

## **Ethiopia -Submission**

In response to the call made by The Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement for national submissions, Ethiopia has prepared the following submission with a view to assist and facilitate the work of the panel. The submission is based on Ethiopia's experience on IDPs prevention, response and protection.

1. **Key issues to be prioritized for analysis by the High-Level Panel on IDPS.**
  - a) Cause-effect linkage between climate change and conflict as drivers of forced displacement based on scientific evidence.
  - b) Effectiveness of conflict or crisis management mechanisms in countries affected by internal displacement and gaps hindering their successful performance (if there is any).
  - c) Status of implementation in countries that adopted IDP-specific legislations policy and guidelines and governance structure should.
  - d) Efforts in mainstreaming and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and at regional level, the African Union **Convention** for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) the Kampala agreement with the focus on lessons learned.
  - e) Policies focused on improving social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between host and return communities
  - f) Local resilience capitals and or coping mechanisms of the community needs critical note of during analysis
  - g) Long term impact of displacement on human capital, and agency should be analyzed thereof.
  - h) Impact of limited political will in openly addressing displacement issues in some affected countries.
  - i) Impact of Limited community engagement to identify and address their exact needs / underlying cause
  - j) Limited localization and lack of community-based organizations' capacity
  - k) Limited opportunity given to the vulnerable population on community especially on decision making platforms.

## **2.How to effectively advance prevention, response, solutions to internal displacement?**

- Holistic perspectives should be employed for problem analysis. Instead of focusing solely on the more explicit factors, attempt should be made to see problems in a holistic way i.e. in relation to other underlying factors. For example, an analysis on the cause of displacement should take into account physical, structural, economic and environmental factors.
- Adoption of appropriate policy and legislative framework must be encouraged. For countries with established legislation and policies in the area, effective implementation needs to be encouraged. As IDP issues touch up on multiple areas such as Housing, Land and Property (HLP) appropriate legal and administrative frameworks are required not only at the national level but down to lower administrative levels.
- Wider dissemination of information among technical experts and more effective application of various methodologies to involve crisis-affected communities in planning, implementation and monitoring of programs in line with international protection principles is critical.
- Capacity building of the customary dispute resolution mechanisms (elders, traditional leaders, religious leaders) as well as of CEWARN officials.
  - a) Contextualization and linking academic research/practices to the prevention response.
  - b) Linkages between central government and lower level administrative structures needs to be strengthened
  - c) Durable solutions are perhaps the least successful area in IDP responses across the globe. Although various context specific reasons can be listed as a reason, it also indicates that a fresh thinking is required in this regard. It is important to underline the role that equitable access to basic services play in reaching durable solutions. Country development plans that include IDPS and thus ensure IDPs are able to access the services they need are key to durable solutions.
  - d) The most effective way of delivering long term inclusion of IDPs is through development plans that are IDP sensitive. These plans may need to be at different levels (e.g. regional, federal, district, city) and may require additional financing to meet the more complex needs of IDPS. It is important to note that the challenges as services are often provided regionally and ensuring regional governments are able to meet the additional needs of IDPs in both complexity and additional people requiring services, is challenging.
  - e) In IDP situations, cities and rural areas alike may have to address challenges not previously faced or at least not in a large scale. For example, in a town where severe acute malnutrition was not experienced before

displacement the hospital had to upskill and provides new facilities for children affected.

2. **The role of national political will, responsibility and capacity in the realization of solutions on the objectives of prevention and response?**

- The political space must promote active citizenship by accommodating community structures and the youth. In countries reporting high number of conflict displacement, it is often the case that political and government structures do not embrace community level traditional structures. This includes religious leaders and institutions where in countries like Ethiopia play a significant role in peace building and conflict resolution. Hence, focus should be given to role of non-state actors and community-based local structures.
- Political powers should not rely on law enforcement alone but also use the soft power that exists within communities. Youth must be put at the heart of both prevention and solution endeavors. Solutions tend to be focus on elders, local political leaders, etc. leaving the significant portion of the population- the youth! Community dialogues and formal political consultations must put a great emphasis on youth men and women.
- Needless to say, IDPs themselves must be included in all conversations and decision making that concerns them. IDPs must not only be treated as 'beneficiaries' but as human capital with a potential to contribute to development of the host community. Despite their situation IDPs can actively contribute to society and their country if the legislative, policy and administrative hurdles.
- Law enforcement and Justice sector actors hold key responsibility in prevention, response and solution of internal displacement. Government plays a key role in ensuring rule law and security so that people can feel safe to go back to their areas of origin. However, this is a responsibility that is not often fully discharged for various political reasons. The impunity enjoyed by perpetrators is a huge barrier for reconciliation. Political powers must empower the justice system to hold perpetrators accountable with due process of law. These two elements are very key as they are unique responsibilities of political powers and governments.
- Government capacity building to be facilitated at both decision-making and technical levels
  - National parliaments should to be kept engaged in relevant agendas through advocacy and awareness-raising for stronger state ownership and more self-reliant financing.
  - Engagement of national academic institutions for capacity building and for more sustainable knowledge management is critical.
  - Communication and transparency in government actions with a view to building trust among stakeholders, beneficiaries need to be communicated play a vital role in building strong partnership.
  - The voices of the people from the grassroots level especially of vulnerable

population (women, youth, elderly and people with special needs) needs to be addressed at the political level

- A particularly promising approach is to catalyze action among both donor and affected countries consists in demonstrating the long-term economic impact of protracted internal displacement. In this way, international action on internal displacement can be re-conceptualized not as a threat to national sovereignty, but as a vitally important contribution to achieving inclusive sustainable development and peace in the long-term.
- Other lines of argument should include a) focus on the link between internal and cross-border displacement and/or irregular migration, justifying increased international action on internal displacement as a way to prevent cross-border flight as well as unsafe and irregular migration; or b) emphasize the ever-increasing humanitarian funding needs, justifying improved IDP protection and increased action to find durable solutions as a way to reduce humanitarian funding needs.

### **3.The relevance and role of humanitarian, development, peace, climate change and disaster reduction action and how a more integrated approach in these respects can be fostered?**

- In general, the prevention, response and solutions for internal displacement are multi-sectorial by nature, hence, all the above-mentioned actors are relevant. It is therefore crucial to formulate and run multi-sectorial coordination mechanisms for solutions under a government's strong leadership.
- Private sectors should be actively engaged, especially at national and local levels, now that they can provide livelihood opportunities for displacement-affected populations.
- International private sector can be more actively involved, because it is in the best position to drive technological innovation that can help address environmental issues and create new sectors of jobs in developing countries too.
- Regional and international financial institutions should play a crucial role in financing for infrastructure and economic development initiatives in general.
- The importance of restoring and sustaining peace, particularly in the context of violent conflict, should be recognized as a key component of transition away from crisis. Populations need to be safe and co-exist peacefully as a pre-requisite for embarking on sustainable recovery and development pathways, including the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus (HDPN) is the conceptual and policy framework which should combine these traditionally distinct

approaches. More work is however needed to move beyond the conceptual dimensions of HDPN.

- The Panel should look into the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit. While root causes of conflict are traced back to lack of development and insecurity the solutions seem to rely a lot only on the humanitarian front. Displacement is one of the areas that require greater collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors. Development investments must be enhanced in areas of conflict prevention and durable solutions. Displacement must not be seen only as a humanitarian issue rather the burden must also be shared by development actors.
- It is unacceptable that people are displaced due to drought. The safety net and other development programs must work very closely with humanitarian actors to ensure that people are supported where they leave without having to be displaced in search of livelihoods. With strong early warning system, mechanisms such as commercial destocking could be promoted with active involvement of private sectors to loss of livestock in pastoral areas.

#### **4. Situations of protracted internal and on how effective solutions can be catalyzed,**

- The core idea that should permeate durable solutions lies in the recognition that the challenge of internal displacement cannot be solved with humanitarian aid alone. It is only through the integrated collaboration of peace, development and humanitarian aid actors at the level of government, UN agencies, as well as donors that durable solutions for internal displacement are achieved. This requires the recognition of all stakeholders that such collaboration is more than the sum of its parts.
- In so doing, it is important to recognize the increasing complexity of causes of internal displacement (especially in cases for conflict-induced caseloads) due to emerging global phenomenon (e.g. climate change, globalized food market)
- It is also important due consideration is given to lack of financial and technical support to accommodate the needs for public services and infrastructures as well as food in displacement-affected areas

#### **5. Enabling more effective responses to displacement and the achievement of durable solutions.**

- Since the resources that are currently available to address internal displacement are not sufficient to work towards long-term solutions, more financial institutions need to be mobilized. In addition, innovative models

that provide incentives for private actors to invest in solutions at scale need to be encouraged.

- The Panel could consider the financing models developed to support refugee-hosting countries and propose them for internal displacement (making sure that governments do not receive financing based on the number of IDPs they have, as this could create a reverse incentive).
- Creation of pool funds to respond to displacement and achieve durable solutions more quickly at the UN level
- Establishment of funding criteria in existing financing solutions to drive future programs incorporating people-oriented solutions more. For instance, the one of the funding criteria can be the level of community engagement in the program planning and implementation.
- Basket funding approach could be introduced that would involve state, non-state as well as private actors.
- Climate finance should reach climate IDPs. As climate IDPs are often among the poorest and most vulnerable climate finance should cover them. Access to Green Climate Fund and other sources should be encouraged.
- Multi-year financing towards durable solutions also needs to be encouraged. Ethiopia's experience shows annual funding cycles are not well suited for durable solution. Multi-year financing can facilitate effective implementation of durable solutions.

## **6. Data and evidence in the response to internal displacement including gaps, shortcomings and challenges**

- There is urgent need for systematized, disaggregated data collection that can be used in urban, camp, and non-camp settings.
- IDP statistics must better link to national budgets and policy processes. To that effect, the work of the agencies working on IDP Statistics should be supported.
- The data-related recommendations of the Panel should feed into the World Data Forum, which will take place in Bern in October 2020.

### **Data-related challenges.**

- Highly politicized data collection and analysis in regards to forced displacement
- Debated statistical soundness of data in many displacement-affected countries
- Difficulties in identifying the size of populations that have gone through multiple rounds of displacement (e.g. secondary, tertiary)

- Cultural sensitivity around collecting social cohesion and protection-related data
- Standardization on the methodologies / approaches on the data collection leading to bridging the gap on the discrepancies in the numbers/ data
- It is not uncommon to see discrepancy in the collected data between government and other stakeholders. Hence, there is a need to establish strong data management system which is shared between government, non-government, and private actors

**2. Steps to strengthen the effectiveness of response management, coordination, and accountability at all levels in contexts of internal displacement.**

- More analysis and more programming need to address the question of livelihood for IDPs, as this will help IDPs move towards self-reliance.
- IDPs need to be provided with opportunities for sustainable employment and decent work, and they should be assisted in adapting their skills to enter the urban labor market.
- Partnerships with the private sector should be built and pertinent labor market analysis as part of durable solutions strategies should be pursued.
- Multi-partner data collection and analysis mechanisms should be engaged to de-politicize displacement-related data.
- Co-ordination among different stakeholders to avoid duplication of the resources and efforts resulting to addressing larger population
- Co-ordination between all echelons of the governments (horizontally and vertically) need to be strengthen along with transparent communication
- Strong and reliable data collection and analysis mechanism needs to be in place for proper response to crisis.

**Effects of displacement on people of different genders, ages, abilities and diversities and inclusion of the internally displaced and affected communities in the respective responses.**

- Displacement affects individuals differently, depending on their age, gender, disability, and other diversity characteristics.
- There is a need to have age, gender and diversity policy which seeks to ensure that all persons of concern fully participate in decisions that affect them and enjoy their rights on an equal footing with others IDPs have a right to participate and be included in decisions that affect their lives, and to make a voluntary and informed choice on what durable solution to pursue. This calls for strong approaches to facilitate IDP participation and inclusion in solutions processes as

well as supporting their access to making informed decisions on solutions to their displacement situations.

- IDPs are not a homogenous group and perspectives are diverse – also when it comes to which solutions are the preferred ones. Displacement solutions need not be mutually exclusive. It is important that host communities also be included in solutions processes to facilitate their acceptance and support for (re)integration and peaceful co-existence and with that durable solutions for IDPs.
- Therefore, it is crucial that authorities and humanitarian, development and peace building actors ensure the engagement, inclusion, and participation of IDPs and other displacement-affected people in durable solution decision making, planning and implementation processes.
- As a case, in our previous joint Government/Implementing partners' intervention, we targeted vulnerable groups like women and youth in the activities designed to improve social cohesions, so their engagement in the process of reconciliation and peace building were ensured.
- In some case we are holding separate meeting with women group to know their feelings and motivate them to take part in any discussion and dialogues that held in their communities. Strengthening of local institutions like traditional leaders/ elders, influential women and youth was carried out for selected communities to restore their role and trust among their communities.
- We have also strengthened conflict early warning and early response (CEWAR) facilities in some parts of the Country which is a preparedness capacity for mitigation.