"Fundamental shift" needed in urban internal displacement response as global urbanization increases

April 19 - Leaders and managers of municipalities and urbanization experts called for a “fundamental shift” in internal urban displacement response in a virtual global roundtable that took place on 19 April 2021. The event, titled “Internal Displacement in an Increasingly Urbanized World: Challenges and Opportunities,” was the culmination of a series of consultations on urban displacement co-organized by UN-Habitat, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

Building on an earlier submission, the series was designed to help inform the Panel in its exploration of the unique challenges and opportunities presented by internal displacement in urban contexts. It involves six separate discussions, starting in February, with mayors, municipality administrators and other local authorities from Burkina Faso (Kaya, Kongoussi, Tougouri and Dori), Colombia (Medellin), Iraq (Mosul), Ukraine (Luhansk Oblast), Somalia (Mogadishu) and Honduras (San Pedro Sula). Five of the discussions took place prior to the global roundtable. Representing the Panel in these conversations were Panel members Paula Gaviria Betancur, Sima Samar, Pauline Riak and Per Heggenes, and Expert Advisory Group members Walter Kaelin and Alexandra Bilak.

The roundtable brought together some 40 urban and forced displacement experts from municipalities, financial and technical partners and academia, who shared their reflections and experiences on the current urban displacement response, the growing challenges faced by cities and towns, and proposals for the ways forward. Opening the event, Panel Member Bentacur noted that while the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) today reside in towns and cities, the...
### APRIL EVENTS

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<td>Workshop on political economy research in partnership with SOAS and UNDP</td>
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<td>Meeting between Panel member Paula Gaviria Betancur and Andrés Celis, UNHCR Representative in Honduras</td>
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### NEW EVENT SUMMARIES

**ASIA PACIFIC POLICY BRIEF**

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON MANAGING RISK AND ADDRESSING DISASTER DISPLACEMENT: CHALLENGES, EFFECTIVE PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS**

This brief reflects the interventions and recommendations from the 19 November 2020 virtual regional exchange on “Managing Risk and Addressing Disaster Displacement: Challenges, Effective Practices and Solutions in Asia” organized jointly by the Asia-Pacific Disaster Displacement Working Group, the Asia-Pacific Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience, the GP20 Initiative, the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Secretariat of the Panel.

**Executive Summary of Panel-EU event on Supporting Nationally Owned Durable Solutions Processes for Internal Displacement**

This document summarizes the key points from the event on “Supporting Nationally Owned Durable Solutions Processes,” co-organized by the European Union (EU) and the Secretariat of the Panel on 10 February 2021.

**Executive Summary of Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement**

This executive summary captures the key points from the Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement, co-organized by the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP)'s Technical Working Group (TWS) on Human Mobility and the Secretariat of the Panel on 11 February 2021.
"WE CAN KEEP PEOPLE ALIVE OR WE CAN LET PEOPLE START LIVING."
Quote taken from the urban displacement consultation in Mogadishu

Continued from page 1

...attention devoted to the issue was often ad hoc. She called for the reality and extent of displacement in the urban contexts to be duly acknowledged and its nature and dynamics to be properly understood.

“You have amazing people working on these issues at the local and municipal levels. Yet when national humanitarian response or solutions plans are developed, they do not always take into account the unique challenges and opportunities of urban displacement environments,” she said.

The first session of the roundtable was devoted to the rethinking that was called for in the current approach to internal displacement in the urban context. Among other points, participants highlighted the need for changes in development and humanitarian assistance and programming in urban contexts, as well as strengthened coordination across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The centrality of local governments in responding to urban displacement was also underlined given that municipality officials are typically the primary responders who serve on the “front lines” of each crisis.

The second session looked into the approaches and technical expertise from non-crisis contexts in support of sustainable and equitable urban development. Participants highlighted the importance of developing and disseminating flexible, fit-for-purpose urban planning tools tailored to different situations including cases of acute shocks.

The complete findings and conclusions from the six local consultations and the global roundtable will be drawn on by the Panel as it carries forward and concludes its work on this question.

Timeline of Urban Displacement Consultations

26 February: Burkina Faso
Mayors of Kaya, Kongoussi, Tougouri, Dori

23 March: Colombia
Municipality of Medellin and Colombia’s Victims’ Unit

31 March: Ukraine
Regional authorities and IDP representative in Luhansk Oblast

22 April: Honduras
Vice-Mayor of San Pedro Sula and municipality administration members

29 March: Iraq
Mayor of Mosul

9 April: Somalia
Benadir Durable Solutions Unit on Mogadishu’s response

Note: The consultation with the Vice-Mayor of San Pedro Sula took place following the roundtable discussion due to scheduling conflict.
UPCOMING EVENTS

03 MAY  Dedicated dialogue with leadership of impacted states: Mexico
Panel member Paula Gaviria Betancur will meet with H.E. Martha Delgado Peralta, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico.

05 MAY  Roundtable: leadership and coordination for solutions
The Panel will hold its third roundtable discussion on coordination for solutions with experts including representatives of States, UN agencies and NGOs.

11 MAY  Event on “Displacement in Times of Disasters and Climate Change”
The Co-chairs of the “Group of Friends” of PDD and the Panel, based in Geneva and New York, will host a disaster displacement consultation with a focus on coordination for solutions and financing.

Featured research briefing papers

Institutional Architecture
Does the International System Support Solutions to Internal Displacement?
Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, Georgetown University
Dr. Sarah Deardorff Miller, Refugees International

Durable Solutions for IDPs
Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, Georgetown University
Note: Dr. Elizabeth “Beth” Ferris serves as one of the Expert Advisory Group members of the Panel.

SPOTLIGHT

Roundtable informs on-going work of Panel on catalytic and long-term financing

April 29 - In a virtual expert roundtable on 29 April 2021, representatives of States, international financial institutions (IFIs), UN agencies and NGOs shared their inputs on catalytic and long-term financing for solutions to inform the work of the Panel. The roundtable was opened by Panel Co-Chair Donald Kaberuka who was joined in the event by his colleagues Sima Samar and Per Heggenes and the Panel’s Expert Advisors Chaloka Beyani, Alexandra Bilak, Beth Ferris and Walter Kaelin.

In the opening, Panel Co-chair Kaberuka highlighted the dilemmas of what he described as the vertical and horizontal approaches to funding. The former refers to the tendency to establish issue or population targeted financial mechanisms. The latter envisages an integrated approach in which the needs of IDPs are addressed as part of the national plan. He underscored the importance of leveraging the strengths of actors such as IFIs and the private sector in the search for durable solutions to internal displacement. However, he added that solutions would be difficult to achieve durably without political commitment and ownership of national governments.

In the first session on catalytic financing, participants shared their reflections on a number of financing channels to kickstart the solutions process. Inputs were shared on the existing country-based pooled fund and peacebuilding fund, as well as the possibility of creating new multi-partner trust funds. Many came into agreement that the current financing landscape is heavily reliant on humanitarian funding and there is a strong need to involve development actors, the private sector and other new donors. At the same time, there was no consensus on expanding the scope of humanitarian tools.

Discussions on long-term financing shaped the second session. Whereas catalytic funds would prioritize efficiency and be geared towards achieving a proof of concept, longer-term funds would seek to scale up action and drive more holistic recovery. Participants highlighted the importance of being context specific in the pursuit of such funding. Moreover, they exchanged their views on different opportunities to systematically address solutions such as through bilateral development assistance. While there was overall agreement that ideally solutions should be systematically integrated into broader development financing (as per the new World Bank approach paper), there was no consensus on specific instruments dedicated to the issue of solutions to internal displacement.

The outcomes of this meeting, as well as of additional roundtables in the coming months, will inform the on-going work of the Panel as it fine-tunes its conclusions and recommendations.

For any questions, please contact:
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APRIL 2021

Website:
un.org/internal-displacement-panel/
Twitter:
@IDPs_Panel

For more information, click here to read the discussion paper on “Financing for Action on Internal Displacement” which serves as a background document for the roundtable.

Photo: The roundtable on Financing for Solutions to Internal Displacement gathered various stakeholders, including States, IFIs, UN agencies and NGOs, to discuss the themes of catalytic financing and long-term funding. (April 29, Virtual)

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