



ROADMAP TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED

The InterAction Forced Displacement Working Group's Second Recommendations Paper for Consideration by the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Introduction

This paper outlines the priorities of InterAction members relating to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement (the Panel). We believe the overarching goal of the Panel should be to find durable solutions for internally displaced people (IDPs), particularly through local integration, while promoting the full enjoyment of their rights.

This paper builds on InterAction's [first Recommendations Paper](#) developed for consideration in advance of the inaugural meeting of the Panel on 25-27 February 2020.

Summary

- While local integration and return are not mutually exclusive solutions for internal displacement, this paper recognizes that local integration is often the most viable of the durable solutions. Given this reality, the Panel should focus on situations where governments are supportive of IDPs' desire to integrate locally.
- Recognizing the limited time, scope, and capacity of the Panel, it should select and support key Member States that have already demonstrated a willingness and taken leadership in exploring and implementing durable solutions for IDPs in their country. Given that three-quarters of the estimated 41.3 million internally displaced people are in only 10 countries, moving the needle on these selected contexts could result in a transformative impact on the overall global IDP crisis.
- The Panel's efforts over the next year should result in a set of discrete road maps for reducing internal displacement in specific contexts that will persist beyond the life of the Panel itself. These would include prescriptions for action by affected and other Member States, international donors, UN agencies, the private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs), and other key actors and could be transformed into an interlocking set of commitments in the form of a "compact" by interested actors going forward.
- Finally, the Panel should arrive at a set of broader global recommendations for reducing displacement, particularly IDP local integration, by examining trends and commonalities across the country-specific roadmaps, with the view that similar approaches could be applied in other contexts.

The Essential Steps of Drafting a Roadmap Toward Durable Solutions for IDPs



Step 1: Initiate an official country selection process; invite Member States to signal their interest in jointly developing a roadmap to address internal displacement in their country.

The Panel should issue an invitation for Member States to signal interest in being a focus of the High-Level Panel initiative. Selected Member States would benefit from concerted international attention toward reducing their internal displacement through the Panel's efforts and contributions to the development of actionable recommendations for the international community to assist in doing so. The following selection criteria and factors should be considered:

- Demonstrated willingness and leadership on identifying barriers and gaps, discussing solutions, and executing a shared roadmap to durable solutions for IDPs in their country. Examples of demonstrable willingness and leadership include adopting laws targeting the needs and rights of IDPs; the incorporation of IDPs into national development plans; and the adoption of policies and practices that seek to minimize harm to civilians and avoid future displacement.
- Scale, longevity, and severity of displacement, including estimates on the overall numbers of IDPs, length of time displaced, acuteness of needs, and protection concerns.
- Countries in which ongoing progress may have stalled due to the lack of international focus, domestic capacity or attention, and where the Panel's political weight and convening power could be leveraged to reinvigorate efforts and drive investments.
- The wide diversity of geographic contexts, root causes, drivers, and patterns of internal displacement, including those arising from armed conflict, complex emergencies, widespread gang violence/banditry, climate-related stresses and shocks, and other natural disasters.



Step 2: Identify the major barriers to durable solutions for IDPs in the selected country contexts.

- Patterns of internal displacement and barriers to durable solutions are highly context-specific. Given the wide range of contexts and the absence of a universal solution to address internal displacement, the Panel should aim to understand the context-specific concerns and needs of the internally displaced and the communities they live in, as a first step to outlining a country-level working agenda. Depending on the context, this analysis may already have been completed or is underway.
- If not already done, a joint analysis should be conducted to identify and understand the inability of IDPs to successfully integrate locally, where this is their preferred option. This analysis should aim to:

- Build from existing analytical work, including that of the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDss), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, REACH, etc.
- Identify aspects of the legal and policy landscape impacting the ability of IDPs to locally integrate, including access to quality education, health, and other basic services; work rights; restoration of housing, land and property (HLP); freedom of movement; inclusion in national social protection systems, etc.
- Establish an understanding of the context and capacities at the local, national, and regional levels to strengthen long-term support and integration of IDPs into communities. Given the large number of IDPs in urban settings, the analysis should also seek to understand how displacement shapes the infrastructure, social dynamics, socioeconomic opportunities, and long-term planning and growth of urban as well as rural areas.
- Where relevant, establish an understanding of the role of State military forces, and of non-State armed groups, in their relationship with the civilian population, and with IDPs in particular, including the status of efforts to ensure that civilian life, property, and infrastructure, are respected and protected.
- Analyze gaps and opportunities for financial and programmatic investments to promote local integration, including investments strengthening national and local service delivery to IDPs and host communities and stimulating livelihood opportunities in the areas where IDPs reside.
- Generate this understanding through the consultation of a broad range of actors, including IDPs and their representative organizations, host communities, and local civil society as well as international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Engaging directly with affected people and frontline stakeholders is particularly important to ensure that the Panel is driven by a community-level perspective, targets the priority concerns of IDPs and affected host communities, and avoids interventions that are disconnected from their reality.
- Examine the attention given to IDPs' age, gender, disability, diversity, and how their unique capacities, protection needs, concerns, and vulnerabilities affect their ability to locally integrate.
- The Panel's planned field visits should be leveraged as an opportunity to verify identified barriers to durable solutions for IDPs in each context, proposing potential opportunities to dismantle them, and outlining a notional plan for collective action toward preventing and reducing internal displacement in the future.



Step 3: Determine top priorities and propose creative solutions to overcome identified barriers.

- The Panel will need to determine key areas for collective action around the identified barriers to progress on local integration. Addressing every area of concern is not realistic. Therefore the Panel should focus on top priorities and propose a roadmap of actions that would have the greatest impact on the needs of the displaced and host communities.

- The Panel should seize the opportunity to propose innovative solutions to the factors driving protracted internal displacement and barriers to local integration, ensuring IDPs have an adequate standard of living and their rights are met. This will require developing creative outcome-oriented strategies that draw from the full range of partners, disciplines, and resources represented within and beyond the Panel. These outcomes should stretch far beyond humanitarian “life-saving” measures and focus more on longer-term development outcomes that can be achieved by overcoming the structural barriers to successful IDP integration efforts.
- Recent experience in forced displacement contexts, largely led by World Bank efforts, has drawn together a range of actors to implement innovative combinations of legal, administrative, trade policy, and country financing mechanisms to strengthen the long-term self-reliance of refugees and host communities. While there is room for improvement, these pilots have led to groundbreaking policy reforms for refugee rights and self-reliance in Jordan, Turkey, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Uganda, among other countries.¹ It is a rare opportunity to implement approaches that have already been piloted and from which lessons can be drawn to chart potential ways forward in internal displacement contexts where similar challenges are faced by IDPs and host communities.
- Ongoing consultation with affected communities and civil society is essential to informing policy dialogue, administrative changes, and program design with a context-specific understanding of the institutional changes required to eliminate priority humanitarian needs, reduce future vulnerabilities and ensure IDPs can fully integrate locally.
- Efforts should be made to align the roadmaps with national development plans, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Development System Cooperation Framework and Common Country Analysis, Recovery and Peace Building Assessment, and other relevant existing country plans.

¹ See pp 38-39 of World Bank. 2019.

https://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/sites/default/files/Data/Evaluation/files/Forced_Displacement.pdf. Independent Evaluation Group. Washington, DC: World Bank.

The table below provides an example menu of key areas from which the Panel could select priority actions to form a country roadmap. The framework draws heavily from the [ReDSS Solutions Framework](#) and also from the [Durable Solutions Initiative](#).

		PHYSICAL SAFETY	MATERIAL SAFETY	LEGAL SAFETY
IASC Durable Solutions Sub-criteria		-Safety & Security -Protection -Social Cohesion	-Access to Basic Services -Access to Job Creation/Economic Opportunities -Restoration of Housing, Land, and Property (HLP)	-Access to Documentation -Family Reunification -Participation in Public Affairs -Access to Effective Remedies and Justice
COMMITMENTS	Affected Country	<p>Legal and Policy <i>Revising laws and policies discriminating against IDPs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with actors driving or contributing to internal displacement, including parties to conflicts to promote compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law <p>Administrative <i>Incorporating IDPs in national and area-based service delivery plans including in urban planning strategies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of movement Protection needs, concerns, and vulnerabilities of the internally displaced Social cohesion in host communities Capacity-building and technical support to the police, courts and social protection units Inclusion of IDPs in national social protection programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Health services Water and sanitation Access to work and labor exploitation prevention Access to HLP and remedies for HLP lost during the course of displacement Support formal/informal authorities to administer land, resolve disputes and issue documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement in elections, voting, and civic affairs Remedies and justice for human rights violations related to displacement Family separation prevention and family reunification mechanisms Identification documents Removal of administrative obstacles to voting and elections for the displaced Elimination of gender-discriminatory laws (primary cause of statelessness)
	Global Actors	<p>Investments <i>Bilateral funding, concessional loans, and private sector investment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, education, and water and sanitation infrastructure and facilities Investment in job creation initiatives for the displaced and host communities Preferential trade policies to stimulate affected Member State macroeconomic growth Housing provision in urban areas through public-private land development 		



Step 4: Drive political will and investments to implement a working agenda that can be taken forward after the Panel completes its mandate.

- This paper has outlined the critical steps of identifying country contexts where tangible progress can be made toward reducing internal displacement, strengthening situation analysis, identifying priority interventions to dismantle barriers challenging IDPs and host communities, and outlining a plan to address them. These country roadmaps should be included in the Panel’s final report.
- Simultaneously, efforts must be made to encourage key actors to move the roadmaps forward after the Panel’s mandate has ended. Encouraging not only an action-oriented agenda, but ensuring that it lives on past the Panel’s time-bound mandate is the most important test of its added value and where its success is most critical.
- As a starting point, the Panel could begin a dialogue with the Member States that voiced support for its creation to the Secretary-General, encouraging action around its final recommendations. This group represents a self-identified coalition of States that has an interest in reducing internal displacement and a degree of ownership over the Panel’s recommendations and the way forward.
- The Panel should model the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing that gave rise to the Grand Bargain, a high-level, multi-stakeholder policy process that is still progressing years later. Like the Grand Bargain, the Panel’s agenda could be driven forward by an “Eminent Person,” or dedicated senior leadership with high-level visibility and political influence. This champion may emerge from the Member State signatories to the letter that called for the creation of the Panel, the ‘Group of Friends’ on Internal Displacement, or among the Panelists themselves.
- Finally, accountability toward meeting the needs of IDPs is minimal, and internally displaced people are largely left out of the data collected to measure progress toward the SDGs. The Panel should prioritize recommendations in its final report for follow-up measures to track and review progress toward IDP inclusion in the SDGs. This would significantly enhance accountability in delivering on the “leave no one behind” pledge contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

About InterAction

Founded in 1984, InterAction is the largest alliance of international NGOs and partners in the United States. We mobilize our Members to think and act collectively to serve the world’s poor and vulnerable, with a shared belief that we can make the world a more peaceful, just and prosperous place—together.

Annex: Responses to the Call for Submissions Questions

High Level Panel on Internal Displacement Questions

1. *The key issues, problems or imperative which, as you see it, should be prioritized by the Panel in its analysis of the crisis of internal displacement today and how prevention, response at large and solutions can be effectively advanced.*

Recognizing the Panel's limited time, scope, and capacity, it should not seek to address every area of concern nor should it rehash analysis of issues already well-studied. Rather, the Panel must prioritize an action-oriented agenda towards durable solutions, specifically local integration, in a selected number of country contexts; an area where the Panel is best placed to make concrete progress on the global internal displacement crisis.

Local integration is often the most viable option among the durable solutions. Given this reality, the Panel should focus on situations where governments are supportive of IDPs' desire to integrate locally. Given that three-quarters of the estimated 41.3 million internally displaced people are in only ten countries, moving the needle on these selected contexts could result in transformative impact on the overall global IDP crisis.

2. *Across the objectives of prevention, response and solutions, how can national political will, responsibility and capacity be catalyzed and cultivated.*

The question of national political will is the crux of the global internal displacement crisis and the Panel should directly acknowledge that it is unlikely to influence Member States that intentionally cause and perpetuate internal displacement. Rather, the Panel should prioritize engaging Member States that are willing to or open to identifying barriers and gaps, discussing solutions, and executing a shared roadmap to durable solutions for IDPs in their country. There are many governments that have demonstrated the political will to address internal displacement but are facing stalled progress due to the lack of international focus and domestic capacity. These countries are where the Panel should focus its attention and where its political weight and convening power could be leveraged to reinvigorate efforts and drive solutions.

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. Submissions can in these respects also address the role of the Private Sector, Regional or International Financial Institutions and other development partners and actors.*

To overcome the barriers to successful IDP integration, efforts must extend beyond humanitarian "life-saving" measures and focus more on longer-term development and peace outcomes. The Panel should propose innovative solutions to the factors driving protracted internal displacement and barriers to local integration, ensuring IDPs have an adequate standard of living and their

rights are met. This will require developing creative outcome-oriented strategies that draw from the full range of partners, disciplines, and resources represented within and beyond the Panel.

- 4. Focusing on solutions, your perspectives on what has led to many situations of internal displacement remaining stalled for many years and how effective solutions can be catalyzed, driven forward and supported.*

The Panel should leverage its political weight, visibility, and access to high level engagement across a range of global actors to drive collective action toward a solutions-driven process. The Panel's efforts in a selected number of countries over the next year should result in a set of discrete road maps for reducing internal displacement in these contexts that will persist beyond the life of the Panel itself. These would include prescriptions for action by affected and other Member States, international donors, UN agencies, the private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs), and other key actors and could be transformed into an interlocking set of commitments in the form of a "compact" by interested actors going forward.

- 5. New or creative financing solutions which can be built up or better utilized in enabling more effective responses to displacement and the achievement of durable solutions.*

The Panel can draw lessons from recent experience in developing "compacts" in countries hosting large numbers of refugees. These efforts, led by the World Bank, engaged a range of actors to implement innovative combinations of legal, administrative, trade policy, and country financing mechanisms to strengthen the long-term self-reliance of refugees and host communities. While there is room for improvement, these pilots have led to groundbreaking policy reforms for refugee rights and self-reliance in Jordan, Turkey, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Uganda, among other countries.

- 6. Critical issues or questions as you see them in respect to data and evidence in the response to internal displacement including gaps, shortcomings and challenges in approaches or implementation and how these can be addressed.*

The essential link between effective national legal and administrative frameworks and quality data and analysis on IDP situations must be acknowledged. In order to design laws and policies that adequately address the barriers to local integration for IDPs, robust analysis driven by quality data is needed to understand the context-specific concerns and needs of the internally displaced and the communities they live in. Both policy and programming interventions should be evidence-based and driven by a community-level perspective, that targets the priority concerns of IDPs and affected host communities and avoids objectives that are disconnected from their reality. Governments willing to address the needs and concerns of IDPs must be equipped with

the resources, tools and guidance to produce the data and analysis required to effectively adapt their legal and policy frameworks to address the needs of the internally displaced.

7. What steps could be taken to strengthen the effectiveness of response management, coordination and accountability at all levels in contexts of internal displacement?

The barriers to effective humanitarian response, coordination, and accountability in contexts of internal displacement are driven by an array of institutional and financing challenges embedded within the international humanitarian system. While these issues should be examined and rectified to ensure a better humanitarian response to situations of internal displacement, humanitarian assistance should not be looked to as a means of solving internal displacement. Instead, the Panel should focus on the areas in which it is best placed to make tangible progress on addressing the long-term challenges faced by the internally displaced, including through developing roadmaps to durable solutions where governments are supportive of IDPs' desire to integrate locally.