



JANUARY 2021

# Monthly Snapshot

## UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

### PANEL MEMBERS

**Co-chair: Mr. Donald Kaberuka**  
Chair of the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

**Co-chair: Ms. Federica Mogherini**  
Former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

**Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur**  
Director-General of Fundacion Compaz, Colombia

**Mr. Mitiku Kassa Gutile**  
Commissioner for Emergency Response, Ethiopia

**Mr. Per Heggnes**  
CEO of IKEA Foundation

**Mr. Nasser Judeh**  
Senator, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Ms. Pauline Riak**  
Chair of the Board of Directors at the Sudd Institute, South Sudan

**Ms. Sima Samar**  
Member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) is comprised of **Mr. Chaloka Beyani**, Associate Professor of International Law at the London School of Economics; **Ms. Alexandra Bilak**, Director of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre; **Ms. Elizabeth Ferris**, Research Professor at Georgetown University; and **Mr. Walter Kälin**, Former Representative of UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

### SPOTLIGHT

## First meeting of the new year: Panel drives to conclusion of its work



*Photo: The Panel convened for the first time in the new year joined by its Expert Advisory Group and Secretariat. This was the seventh Panel meeting since its inception in February 2020. (January 21, Virtual)*

**January 21** - In its first meeting of the new year, the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement discussed the ways forward in consolidating its work towards the conclusion.

Panel Co-chair Donald Kaberuka steered and catalyzed a frank discussion in which the Panel took stock of its work so far and affirmed a framework and key thematic touchstones that will drive forward the final phase of the Panel's. Co-chair Federica Mogherini underlined the importance for the Panel's work and recommendations to foster meaningful impacts. Each of the Panel members underlined questions and potential conclusions and recommendations to which attention should now be focused in both the Panel's internal work, research and consultations with stakeholders to generate buy-in.

Since its inception in February 2020, the Panel has amassed a considerable amount of information, analysis, suggestions and recommendations through written [submissions](#), targeted consultations, including direct feedback from [IDPs and host communities](#) and dedicated dialogues with displacement-affected states, and [research partnerships](#). The Panel's engagements with stakeholders will accelerate in the coming months to fill any gaps and answer outstanding questions as the Panel advances towards the conclusion of its work.

The Panel is expected to deliver its final recommendations to the UN Secretary-General in September 2021.

### Save the Date



### Regional Pacific Consultation on Internal Displacement

**Organizers:** The Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP)'s Technical Working Group (TWG) on Human Mobility and the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

**When:** February 11 at 7h Geneva / 13h Bangkok / 18h Suva  
[Register here](#)

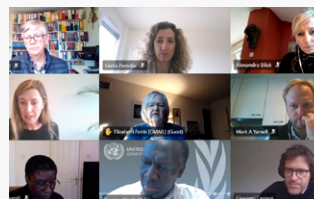
[Click here](#) for more information on the event.



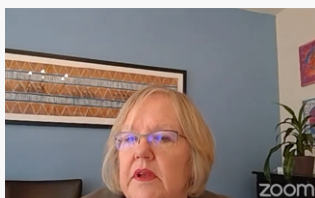
## JANUARY EVENTS



Secretariat member moderated [Seminar](#) on “Internal Displacement, Migration and Planned Relocation in the Context of Natural Hazards”  
 January 13, Virtual



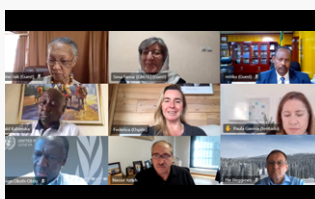
Secretariat Meeting with the Expert Advisory Group  
 January 14, Virtual



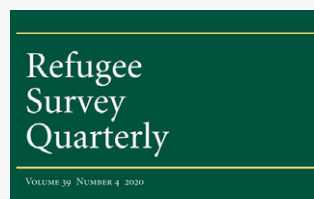
Expert Advisory Group member opened the [Global Conference: 70 Years of Protecting People Forced to Flee](#)  
 January 18, Virtual



Panel Meeting with Permanent Representatives of Key Donors and “Group of Friends” Co-Chairs  
 January 20, Virtual



**SPOTLIGHT**  
 7th Panel Meeting  
 January 21, Virtual



**SPOTLIGHT**  
 Launch of Refugee Quarterly Survey Special Issue on Internal Displacement  
 January 21, Virtual

**SPOTLIGHT**

## Launch of RSQ Special Issue: Why do we need new research on internal displacement?

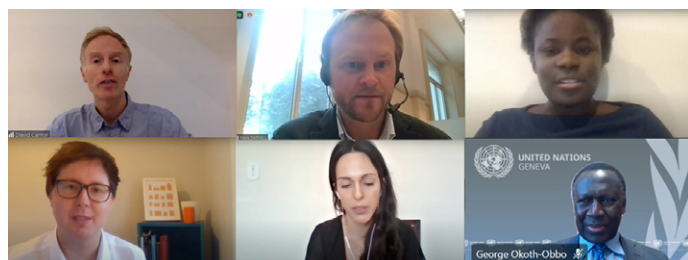


Photo: The launch event draws on the RSQ Special Issue to debate the state of research on internal displacement. (January 21, Virtual)

January 21 - The new [Refugee Survey Quarterly \(RSQ\) Special Issue](#), with over 20 original peer-reviewed articles from researchers, practitioners and policy-makers, is out! Its launch event, hosted by the [Internal Displacement Research Programme \(IDRP\)](#) at the University of London on January 21 and moderated by Mark Yarnell, Research and Report Officer at the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel, saw over 100 participants joining virtually to engage with Special Issue authors and the Panel's Secretariat members to debate the state of IDP research.

In his opening remarks, Professor David Cantor, RSQ Editor-in-Chief and IDRP Director noted that while today's IDP research is “scarce and fragmentary,” there is positive academic interest in the topic with the RSQ Special Issue representing a “major highpoint.” He posed the questions:

“Why is there so little research on the topic of internal displacement? And why does it matter for academic debate and practical actions?”

Three of the Special Issue authors presented their findings in the event, followed by a number of interventions from the floor. Romola Adeola from the University of Pretoria spoke to the issue of IDP laws and policies while Ben Hudson from the University of Exeter discussed how state-to-state dialogue could be enhanced on internal displacement. Ligia Magalhaes of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights delivered a presentation on the role of civil society in fostering political will to address internal displacement.

In closing the launch, the Head of the Panel's Secretariat George Okoth-Obbo thanked all the RSQ authors and underlined the importance of their work in informing the Panel's work and the direction of future policy debates on internal displacement. “The thematic areas of the Special Issue are questions that the Panel is exploring,” he highlighted. “This collaboration will not end with this publication. I look forward to the time where there is a platform to propagate more systematically on IDP issues,” concluded Okoth-Obbo.

*Note: The RSQ Special Issue was guest-edited by Greta Zeender, Head of Research and Outcomes, and Mark Yarnell, Research and Report Officer, of the Panel's Secretariat.*

[Click here](#) to watch the webinar. [Click here](#) to read the RSQ Special Issue (accessible for free until the end of March).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB  
05**

**Expert Roundtable on Data**  
 An expert roundtable will hold on February 5 on “The Role of Data in Supporting State Commitment and Capacity on Internal Displacement.”

**FEB  
10**

**Joint Event on Solutions**  
 A joint event, co-chaired by the High-Level Panel and the European Union, will hold on February 10 on “Supporting Nationally Owned Durable Solutions Processes.”

**FEB  
11**

**Regional Consultation: Pacific**  
 A regional consultation in the Pacific will hold on February 11 with a focus on climate change and disaster displacement. [Register here](#)