



## HLP Secretariat Briefing with NGOs

Summary Note

*July 12, 2021*

After 16 months of work, the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement is in the process of consolidating its analysis, drawing out conclusions and sharpening the recommendations that will be included in its report to the Secretary-General at the end of September 2021. As it nears the conclusion of its mandate, the Panel continues to engage with key stakeholders to draw feedback on the draft report. During this meeting with NGOs, members of the HLP Secretariat shared information about the final stretch of the Panel's work and provided a last opportunity for members of the NGO community to offer their perspectives on the proposed recommendations before the report is published.

The following main themes emerged during the discussion:

**IDPs and civil society should be at the center of decision making for solutions and IDPs should be considered the primary stakeholders as the affected population.** NGOs are encouraged to see a recommendation on meaningfully engaging IDPs, local communities and civil society under the solutions section, which stresses the need to recognize solutions as a development priority. However, fostering a development-oriented approach to durable solutions potentially risks leaving out IDPs and civil society from decision-making processes. Development actors frequently do not consult civil society organizations or involve IDPs in decision making processes. By emphasizing their agency and the contribution they bring to shaping, pushing forward, and leading on durable solutions, the Panel should underscore the importance of ensuring that IDPs and civil society in all their diversity are meaningfully and consistently put at the center of efforts to improve outcomes.

**The unique experience of IDPs should underpin data collection and analysis for internal displacement, and efforts should be made to build on existing data systems.** NGOs expressed appreciation for the emphasis on data collection and knowledge given the dearth of data on solutions for IDPs. While this is an important aspect of the report, participants stressed the need for disaggregated data, including by age, gender, diversity, and disability. Data disaggregation by language is also critical, especially as it relates to IDPs' ability to access services in highly multilingual settings and their right to access feedback mechanisms. The recommendation on internal displacement data should also underscore the need to identify concrete ways to build on existing systems for the benefit of responses at different levels (policy, development planning, programming, etc.), and ensure that inclusive data coordination approaches are outlined for all relevant actors (international, national, and local).

**The role of regional bodies and national actors is equally critical as that of HQ/global actors for advancing solutions for IDPs.** As experienced in other policy processes, there is a tendency to focus efforts mostly on global-level leadership and strategies, overlooking other areas from which solutions can be drawn. The Panel should ensure that the need and pathways for stepped-up engagement by actors at all levels is clearly reflected in the report, recognizing that most state-to-state learning takes place at the regional level. The HLP Secretariat should engage key actors across all levels after the report is published to guide them through the recommendations that are relevant to them.

To drive solutions forward, the role of the proposed Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Solutions to Internal Displacement and other actors in the nexus space needs to be further explored. The proposed role of the SRSG is one heavily focused on better coordination on solutions for IDPs between development and humanitarian actors. This is welcome and may serve as an opportunity to further efforts to strengthen “the nexus” which are not being systematically pursued and is currently not the responsibility of any one high-level actor in the UN system. This is an advantageous point that could be used to further galvanize support from certain Member States and other stakeholders that are supportive of nexus approaches, but that have yet to focus on solutions for IDPs. The Panel should clearly outline the overlap between the IDP solutions and nexus spaces and the critical role that the SRSG can play in advancing both topic areas.

**Accountability on solutions is required across all areas and relevant actors.** Accountability lies above all with the affected state for preventing displacement and implementing efforts to resolve it and meet the needs of its IDP citizens. However, accountability also lies with donors in providing funding that incentivizes states to take this positive action and promotes better outcomes for IDPs. It also rests with development actors in ensuring inclusivity of IDPs and civil society in conversations around solutions and that IDPs are not “left behind” in development efforts. Finally, accountability lies with humanitarian actors in delivering a quality response that meets immediate needs while laying the groundwork for future solutions. Ultimately, accountability is to the affected populations themselves, meaning all actors carry responsibility to protect IDPs’ rights and dignity and deliver solutions that have lasting impact. Therefore, the Panel should further emphasize accountability and the importance of accountability-sharing throughout the recommendations.

**The proposed Global Fund on Internal Displacement Solutions should address a significant gap in existing humanitarian and development funding mechanisms.** NGOs appreciate the Panel’s decision to put forward this recommendation despite resistance by donors to establishing new funds and a stated preference by development actors for incorporating IDP solutions efforts into existing funding mechanisms. Current funding streams have rarely proven to come together organically in an effort to drive solutions for IDPs, therefore we should not expect them to yield large scale results in the future. To ensure buy-in for a new fund by critical stakeholders, NGOs believe that the framing of the new fund should be one that emphasizes its transformational and innovative aims, with a dedicated focus on solutions. The new fund should enable catalytic approaches by states owning their displacement challenges and committing to create an enabling environment for solutions at the national to the local level. The fund should aim to unlock solutions that affected states and donors agree will lead to better outcomes for IDPs, rather than serving simply as project funding for humanitarian and development programming.

**Follow-up of the Panel’s report and recommendations is crucial to maintaining momentum and driving solutions for IDPs.** NGOs are highly supportive of the proposed follow-up recommendation to chart the way forward after the Panel concludes its mandate at the end of September and the HLP Secretariat sunsets in late November. NGOs indicated their interest in a wide set of follow-up efforts and a prioritization of recommendations. For example, they are supportive of continuing the “Group of Friends” of the Panel to ensure recommendations are taken forward by key Member States, producing an annual report of the Secretary-General on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement that is transparent and publicly accessible, and establishing a focal point (like the SRSG or a Secretariat) that will help advance the different



components of the recommendations. NGOs further acknowledged their responsibility to work together and help build political will among actors so that recommendations are implemented in meaningful, transformative way.