



The Kingdom of the Netherlands' submission to the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement

May 2020

As more than 45 million people are internally displaced (mostly in protracted situations) the Kingdom of the Netherlands (KNL) welcomes the establishment of the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement. As COVID-19 affects vulnerable displaced people disproportionately, the current crisis makes the work of the Panel even more urgent. In response to the call for submissions, please find below key issues which in our view need to be addressed:

1. Durable solutions

- It is States' primary responsibility to take the lead in the prevention of internal displacement where possible, as well as protecting and finding durable solutions for IDPs, both at national and local levels. The international community should play a role that supports and complements the actions of the national authorities through, for example, humanitarian assistance, development assistance, addressing root causes of internal displacement including peacebuilding, capacity building and innovative forms of financial support for IDPs and their host communities.
- We encourage the High Level Panel to formulate principles, approaches and enabling measures towards the realization of durable solutions for IDPs. These should respect national sovereignty while emphasizing the primary responsibility of states to protect and assist IDPs in accordance with applicable rules of international law.
- Both protection and durable solutions (return, integration or resettlement) should be linked to or preferably be part of national development plans. IDP situations are to be addressed in an integrated way. Policy and interventions should include both displaced people as well as the affected host communities.
- It is of key importance that IDPs participate in decision-making that affects them and are involved in (national) development planning. It is only through meaningful participation that durable solutions will be successful.
- KNL would like to specifically underline that addressing the mental health and psychosocial needs of IDPs are part and parcel of reaching durable solutions. Mental health and psychosocial support, integrated in amongst others education, protection and employment interventions, will contribute to the resilience and agency of people and communities and to their ability to actively participate in, and initiate steps towards durable solutions.

2. Coordination

- When national authorities are not (capable of) providing protection and/or adequate durable solutions, international humanitarian, development and peace building actors will play a role according to their mandate.
- Many humanitarian organizations (such as IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA and ICRC) have programs focusing on the needs and protection of IDPs. KNL believes that at the global level the IASC has an important role to play in realizing better coordination, coherence and complementarity within the humanitarian system.

- Furthermore, coordination, coherence and complementarity should be sought between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors; in order to foster synergies, they should work on joint analysis, programming and results. The role of the RC/HC is essential in realizing this and it is therefore crucial to strengthen their capacity to support UN country teams, and to coordinate and cooperate with IFI's.

3. Financing

- In the spirit of the Grand Bargain, it is key to ensure multi-year and flexible financing to organizations who protect and assist those affected by humanitarian crises, including IDPs and their host communities.
- In addition, KNL greatly encourages finding alternative and innovative ways of financing for IDPs, and would specifically welcome more involvement and investment of IFI's and the private sector.
- Building on the experiences with existing pooled funding mechanisms (CBPFs, CERF and Peace Building Fund) in delivering impact, improving coordination and enhancing a localized response, a possible avenue to explore is setting up a pooled funding mechanism focused on durable solutions for IDPs at country level. At the same time - for purposes of coordination and coherence – we should be cautious to create new additional funding channels. Therefore the possible consideration of multi-partner trust funds for specific IDP situations should go hand in hand with the investigation of merging funds.

4. Data

- In order to advocate for rights and needs of IDPs, to take evidence based decisions regarding interventions, and to strengthen accountability, there is a need for reliable data, analysis, and examples of good practice. Many different organizations and initiatives collect and analyze data, and make them accessible. For reasons of efficiency as well as effectiveness there is a need to align data systems and for closer collaboration between these organizations and initiatives. KNL would welcome recommendations of the HLP on how existing data initiatives can ensure coordination and complementarity on IDP-related work, how to provide datasets or access to them where these are lacking, and what actions are needed in order to further strengthen the evidence base for IDP interventions.

5. Accountability

- Respect for international law, including International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL), is essential also in the context of IDP situations. The HLP should explore how existing international mechanisms could be better used to hold states responsible for the protection and assistance of IDPs and accountable for IHRL and IHL violations. Examples are the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, national reporting and complaints procedures under various UN human rights treaty bodies, as well as national reporting on SDGs.