data disaggregated by age, gender, and disability, as well as other diversity factors where possible. Integrate and use the disaggregated data and its analysis to influence all aspects of programming – assessment, design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning – and solutions.
- Find ways to build trust between IDPs, governments, and humanitarian actors.
- Work with diverse organisations that include underrepresented groups: It is important to work with international and domestic groups, including faith groups, civil society groups, or others that have the trust of their communities. Involving marginalised and neglected groups, as well as including other existing community networks, is key to identifying the barriers diverse groups of IDPs face and solutions to overcome them.
- Inclusive education is key to ensuring sustained impact and transforming social norms related to age, gender, and diversity.
- Strengthen laws and policies: States should strengthen laws, including nationality laws, policies, and frameworks to support IDPs, without discrimination and in accordance with international law.
- Empower local community networks: Local community networks of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI individuals, and older persons and NGOs working with these groups in the communities should be supported to work together. Adapt the ways in which international actors respond to shift the power towards IDPs.
- Age, gender, and diversity adaptive tools: Stakeholders working with IDPs should adapt their responses or create better guidance on how to adapt responses to reflect the diversity and capacities of the communities in which they work.

### **Next Steps**

This first AGD dialogue was part of a broader agenda to ensure that the recommendations of the High-Level Panel can help to find long-term solutions for, and foster the rights of, internally displaced persons in all their diversity. These final recommendations will be formally submitted to the HLP.