



## The Role of Data in Supporting State Commitment and Capacity on Internal Displacement

### Roundtable Concept Note

#### I. Introduction

This document outlines plans for a roundtable discussion to further develop and refine the understanding of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement on issues relating to the role of data in supporting commitment and capacity to act on internal displacement. The roundtable is being organized by the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel, with the advice of the Panel's Expert Advisory Group (EAG), and builds on the attached background paper.

#### II. Background and objectives

As noted in the background paper, in October 2019 the UN Secretary-General established a High-Level Panel to identify concrete recommendations on how to better prevent, respond, and achieve solutions to internal displacement. The full Terms of Reference of the Panel can be found [here](#). One of the mandated tasks of the Panel is to make recommendations for "Improving the collection, analysis and use of quality data relevant to internal displacement."

Over the nine months since its launch in February 2020, the Panel has sought to further refine its focus and determine where it can add the greatest value. Reflecting on the broad scope of issues in its TOR, the Panel identified a particular urgency to address the issues of **political will, prevention, and solutions**. The Panel's other thematic priorities were subsequently realigned to support these primary objectives. On data, the Panel agreed to center its work on **how data and evidence can contribute to increased state commitment (i.e. political will) and capacity to address internal displacement**. This includes considering how data can support government ownership and accountability, as well as how it can facilitate more effective government-led prevention, response, and solutions efforts.

Over subsequent months, the Panel has amassed a large body of inputs on data and evidence through submissions, bilateral consultations, and participation in external events. From these different sources, the Panel has started to identify potential recommendations that it would like to discuss and debate, outlined in the background paper. Building on this, the purpose of the roundtable is thus threefold:

1. To seek feedback on the ideas put forward in the background paper
2. To identify new ideas or issues for the Panel's consideration linked to the focus outlined above
3. To gather inputs on the best way to approach or frame the Panel's recommendations on data and evidence to lay the foundation for follow-up

As an outcome of the roundtable, the Secretariat and EAG will consolidate a report for the Panel that summarizes key takeaways.

#### III. Guiding questions

The roundtable will be guided by the background paper prepared by the Secretariat and EAG, which outlines a series of ideas and questions to which participants can react during the roundtable. Given that the full list of question in the background paper is extensive, the key themes will be grouped under two broad headings for the purpose of the roundtable discussion: 1) national ownership of internal

displacement data, and 2) the role of international actors and ongoing data processes. In both cases, the overarching objective will be to consider how data and evidence can contribute to increased state commitment (i.e. political will) and capacity to address internal displacement. In addition to the questions highlighted below, participants are also welcome and encouraged to react to any of the ideas or other questions highlighted in the background paper.

On the issue of national ownership of internal displacement data, participants will be invited to reflect on questions including:

- How can data and evidence be most effectively harnessed to support state commitment and capacity to address internal displacement?
- What would be the most important functions of nationally owned internal displacement data? What types of data are most critically needed to achieve that end? How could data systems be designed to most effectively manage that data and fulfill those functions?
- What are the risks of moving towards greater national ownership of internal displacement data? How could these risks be mitigated?
- What types of support would be needed to ensure national data systems achieve their desired functions and uphold relevant protection standards?

On the role of international actors and ongoing data processes:

- What role do international actors and data processes currently play in supporting effective national ownership of internal displacement data, including adherence to relevant standards?
- What shifts would be required to improve coordination and complementarity between international partners and governments on IDP data collection and analysis?
- How could initiatives like EGRIS and the rollout of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics be supported and built upon?
- Are additional types of support or guidance needed? What might this look like and how could it be achieved?
- Within the international data community, are additional actions needed to strengthen coordination or capacities?

The background paper offers ideas of possible responses to some of these questions, which can be used as a starting point for discussion. Participants are also invited to bring their own, new ideas to the roundtable.

#### **IV. Participation and agenda**

To allow for an open, robust discussion, participation in the roundtable will be by invitation only and will be limited to no more than 20 individuals. The Secretariat and EAG will reach out to states, UN actors, NGOs, and others who work on internal displacement data issues or who addressed data and evidence in their submission to the High-Level Panel. Participation will be at expert level. All participants will be expected to actively engage in the conversation, which will be treated under Chatham House rules.

The roundtable will not have formal presentations, but instead will follow the format of a working session. Each agenda item will be opened by the Secretariat or EAG, who will give a brief synopsis of the state of the Panel's current thinking on the issue before opening the floor for discussion. The agenda will be as follows:

- 1. Introduction (25 minutes)**
  - a. Welcome by Secretariat and Panel (10 minutes)
  - b. Tour de Table (10 minutes)
  - c. Framing by Secretariat/EAG (5 minutes)
- 2. National ownership of internal displacement data (55 minutes)**
  - a. Overview by Secretariat/EAG (5 minutes)
  - b. Discussion (50 minutes)
- 3. The role of international actors and ongoing data processes (55 minutes)**
  - a. Overview by Secretariat/EAG (5 minutes)
  - b. Discussion (50 minutes)
- 4. Closing (10 minutes)**
  - a. Closing remarks by Secretariat/EAG (10 minutes)

In total, 2.5 hours will be set aside for the discussion, which will take place virtually in light of the continued restrictions imposed by COVID-19. The Panel will be represented by Mr. Per Heggnes, one of the Panel's co-leads on data and evidence. The discussion will be facilitated by the High-Level Panel's Secretariat and EAG members Alexandra Bilak and Elizabeth Ferris.

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