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## United Nations Secretary-General High Level Panel on Internal Displacement Call for Submission (8 Questions)

### Response of the International Organization for Migration

8 May 2020

#### Introduction

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is one of the largest agencies responding to internal displacement and it is one of the few UN bodies whose operations on internal displacement span the crisis continuum – from preparedness and risk reduction, to humanitarian protection and assistance, through transition to longer-term solutions and recovery. Internal displacement makes up most of its crisis-related programming, whether implemented at the individual, community or structural levels. IOM's mandate and experience mean that it is present with the expertise and capacity to directly implement and to support the work of partners across the humanitarian, peacebuilding, migration, sustainable development and climate change action fields.

In response to the Call for Submission issued by the Secretariat of the United Nations Secretary-General High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, IOM is pleased to provide some initial input on the Call's eight questions. The content herein draws from the experiences of different sectors of IOM's work, however, given the large scope of the questions as well as IOM's own work, IOM would further welcome the opportunity to expand in greater detail on any aspects of the points raised.

#### **Examples of some of the biggest obstacles for the Panel's attention:**

- Funding that focuses strictly on punctual and remedial responses when there are possibilities to bridge in strategic, longer-term opportunities.
- Insufficient investments in preparedness, risk reduction and crisis prevention.
- Policies, lack of protection and/or nature of aid that resultingly foster dependency rather than self-reliance.
- Political reluctance to recognize the potential of internal displacement to become protracted (resulting in slower to uptake of more appropriate responses).
- Communities and local actors are at the frontlines of a crisis from its immediate onset, requiring better capacity development and localization efforts
- National, regional and local level capacity gaps, including regarding coordination across authorities that would be important to empower ownership and leadership of responses and better be able to make best use of the contributions of all partners, including civil society and the private sector.
- Politicization of internal displacement, could include recognizing the occurrence of internal displacement, identifying needs or affecting options for solutions.
- Lack of national statistics on internal displacement, while operational data is not always comparable. Incentives are needed to implement IRIS.
- Insufficient IDP participation in responses that resultingly compromises the effectiveness of support and the sustainability of solutions.



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The UN Migration Agency

- Lack of guidance and modalities for operationalizing the nexus on the one hand, including dedicated funding for transitional programming in areas that are not yet conducive for solutions (eg. stabilization) and to promote greater inclusion of internal displacement issues and priorities in all relevant sectors and fields, including national development plans, national [climate change] adaptation plans, etc.

**Question1. The key issues, problems or imperative which should be prioritized by the Panel in its analysis on internal displacement and how prevention, response at large and solutions can be effectively advanced.**

#### **Acting early**

- The **onset of a crisis is often already too late to be planning** on how to ensure safe and dignified living conditions and transition towards sustainable solutions. The capacity and resources required to approach displacement from a broader perspective, that includes both the immediate and longer-term impacts, demands a more **robust and holistic preparedness and capacity development** of both States and other actors.
- Evidence demonstrates that implementing **DRR is significantly more cost-effective than spending on response and recovery** (Price, 2018), with one study estimating “the average global DRR benefits of about 4 times the costs in terms of avoided and reduced losses” (Mechler, 2016). Disasters also often occur in fragile contexts, where environmental and natural resource degradation can fuel existing or latent conflict and where the impacts of hazards are more severe and long-lasting for the most vulnerable.
  - › DRR safeguards development gains and, if done effectively, DRR and resilience-building can help be economically and socially transformative.
  - › Despite this, DRR investments in such contexts are under-funded and typically constrained by competing funding and policy priorities, institutional risk aversion, funding modalities as well as access and security issues.
- Many decision makers see displacement as a short-term phenomenon that might last for weeks, leading to a lack of actions from the onset to set up, coordinate and manage displacement sites for fear of creating a pull factor. In some instance, by the time camp management agencies and/or CCCM cluster are requested to set up,<sup>1</sup> months have past when the living condition and tension between IDPs, host communities have already become critical.
  - › The lack of early coordination and management from the onset leads to major protection and assistance gaps, affecting people’s health, safety, well-being and dignity and consequently often prolongs the displacement as populations ended up caught in cycles aid dependency rather than identifying solutions. **Early coordination and management from the onset create more conducive conditions for IDPs** to build self-reliance and to be active socio-economic contributors to their hosting environment.
  - › At the same time, local host communities are at the frontlines of meeting IDPs immediate

<sup>1</sup> The word “camp” in CCCM is sometimes used to justify reluctance to engage in a dialogue on responses to mass displacement. An increasing number of CCCM-like operations and coordination platform tend to avoid using “camps” in their names – using instead “Site Management” or “Temporary Settlements Support” to avoid sensitivities and misgivings around the term “camp”



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The UN Migration Agency

needs. In this way, it is **key to build the capacity of the local civil society.**

### **Evolving needs**

- Simplified, responses to internal displacement aim to protect rights, meet needs, reduce risks and vulnerabilities, and pursue solutions. Most of this has typically been primarily absorbed by the humanitarian community extending long into protracted situations, where the needs evolve beyond the initial scope of humanitarian assistance but where such assistance remains limited in how it can approach and adapt.
  - › Taking WASH as an example, investments in humanitarian WASH infrastructure /services for IDPs do not consider durable and long-lasting solutions. There is emphasis in punctual and remedial solutions such as water trucking, which are expensive and unsustainable in the long term. Having a **scalable approach to durable infrastructure can guarantee sustainable investments** in WASH services. Similarly, by improving and expanding existing municipal water supply and waste management infrastructure, pressures on the host communities can be minimized and the sustainable access to water for IDPs and the host can be guaranteed. In that line, **WASH services in displacement camps need to be conceived with the same rationale that is taken in the municipal infrastructure of their host communities.**
  - › **Supporting the early investment in durable and long-lasting infrastructure while providing punctual emergency solutions**, working in parallel, would be more effective and cost-efficient than the usual strict phased approach that protracts the implementation of durable infrastructure until certain conditions are met.
- **Continuity** challenges for chronic health conditions, needs for mental health services, community-based psychosocial services, increased vulnerabilities to illnesses associated with violence, injuries, malnutrition and infection, are all part of the **overall ‘health imperative’** that should be considered by the HLP in analyzing how prevention response and solutions for internal displacement can be advanced effectively.
- Another challenge is that humanitarian and development aid can end up promoting reliance on parallel services provided, for instance with respect to health services, which further exacerbates inequities in access to health services in the overall communities. Investments are thus needed in better **planning, local alignment and capacity-building and community-based approaches.**

### **Meaningful IDP Participation**

- IDP participation in the decisions that affect them is an imperative action required by all stakeholders engaging in service delivery within displacement sites, supporting returns to areas of origin, relocations and local integration respectively. **Community led solutions are more likely to be successful** and avoid issues that stall solutions being found for displaced populations such as lack of ownership and trust in the process.
  - › **Community consultations should begin at the outset**, from new displacement throughout until a solution is realized. Ensuring community led decision-making can be supported by using modalities such as participatory needs assessments, protection assessments, regular protection monitoring, regular consultations with community



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The UN Migration Agency

leaders, post assistance monitoring to name a few commonly used mechanisms.

- › **Multiple forms and methods of participation should be applied.** And participation must be inclusive to ensure the realities and opinion of all members of displaced populations are sought, including women and girls, people with disabilities, elderly, minorities etc.
- IOM programming over the years has demonstrated that **early investments in IDPs as agents in their own solutions** is intrinsic to progress. A range of supportive measures can help build or reinforce self-reliance; while well-designed community-based approaches can minimize negative impacts, maximize IDPs contributions to a community's well-being, and facilitate incremental steps towards solutions that have a broader transformative effect on recovery and development.
- Addressing the issues of displaced persons starts not by envisioning an ending point for those no longer living in their homes, but instead by understanding the mobile nature of displacement and empowering those affected. In this way, mobility can foster self-reliance, strengthen resilience of people affected by displacement and contribute to the **progressive resolution of displacement situations**. A recently published article in the Cairo Review entitled, "[Beginning to Resolve Displacement](#)" elaborates upon this point.

## Question 2

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

### **National frameworks and coordination**

- **Standard setting** at international and regional level should continue given that the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as well as the Kampala Convention and its accompanying AU Model Law have compelled and guided countries in their efforts to develop policy and normative frameworks to address internal displacement. Indeed, the example of the Kampala Convention, as well as a number of other regional initiatives that cover various aspects of internal displacement, further demonstrates the potential value of regional bodies engaging on internal displacement and who could be encouraged to take on a more enhanced role.
- In line with the above, IOM together with UNHCR and the League of Arab States will organize an IDP conference in 2021 (tentative) to exchange perspectives on challenges, solutions and the way forward for the Arab Region on internal displacement. The conference aims to provide a platform for constructive dialogue between all relevant actors including policy makers, humanitarian practitioners, as well as development actors.
- Beyond setting policies and norms, national **coordination** is essential, including with respect to different causes and contexts of internal displacement. Even if laws and policies exist, particularly in countries experiencing both conflict and disaster related displacement, coordination between legal, policy and institutional frameworks is not always effective. Often responses for conflict and disaster related displacements are developed separately and not necessarily looking into linkages and synergies for ensuring that displacement addressed comprehensively. This can result in potential protection gaps at various stages of the displacement process or different protection outcomes for different groups depending on the cause of displacement. Against this backdrop, a



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The UN Migration Agency

joint IOM and UNHCR study provides insights into **normative, policy, institutional frameworks and their coordination in countries with both conflict and disaster associated displacement**. This paper, prepared under the GP20 initiative, will be shared with the Secretariat.

- Indeed, one of the major challenges usually encountered in displacement crises is the lack of clear leadership and division of roles and responsibilities over the coordination and management of the response to displacement – responsibilities being scattered among multiple ministries, national and sub-national authorities etc. It can also lead to confusion when there are conflicting interests or lack of dialogue between different administrative levels. This is often a cause for delayed or poor responses, and lack of accountability from government authorities. This situation also affects the capacity of agencies, such as those working on CCCM, to support authorities as they often lack a unique counterpart that they can interact with at national, sub-national and local levels, multiplying the number of actors that need to be mobilized and engaged from municipal authorities, local disaster management offices, to related line ministries offices. Against this backdrop, the capacity building efforts at national level should include:
  - › **A clear leadership and division of roles and responsibilities** to ensure the immediate assistance and protection of populations affected by forced displacement. This requires coherent and concerted approaches among responders at all level – including authorities, national and local civil society organizations, and communities themselves as they are usually the first responders in a displacement crisis.
  - › **Preparedness plans should outline the governance structure, and to identify if the government counterparts** supporting the response will be the same as those involved in the recovery.
  - › A key responsibility for the UN and regional bodies is to foster government buy in and **assist in identifying the most relevant governance and coordination systems**. In the East and Horn of Africa RECs such as IGAD have proven to be instrumental in this regard. Lessons could be drawn, for example, from the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees which has been able **integrate longer-term issues and involve a wide range of partners**.
- Significant efforts have been made in recent years by national authorities around the world to develop or strengthen displacement response policies and systems – including through regional initiatives such as the **multi-year Mass Shelter Capacity (MaSC) Project** with the EU Civil Protections. The MaSC toolbox is set of tools agreed upon by all the member state on mass shelter (collective centres) minimum guidance, including set up, management and maintenance, in a natural disaster. In looking at replication of such effort, however, it is vital to keep in mind the fragility of local response systems, where local actors have neither pre-existing capacities nor knowledge to respond on the ground, or with generic framework that does not take into account local customs and practices.
- In another example, **the multi-year capacity building and preparedness activities** in collaboration with the Government of Philippines and Nepal meant that the CCCM response framework has been fully adapted and localized to these contexts. The response to recent Taal Volcanic Eruption **has the national and local authorities leading management** of evacuation centres with trained



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The UN Migration Agency

staff and providing more trainings to additional surge capacities as part of the response while monitoring of feasibility for return and alternative solutions takes place.

- Further, IOM works with local authorities to **mainstream** migration and displacement throughout development strategies as a way to increase political buy-in, tapping into synergies on overlapping priorities and empowering populations as development actors. IOM's [Integrated Approach to Reintegration](#) of migrants and its related [handbook](#) and [online training](#) also provides examples of how IOM cultivates political responsibility and capacity, participation and inclusion of beneficiaries takes place, which could be helpfully applied in internal displacement contexts.

### National and local capacities

- Crisis situations can weaken or eradicate the social, physical, political, cultural, economic, legal and security structures and systems required for societies and communities to function. Community stabilization programming help **restore or augment the systems and services necessary for societies and communities to function, with an emphasis on building responsibility and accountability of local institutions as a precursor towards building trust between communities and their leadership.**
- The GB/WHS commitment to strengthen localization of humanitarian response acknowledge the significant investments that is still needed to build and strengthen local response systems to humanitarian crises, to prevent displacement or mitigate its effects. This investment must also include **localization of operational frameworks and methodologies**, in addition to funding of local actors, and must ensure contribution towards preparedness effort that will allow national and local actors to work towards durable solutions at the onset of a crisis
- **Bottom-up approaches such as found in the Durable Solutions Initiatives** (e.g. Somalia, Ethiopia) have proven to have an impact in positively influencing national authorities to embark in strategic and policy efforts. Hence important to leverage good practices and positive support at the ground level.
- Offering technical support to governments faced with multi-layered and complex issues on different fields of expertise such as **reparations, guarantees of non-repetition, or Housing, Land and Property, may be key to paving the way, both politically and socially, to durable solutions.**
- **Maintaining official statistics on IDPs stocks also plays a critical role** in alerting and cultivating political will, as some countries may be slow to recognize that internal displacement is occurring, that displacements are becoming protracted or that particular protection or assistance needs are not being met.
  - › While data on IDP stocks overtime help maintain the focus on the extent and duration of internal displacement in a country, more nuanced and qualitative data are also needed to recognize the root causes of displacement and allow for evidence-based, rather than politically motivated responses. This data can also promote accountability in responses, including with respect to adequately identifying and addressing needs.
  - › Regular intention surveys are key to informing solution options, which become a valuable advocacy tool if there is a gap between political priorities and preferred



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

solutions among the affected populations. In addition, internal displacement is underscored by a major socio-economic impact – understanding the full scale of this would give good perspective in terms of investment and risks from the national level point of view. Better analysis of internal displacement data can support this.

**Question 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.**

#### **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)**

- Definitions and approaches to HDPN continue to be debated globally and there is limited guidance on how to operationalize it. There are two main interpretations of the nexus: ‘distinct but complementary’ versus ‘merged but principled’. A useful IOM report for the Panel may be [Operationalizing the HDPN: Lessons from Colombia, Mali, Nigeria and Somalia](#).
- The humanitarian ecosystem is very well established; however, for broader approaches such as peace, risk reduction and development, the coordination systems are much less defined and ad hoc. Such coordination also inherently requires a **much more active engagement and buy-in from governments and affected populations**. The humanitarian structures, designed for speed and efficiency, must give way to models that emphasize local accountability and ownership.
- Indeed, coordination and integration of the HDPN not only calls for common outcomes but a shift in the center of gravity in decision making and assistance provision toward **more inclusive participatory models putting more onus on governments providing more agency to affected populations**.
- **HDPN is not a linear process and is not the only channel to promote enhanced coordination and multi-disciplinary engagement**. For instance, ensuring coordinated and coherent interventions across humanitarian actors, as well as between humanitarian and development operations, is critical both for short term effectiveness and for the development of resilient primary services, including, for example, in the health sector.
- The joint UN Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) has a [JMIDI toolbox](#), which is a resource and collection of best practices on how to enhance contribution of migrants and displaced persons to development processes. Further, the joint IOM-UNHCR-UNCTAD [Policy Guide on Entrepreneurships for Migrants and Refugees](#) to promote an **integrated approach to entrepreneurship policies in line with development priorities**.
- Further analysis unpacking the relationship between humanitarian action and broader approaches needs to be elaborated, articulating where the points of complementarity are, as well as the limitations to closer integration (work of IASC Results Group 4 on the Humanitarian Development Nexus is a useful reference point. Within this group, IOM is collaborating on a paper that explores the Peace component of the HDPN, which will be shared with the Panel).

#### *Peace lens*

- › Following a conflict or armed violence, peace remains fragile and populations and



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The UN Migration Agency

communities continue to be at risk if the underlining grievances that led to the conflict or violence are not addressed. It is estimated that 60 per cent of conflicts recur ([PRIO, 2016](#)). Also, the sustainability of returns is reduced if returning populations are confronted with the same (or worse) conditions from before they were displaced.

- › Drivers stem from longstanding political, historical, economic and social grievances. Therefore, it is key to have: **early and broad-based political action; contextual analysis and understanding of the drivers of displacement, multi-sectoral responses** by various stakeholders including collective effort of the humanitarian, development, migration, environmental, and peace and security fields, among others. However, while the New Way of Working aims to set out a path going forward, in this regard, it is not operationalized at the country level.
- › Peacebuilding, post-conflict recovery and stabilization of affected communities largely depend on how society responds to numerous grievances of victims for past human rights violations. Without **redress**, experience of injustice perpetuates survivors' resentment and vulnerabilities, generates new tensions or even triggers new cycles of violence and displacement.
- › **Peacebuilding efforts are commonly inadequately funded** and not prioritized by humanitarian actors who usually scale up after communities have already been displaced. At the same time, **development actors need to integrate conflict sensitivity** into their programming to ensure that things such as community tensions and protection aspects are monitored.

#### Data in support of the HDPN

- IOM data collection and reporting in recent years has highlighted the **importance of understanding and analysing the complex relationship between key displacement related vulnerabilities, community stability, and durable solutions**. DTM has deployed and continues to develop a variety of tools aimed at exploring and developing transition and recovery-oriented analysis that draws on existing DTM data and adding new and more targeted metrics. These have been applied in transitional and early recovery settings in, for instance, Mozambique, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Iraq and the Lake Chad Basin. They represent the **next iteration of vital tools and analysis to develop a foundational understanding of the preconditions within a community, be it factors of stability, service conditions or mobility dimensions for IDPs to be in a position to overcome key displacement-related vulnerability**, as well as IASC guided indicators that are predictively useful in determining an individual's sustainable resolution of displacement.
- In addition to the data collection and analysis itself, **the process of collecting the data, collaboration, partnership and dissemination can support the nexus from humanitarian response to more development steered programming**. With this in mind, DTM is also positioned to bring together multiple stakeholders to ethically and responsibly create a more comprehensive and tailored framework for analysis to enable decision makers and responders within a crisis and across the nexus to provide vulnerable populations with better context-specific assistance and in turn, support solutions in which IDPs themselves take the lead in crafting.



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The UN Migration Agency

- › For example, IOM’s use of DTM in Afghanistan demonstrates the multifaceted nature of the DTM partnership and coordination with humanitarian, development and government counterparts. IOM works in close coordination with national and provincial authorities, supports a wide range of humanitarian partners and clusters by providing emergency tracking updates in large-scale or sudden onset movements, such as during the 2018 drought. Furthermore, stabilization and development actors, including within the government and the World Bank leverage DTM’s information to select priority communities and districts with higher concentrations of IDPs and returnees to receive reintegration and livelihoods assistance and improvements to core infrastructure and essential services. In support of health partners, including the Humanitarian Health Cluster, DTM data informs the selection of priority, at-risk districts and communities, and the health facilities in need of strengthened capacity, response, surveillance, and risk education for polio, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases.

### Community-Based Approaches

- Communities are at the frontlines of a crisis, whether they are hosting displaced populations, receiving returning populations and/or have populations being driven outwards. **The more resilient the community, the more it will be able to withstand the impacts of a crisis or to overcome the challenges associated with the sudden arrival or departure of populations.**
  - › Interventions that use **well-designed community-based approaches are more likely to be successful and they can help the sustainability of solutions.** They can minimize the negative impacts of a crisis on a community and its population, maximize a displaced person’s contributions to a community’s well-being, and facilitate incremental steps towards solutions that have a broader transformative effect on recovery and development. IOM draws on participatory methods throughout its work, from needs assessments to developing consultative processes or strengthening structural systems so that populations are empowered in the decisions that affect their lives.
  - › In the WASH sector, for example, **engagement with communities and the private sector, can strengthen the management of WASH services,** allowing mechanisms that permit them to operate by proxy to the public service utilities (i.e. market based approach for sustainable access to water, professionalizing community-led systems for the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation services).

### Combined disaster and conflict displacement contexts

- More than 40 countries experienced internal displacement associated with both *conflict and disaster* in 2019.<sup>2</sup> In some countries, people are displaced by disaster in one location and by conflict in another. In other countries, conflict and disaster intersect and interact to undermine resilience and trigger displacement. Years of conflict can erode coping capacity and for some people, a drought can then become the ‘tipping point’ for flight. For other people, already displaced to informal settlements, host communities or camps by conflict, the onset of floods or

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2. IDMC, ‘Global Internal Displacement Database’, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>, accessed: April 2020.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

storms can force them to move again. The reverse also happens when movements associated with disasters and environmental degradation lead to tensions and violence in places of refuge.

- › In this context, **coordination between legal, policy and institutional frameworks relevant to conflict and disasters displacement** is not always effective. This may result in better protection outcomes for one of the groups of IDPs depending on the cause of displacement or in protection gaps for all the persons displaced at various stages of displacement process, all the way to solutions.
  
- › A joint IOM and UNHCR GP20 study considered the laws and policies, coordination arrangements and practices in five countries experience both conflict and disaster displacement (Afghanistan, Colombia, Niger, the Philippines and Somalia). The preliminary findings, particularly on the question of how to better integrate approaches in development, peace, climate change and disaster reduction action, are the following:
  - **The diversity and multi-dimensional aspects of displacements need to be taken into consideration** in the establishment of coordination mechanisms and in the identification of lead actors.
  - It can be difficult to disentangle the “cause” of displacement and demarcating new displacement estimates by conflict or by disaster. This has implications for prevention and solutions programming and should be reflected in law and policy frameworks and in their coordination. **Awareness of displacement dynamics and interactions of the two causes needs to be mainstreamed in disaster risk management frameworks** (e.g., per Words into Action).
  - Internal displacement, forced migration, relocation, and mobility overall should be **better mainstreamed into climate change related plans** (eg. National adaptation Plans).

#### Climate change and displacement

- **Planned relocations, as a last resort option**, are key policy and operational tools to address some of the challenges linked to internal displacement in the context of climate and environmental concerns. Planned relocation considerations in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are part of the work stream of the UNFCCC on climate change, migration and displacement, to which IOM is a main contributor. As part of the implementation of the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement Plan of Action 2019-2021<sup>3</sup>, IOM leads an activity on mapping planned relocation initiatives worldwide that will inform policy development on the topic. The mapping will build upon previous work, such as *A Toolbox: Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change*<sup>4</sup>, produced by IOM, UNHCR and Georgetown University. In that context, creating synergies and enhancing coherence between the work of the High Level Panel and IOM’s work in the context of the UNFCCC workstream on migration, displacement and planned relocation linked to climate change could support the Panel

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<sup>3</sup> UNFCCC (2019), Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts. Available from:

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2019\\_05\\_add1.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2019_05_add1.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Georgetown University, IOM, UNHCR (2017), *A Toolbox: Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change*. Available from: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/toolbox-planning-relocations-protect-people-disasters-and-environmental-change>.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

with expert knowledge and technical support.

- **Connect and build upon the work of the state-led Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), including the contributions of IOM and UNHCR as key partners.** Promoting the inclusion of human mobility challenges, including disaster displacement, into national and regional adaptation planning processes is among shared areas of concerns and actions of IOM, PDD and their partners such as UNHCR. The same applies to supporting planned relocation activities in order to address some of the challenges related to internal displacement induced by disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change.
  - › The Envoy of the Chair of the PDD has submitted inputs to the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement on issues related to internal displacement in the context of slow and rapid-onset disasters due to the adverse impacts of climate change. It invites the High Level Panel to “think out of the box” in order to find innovative and concrete solutions for IDPs, including those displaced by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. As a key partner of the PDD and an essential actor in the field of migration, displacement, environment, climate change and disasters, IOM joins PDD to bring expertise and technical support to the High Level Panel in order to identify and achieve such government-led durable solutions for people at risk of displacement or displaced by disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change.
- **The regional level is key to addressing issues of climate change and displacement,** as it is here where interests and issues coincide the most, and States can act together for integrated approaches.
  - › **In the Pacific region,** IOM works with States as well as international and regional partners to strengthen capacities of islands states to address climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement and planned relocation. The UNTFHS-funded project “Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate and disasters in the Pacific region”, led by IOM, aims at developing a regional human security-based security response by facilitating an appropriate framework. This programme also promotes labor migration as a safe, regular and inclusive response to climate change impacts and disasters. For this project, IOM partners with ESCAP, ILO, OHCHR, PIFS and PDD. In parallel, IOM also collaborates with IDMC and PDD to implement the DEVCO-funded project “Understanding and enhancing preparedness and response to risks of disaster displacement in the Pacific”. This project will support national governments and regional organisations in the Pacific to enhance knowledge, policy development and build the capacity of National Disaster Management Organizations so that the risk and impact of disaster displacement on people at risk of being displaced in Pacific small island developing states, is reduced.
  - › **In the West Africa region,** IOM is working with states and the PDD to respond to the environmental drivers of migration by facilitating regular pathways for migration and minimizing displacement in the context of disasters, environmental degradation, and climate change. The project “Implementing Global Policies on Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in West Africa,” led by IOM, aims to build a shared understanding at regional level of environmental migration and disaster displacement, and to promote coherent national and sub-regional policy development in line with global



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The UN Migration Agency

and regional policies, such as the GCM, the Paris Agreement as well as the Kampala Convention.

#### Environmental sustainability considerations

- Apart from water and waste management concerns covered by WASH interventions, **clean energy access of IDPs needs to be considered under environmental sustainability of infrastructure** at a larger-scale and **in collaboration with relevant private sector actors**. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Global Compact on Refugees along with the first Global Refugee Forum recognized the crucial role clean energy plays in enabling to meet life-saving needs, building durable solutions for livelihoods, increasing the well-being of displaced people and reducing the environmental impacts of large-scale displacement. Among others, access to fuel and energy is critical to enable essential activities such as cooking meals, lighting and/or heating shelters, cooling vaccines, charging mobile phones, running small businesses, and powering humanitarian operations. While research into access to energy has been increasing in refugee – especially in camps and camp-like – settings, energy needs of IDPs have received far less attention from the research community, practitioners and private sector.
- To holistically address the challenges around energy in displacement settings, [the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy in Situations of Displacement](#) (GPA) was established in 2018 as a result of extensive exchanges among various stakeholders from humanitarian and development organizations, the private sector, governments, academia and not-for-profit organizations. The GPA is a non-binding framework that provides a collaborative agenda for concrete actions to ensure that all displaced people enjoy safe access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services by 2030, , while reducing the environmental impacts of displacement. In line with the aspiration of the Agenda 2030 to ‘leave no one behind’ and especially Sustainable Development Goal 7 to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, IOM as one of the founders and current steering committee member of the GPA proposes to include energy access consideration in the discussions of the High-level Panel on IDPs.
- **An integrated approach for humanitarian and development actors on water and environmental sustainability to mitigate the effect of climate change**, otherwise resulting in environmental degradation, water scarcity, and negative impacts from the unsustainable use of natural resources. WASH infrastructure needs to involve features that make it durable and resilient to climate change effects. Guaranteeing equitable access to the resources, target the most vulnerable, build resilience through scalable and sustainable solutions.
- Adequate WASH resources and capacity allocated to IDP situations is necessary to address climate change effects. In the prevention (to prevent forced displacement / support coping mechanisms) and in the response. Climate change impacts are manifested mainly through water related challenges / events, including increased water scarcity (drought) and natural hazards related to changes in the hydrological cycle (floods) and its impacts to human health through spread of water related diseases.

#### Role of the private sector

- Traditional donors should explore structuring their contributions to humanitarian agencies to incentivize private sector engagement beyond procurement. Structured grants offered in



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The UN Migration Agency

countries where there is clear opportunity to collaborate could help to facilitate and guide the private sector in creating shared value in humanitarian settings.

- It would be important to consider the importance of incorporating the private sector as a key stakeholder into local programming, especially in the transition and recovery phase of a complex crisis or natural disaster. A shared value approach to partnerships is key to incorporating the private sector into country level engagement which creates value for companies and creates value for displaced persons and host community members.
- Integrating and incentivizing the growth of circular economy models to reconceive products, markets, and redefine productivity in value chains will be essential to empowering IDPs and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to displacement-affected communities.
- The private sector has a significant role to play in supporting socio-economic reintegration, skills development activities, and small business growth. Opportunities for developing innovative financing approaches will be critical, whereby traditional donors and UN agencies play a key role in easing the risk of the private sector to re-enter markets and provide job opportunities and livelihood support for IDPs, especially in the aftermath of complex crises.
- At times, private sector interventions can pose conflicts of interest, especially in settings where IDPs are particularly vulnerable. The humanitarian sector needs to more systematically identify what are the associated risks and opportunities in practice in order to take more proactive, rather than reactive approaches to private sector engagement.

#### Role of international or regional financial institutions

- The Panel could consider the role of regional and global development partners and financial institutions for innovative integrated solutions - example, role of regional banks like ADB and AfDB that can link topics like health and protection interventions for IDPs with national or regional development assistance and loans.

#### **Question 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.**

- While host governments have overall responsibilities linked to solutions, in most settings, it is affected people themselves who find their own solutions both short and long term. There is a **strong role for governments and those providing international assistance to create enabling environments for this to take place.**
  - › It is important to recognize that **durable solutions as a process rather than a product** and that this process requires multi-dimensional responses, specific to the given context and involves numerous groups of stakeholders.
  - › The pursuit of solutions when conditions are not conducive will not lead to sustainable outcomes and thus it may be necessary to **build upon incremental steps** that will eventually



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The UN Migration Agency

work towards solutions. **Defining and setting pre-conditions for solutions is necessary and will contribute to better sequencing of assistance.**

- › Beyond the predominant focus on livelihood restoration, services and infrastructure, the scope of what can create **conducive environments for solutions needs to include political agreements, security and peace negotiations.**
- Governments should aim to **regain credibility as primary service and protection provider** for the population of the areas affected. This is often not a linear nor straightforward process and it requires **careful balancing** between support to governments with principled humanitarian action. This can be supported through community stabilization efforts that **engage local authorities and communities in community development planning in a way which also helps rebuild trust in local authorities** as service providers, generate social cohesion amongst displaced/host communities; and provide quick impacts in terms of infrastructure, basic services and livelihoods. It is also important that all stakeholders support governments in a coherent manner and not according to often conflicting agendas.
  - › Solutions can only be sustainably driven forward if internal displacement situations **are wholly integrated within local planning including for essential services.** In the health sector, for example, this would mean including the needs of IDPs in planning and budgeting for primary health care, routine immunization, any supply-side health systems strengthening, as well as engagement of IDP communities within participatory mechanisms for health governance.
- It is Important for the Panel to consider a range of supportive measures that can help **build or reinforce self-reliance and resilience.** For example, through community-based approaches, IDPs can contribute to a community's well-being, maximize negative impacts of displacement and have broader transformative effects that can contribute towards solutions.
- In line with IOM's Progressive Resolution to Displacement Situations approach, IOM's efforts towards durable solutions involve **a series of steps undertaken—sequentially or simultaneously—at the individual, community and structural levels.** With IOM humanitarian assistance assuring that immediate needs of displaced persons are met, its transition, peacebuilding and development-oriented programming are dedicated towards building resilience, self-reliance, restoring peace and security as well as meeting other infrastructural and socio-economic needs to enhance the well-being of the IDPs and hosting communities.

### **Housing Land and Property**

- Solutions cannot be achieved without states and international partners enabling and facilitating mechanisms for **housing, land and property restitution or compensation.** Considering that illegal and forceful deprivation of land and property are cause and consequence of conflict and displacement, addressing these issue i.e. restoring access to housing, land and property, becomes part and parcel of political solutions, pre-condition for social cohesion and a matter of basic human rights.
  - › In Somalia, one of the major barriers to achieving durable solutions for IDPs has been linked to the lack of available land for relocation. This made mass evictions rampant and led to the



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The UN Migration Agency

multiple displacement of families and inability for partners to invest in providing basic services for people displaced in informal settlements. In order to support displaced families at risk of eviction, IOM worked with the local authorities to designate public land to relocate these families. **Preparation of land and services were made with the long-term plan in mind, to be adequate for hosting IDPs upon arrival, and gradually upgraded as the area expanded into a city extension.**

- › The right to adequate housing is articulated in multiple international legal frameworks, but often this does not translate into adequate housing or shelter for IDPs. For IDPs, issues of local and national politics, economics, livelihoods and resources dominate over any globally defined rights. This is a tension that should be reviewed and is fundamental to IDPs being able to find a place to live. Urban informal settlements bring particular challenges in preparedness, response and recovery. There is a **particular need to support national authorities through adaptation of urban planning and mapping tools, that linking city recovery plans with resilience plans and actions.**
- › Land allocated in the context of relocation or local integration often raises many questions regarding the rights of IDPs to their original land in areas of origin -- such as whether accepting properties will result in losing the right to return at a later time.
- › The Panel can advance housing, land and property issues by **spearheading policy initiatives, advocating with states and the donor community and facilitating technical exchanges between governments, UN agencies, civil society and experts.** Revisiting the existing guidance notes, such as the “Pineiro Principles” to fit the changing conflict and political environment of the past two decades can also be one of the item which the Panel can promote and support.

#### **Addressing root causes**

- Many of the current protracted displacement situations are linked to: unaddressed root causes of conflict; whereby returns are simply unfeasible for protection reasons, or not sustainable; pull factors related to responses (e.g Somalia drought where response services were limited to specific areas, and created dependency in absence of access to services elsewhere); and inability of local authorities to support access to services, peacebuilding efforts, or DRR in the most vulnerable and affected areas. In addition to this, the consecutive and protracted nature of both natural and man-made related crisis, have contributed to a significant erosion of resilience capacity of both IDPs and host communities.

#### **Early engagement in solutions**

- CCCM often provides a natural link for IDPs to transition into sustainable solutions. Indeed, one of key objectives of camp management is representing the IDPs to advocate for and facilitating durable solutions conversation. This is done through community mobilization, awareness raising, liaising with host communities, arranging go-see visits, and coordinating logistics and assistance in cases of returns. Without similar representation, the process can lead to poor community consultation, mistrust of actors by the community, ineffective coordination for departures and returns.

#### **Data collection for solutions**



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

- Data collection on durable solutions has tended to be more ad-hoc and less systematic in nature, oriented towards context-specific needs to feed cluster response for example rather than the full IASC framework and monitoring the achievement of durable solution. Operational data actors could experiment with the consistent and longitudinal use of durable solution indicators, not only providing NSOs with crucial, inter-operable data for supporting a measure of progress towards such solutions. IRIS suggests that progress towards durable solutions be a priority for measurement and tracking among IDP populations and proposes a clear and specific methodology to do so. However, the importance of operational data in this process is yet to be fully realized and articulated. Against this context, the HLP should support in advocating for the strengthening of actors to collect operational data, while operational actors should commit to align their standards and definitions to IRIS, for a better integration and comparison of the different data sources.

### Justice and reparations

- Durable solutions are hardly imaginable without states and the international community accepting the responsibility to execute and facilitate adequate justice and rehabilitation mechanisms such as criminal prosecution of perpetrators, truth seeking measures, reform which guarantee non-repetition and reparations for victims and their families.

**Question 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.**

### Financial flexibility

- It is important to acknowledge the need to factor **financial flexibility when working towards collective outcomes that factor in both humanitarian and development gains**. This means flexibility with allocation of resources between objectives as the situation require, and the timeline as well, with a preference for more multi-year funding. This might require a restructuring of donor's financial instruments. In addition, it requires more funding towards transition and recovery type-programming which often falls between traditional humanitarian funding and longer-term development funding.
- In order to advance on the Grand Bargain commitments to **localization**, it is necessary to commit **funding to preparedness and capacity building** of local humanitarian actors and responsible government bodies before a crisis occurs. However, funding for **capacity building and preparedness initiatives are often excluded from Humanitarian Response Plans**. If humanitarian agencies are called upon to build capacity of local responders during a crisis, meaningful efforts to empower local authorities and actors will be lost to the rush of a response and the quality of the response can suffer if actors are not sufficiently capacitated to respond. As agencies rush to fulfil their commitment on localizations, local NGOs and CSOs can end up getting funded from multiple sources without proper due diligence and appropriate capacity development.
  - › As noted earlier, the foundation for solutions begins early including during camp management. Camp management actors interact directly with displaced communities on a daily basis, requiring abilities to solve problems, coordinate, make referral as well as liaise with host communities and local authorities. Capacity building is essential to ensure that camp managers are trained and skilled. Feedback from both humanitarian and



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The UN Migration Agency

government actors continue to re-affirm the importance of strengthening and increasing capacities, however, donors often call for capacity building components of project proposals to be removed.

### **Partnership with the private sector and blended approaches**

- Recommendations could be to engage more with CBOs (Community-Based organizations) and CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and foster partnerships with the private sector, for the management of WASH services in IDP settings, allowing mechanisms that permit them operate by proxy to the public service utilities (i.e. market based approach for sustainable access to water, professionalizing community-led systems for the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation services). Another could be structuring leasing facilities to finance private sector investment for WASH services (of high capital cost, i.e. solar power for water supply) in displacement settings through the set-up of blended finance instruments in coordination with public and private sector stakeholders.

### **Cash-based programming**

- It should be recognized that the primary responders are usually affected people themselves. Financing solutions such as soft loans, insurance and in some cases social protection systems require significant investment and development in most cases to enable the primary responders to develop lasting and resilient solutions.
- While cash-based programming is not new, it has proven effective in many circumstances in supporting self-help. However, the same level of focus is needed to expand other financial options for affected people.

### **Health**

- Innovative health financing for universal health coverage with portability of health insurance coverage for all IDPs. This would mean intra-country flexibility in coverage for health and other services across district/state administrations, reducing out of pocket expenditures often leading to catastrophic expenses for IDPs.
  - › While external funding is crucial in internal displacement settings, this funding should be pooled and/or well-coordinated across different partners. Moreover, the funding could include a range of interventions such as supporting core health staff to maintain services, cash assistance to access services, and financing of disease surveillance and health information systems.
  - › Financing solutions must always be designed and managed with a focus on transition to domestic systems, including where the latter may require capacity development of domestic administrative systems. In health this is especially crucial to prevent the interruption of financial support for essential services including maternal and child health and immunization, or treatment for infections like TB.
  - › Global health financing mechanisms, such as The Global Fund and GAVI, as well as private donors like the Gates Foundation provide large proportion of financing to health systems in low- and middle-income countries, sometimes supporting entire units or divisions within Ministries of Health. Donor countries that support the Global Fund and GAVI could



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

play an important role in incentivizing beneficiary countries to ensure the inclusion of displaced populations in national and local government budgets.

### Data

- Multi-year funding is necessary to capacity building activities in the field of data, including the implementation of EGRIS– pre, during and post crisis.
- Sustaining data collection and evidence generation to better inform the information needs of transition and recovery programming (in the space of the HDPN) is often difficult due to adequate resource allocation towards assessments beyond the humanitarian phase of an emergency. This can lead to a disconnect between humanitarian and development assessments as well as a ‘black hole’ in available information.

### “Diaspora” engagement

- For decades, various diaspora groups have financed development projects in their communities and countries of origin through individual remittances, collective remittances and diaspora bonds. Many of the good-practices, methodologies and approaches used in the field of diaspora engagement, could also be used in the context of an internal “diaspora” of IDPs (whether they are in a community of displacement or of relocation). By actively engaging with an IDP “diaspora”, internal remittances could be channelled beyond the financing of household expenditures and towards initiatives that incentivize productivity in key sectors of the economy (e.g. agricultural and livestock sector), strengthen the private sector and create jobs in communities of origin.

### Question 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.

- It is paramount for IDP data and evidence to translate comprehensively into adaptable and informed programming and policies, a key pillar of responsible data management. The ethical production and analysis of IDP data must remain a central focus in all discussions and decisions on data. IOM holds data protection and responsible data management at the forefront of its data collection operations and actively advocates for the practice of good data ethics and awareness and believes this a key focus for the HLP-ID.
- To ensure that IDP data collection and management respects the above principles, IOM’s work focuses on two complementary and important data sources:
  1. Support to Member States’ National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and line ministries with a responsibility in providing **official statistics** on IDPs. Maintaining IDP stock data is necessary to sustain political will and inform the design of national and local development plans and budgets and response over time, in addition to its primary focus of emergency response.
  2. Continuously improving **operational data** remain key to deliver timely and tailored humanitarian assistance to people in need.

It is important to work on the improvement of both data sources in parallel, to contribute to



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

building national ownership, capacity, literacy and political will, which are all important factors to ensure data and analysis (evidence) can inform policies and programming of national authorities to produce and use official statistics and the rapid and timely collection of data for humanitarian multi sectorial response. In particular, work is required to align as much as possible methodologies and definitions of the two sources to guarantee comparability of data and measures while recognizing their differences and complementarity.

- In particular, capacity building work with NSOs is necessary for the adoption of the IRIS in times of peace, to prepare national institutions for times of crisis, and to ensure they have the capacity, knowledge and internal agreement on how to collect and maintain data on IDPs, and what definitions to adhere to and which methodologies and data collection strategies to implement.
- Capitalizing on ongoing data capacity building work in support of NSOs, for example via ongoing assessments of national capacities to collect migration statistics and developing national migration data strategies, and on expertise and capacities in Data collection and Operations in collecting IDP data and surveys on durable solutions (cfr. [Haiti](#) , [Philippines](#), [Iraq](#) among others) IOM is perfectly positioned to support a continental approach in Africa and address the work required by national statistics offices on IDP data.
- Example of current efforts that could be consolidated into a continental data strategy for Africa led by IOM and in partnership with the AU and its office of statistics STATAFRIC include:
  1. Advocating for the inclusion of internal displacement within official statistics and working with EGRIS and NSOs. on the endorsement and application of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) (this would also facilitate communication and understanding in times of crisis on the alignment with operational statistics)
  2. Advocating for the inclusion of IDP question in the forthcoming round of censuses
  3. Supporting a pan-African migration survey with the inclusion of an IDP and durable solutions modules, as a pilot of a World Migration Survey, as requested by the AU
  4. Including IDP and durable solutions modules on a migration statistics course designed for national institutions and AU.
  5. Continuing to develop and harmonize tools and processes to measuring durable solutions and its additional dimensions, whether addressed or not by the IASC framework
- However, official statistics cannot replace operational data needed to respond timely and in a targeted and nuanced fashion to the vulnerabilities and needs of IDPs in time of acute crisis. Therefore, IOM's work on operational data is of paramount importance to ensure affective humanitarian and early recovery assistance. After this phase, however, donors' interest and level of funding may decrease thus leaving vulnerable population off the radar. Locally and ad hoc developed assessments and tools are therefore of vital importance.
- IOM's DTM has deployed and continues to develop a variety of tools aimed at exploring and developing transition and recovery-oriented analysis of both existing DTM data as well as augmenting existing analysis with new and more targeted metrics. It is important to note that DTM's focus remains on operational humanitarian data; but with this in mind, IOM is positioned well to bring together multiple stakeholders to ethically and responsibly create a more comprehensive and tailored framework for data and analysis to enable decision makers and



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

responders within a crisis and across the Nexus to provide vulnerable populations with better context-specific assistance and in turn, support solutions in which IDPs themselves take the lead in crafting.

#### Data and durable solutions

- Displacement and the end of displacement have been defined in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, however, there remains many shortcomings to how this definition and these normative frameworks can be realized in field operations. There are ongoing processes at country, regional and global levels: EGRIS, durable solutions indicator, GP20, the ongoing IOM and Georgetown University Longitudinal Study <https://ccas.georgetown.edu/resources/iom-gu-iraq-idp-study/> in Iraq, IOM durable solution surveys, JIPS profiling exercises, etc. All these initiatives although it is yet to be seen how they can come together, offer the important nuances and localised information needed on the ground to shape the assistance and programs implemented to support IDPs in achieving durable solutions and members states in the legal and financial provisions. How these different initiatives come together is yet to be realized.
- Underpinning all these initiatives are context specific data collection exercises generating pragmatic operational data and analysis. However, durable solution assessments at the individual/household level are not necessarily feasible across all contexts with the current capacities and resources made available. There needs to be a drive to find new ways of working and guidelines that outline alternatives identifying IDP outflows – moving IDP population stocks to resident population stocks. A tiered operational approach that looks at reducing key displacement related vulnerabilities (a similar approach to that outlined in the IRIS) first while making progress towards the achievement of DS may allow for a more realistic dialogue and an achievable and measurable approach to drive forward the durable solutions dialogue. Likewise, because of the centrality of durable solutions, IRIS similarly suggests that progress towards durable solutions be a priority for measurement and tracking among IDP populations and proposes a clear and specific methodology to do so. However, the importance of operational data in this process is yet to be fully realized and articulated. The HLP should support in advocating for the strengthening of actors to collect operational data.
- Rather than a means of rigorous IDP categorization and to quantify IDP outflow, humanitarian operational actors tends to track durable solution indicators in an ad hoc manner and/or to better map out humanitarian needs and to stabilize dynamic situations. This means that while data collectors in the sector have a great deal of diverse experience collecting data on durable solutions, it has tended to be more ad-hoc and less systematic in nature, oriented towards context-specific needs to feed cluster response for example rather than the full IASC framework and monitoring the achievement of durable solution. Operational Data actors could experiment with the consistent and longitudinal use of durable solution indicators, not only providing NSOs with crucial, inter-operable data for supporting a measure of progress towards such solutions, but also offering very needed capacity development through their long experience on collecting and using IDP data
- Globally, IOM's IDP data collection operations are guided by [the DTM Methodological Framework](#) which outlines four standard components: 1. Mobility Tracking, 2. Surveys, 3. Flow Monitoring and 4. Registration. Specifically, (1) Mobility Tracking through DTM baseline assessments and DTM Multi-Sectorial Location Assessments (MSLA) or (2) household surveys can support to meet



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

the information needs of humanitarian, transition and early recovery programming analysis and reporting as done recently with the [durable solutions assessment in Mozambique](#) and the [intentions and perception survey in South Sudan](#). However, and in addition to these the [Stability Index in the Lake Chad Basin](#) (Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad), the [Durable Solutions Index](#) in Ethiopia or the [Return Index in Iraq](#) are examples of dynamic DTM tools, utilizing both exiting DTM mechanisms and new avenues of data collection to further support transition and recovery-oriented analysis.

- These indices and initiatives harness existing DTM data and create and strengthen the frameworks for understanding and measuring complex transition and recovery related topics to support response efforts in the ranking and prioritisation of geographical areas to support programming and strategic planning and dialogue. In addition to this analysis, the process of data collection, collaboration, partnership, and dissemination can support to span the nexus from humanitarian response to more development steered programming. The approach of analysis is the next iteration of vital tools to develop a foundational understanding of the preconditions within a community, be it factors of stability, service conditions or mobility dimensions, for IDPs to be in a position to overcome key displacement-related vulnerability, as well as IASC guided indicators that are predictively useful in determining a person's sustainable resolution of displacement. This pioneering work is a new important step toward changing the narrative (bringing in a new layer of evidence) to bring together actors and generate informed dialogue but it needs further strengthen. The HLP should be looking at how we drive the narrative in those countries and how this might prevent us to move forward if not supported.
- Further to quantitative data there is often a dearth of qualitative evidence in terms of relevant attributes such as health behaviours, accessibility to services, availability of response health services, and also a question on whether ID data on sectoral topics like health, education, livelihoods, etc. are covered in public information systems.
- National ownership, capacity, and political will are important factors to ensure data and analysis (evidence) can inform policies and programming. In addition, internal displacement is underscored by a major socio-economic impact – understanding the full scale of this would give good perspective in terms of investment and risks from the national level point of view. Better analysis of internal displacement data can support this. IOM, through its DTM is uniquely positioned to bring together multiple stakeholders, hopefully stimulating political will to ethically and responsibly create a more comprehensive and tailored framework for analysis to enable decision makers and responders across the Nexus to provide vulnerable populations with better context specific assistance to support solutions in which IDPs themselves take the lead in crafting.

#### Data, coordination and leadership

- There are numerous actors involved in the production of IDP data, while this drives innovation and refinement it can also result in the duplication of data collection on IDPs/camps/displacement situation is counterproductive. There is a need for better coordination and consultation between governments, donors, and other data collection actors. The data, analysis and evidence-based obstacles faced by the community need to be achieved in collaboration and partnership with well-established partners building on one another's comparative advantages leading or participating to concurrent and authoritative initiatives and national stakeholders. While nothing should undermine the commitment to principled humanitarian action, especially in situations of armed



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

conflict, there is, at the same time, a shared moral imperative of preventing crises and sustainably reducing people's levels of displacement related vulnerabilities, a task that requires the pursuit of collective outcomes across silos and one that can only be achieved through collaborative action.

- Duplication in data collection, analysis and report remains a reality and a major shortcoming. The HLP should support to strongly advocate and contribute to joint assessment, data collection and analysis, across stakeholders and partners, at global and country level. Encourage the establishment of data sharing protocols, joint analytical framework, and collaboration in order to avoid duplications, share best practices, streamline innovative techniques and methodologies [in line with Gran Bargain point n.5 (Improve joint and impartial needs assessments) and the various data-related exercises such as JIAG/JIAF or EGRIS].
- In the Data and Knowledge Working Group of the Platform for Disaster Displacement, cooperation on aspects like interoperability of data collection have been proposed.
- There is also an importance of parallel work with National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the implementation of International Recommendations for IDP Statistics and with civil protection or disaster management agencies as preventive work, ensuring coordination and interoperability between the two state bodies. While focus in the coming years may be in the implementation of the IRIS, it is imperative for the HLP to support existing structures and points of contact with humanitarian, transition and early recovery actors and civil protection or disaster agencies as well as the NSOs. With the understanding that official statistics and operational data, to be as much as possible aligned and can bridge between operational response, policies, and medium to long term programming and planning – including national and local budgeting exercise. There would develop a severe shortcoming and challenge should there be a new focus on NSO coordination at the expense of past and current coordination processes, both must be a focus and a parallel process.
- As a final area, data initiatives can remain country focused. In a context where internally displaced, migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and returnees are often related at points in time there needs to be a more comprehensive approach to data programming carried out at sub-regional levels that holistically look at specific contexts across international border. Political will, funding and partnership for this is essential; IOM looks to the HLP for support and advocates for new a new focus and priority to better understand these sub-regional mobility dynamics to better support needs-based discussion that is person centric and driven by an attempt to support the attainment of solutions. For example, two regional projects managed out of IOM Pacific and Asia Regional Office: Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) and Enhancing Preparedness and Response to Disaster Displacement Risk in the Pacific. The overall objective of REMAP - through implementing the DTM - is to strengthen evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. While the Preparedness and Response project sets out to support regional and national (Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu) efforts to reduce the risks and impacts of disaster displacement for people at risk so they will be less affected or not to be displaced at all and protect those compelled to move. These projects explore context specific relationships between displacement, cross border movement/migration, return and return to displacement in and between one country highly influence by mobility in neighboring countries.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

- Given its increased centrality in displacement discourses and the link to outwards migration (especially those related to disaster/environmental displacement), an broader analysis of the concept of “displacement risk”, and of related data collection efforts, would help provide a common ground for discussions and future data collection practices. This includes, specifically, looking at “displacement risk” alternatively as “risk of becoming displaced”, “risk of remaining displaced” or “risk of negative impacts stemming from displacement”. Each has data (and related programmatic) implications. Furthermore, and in light of current data limitations, discussions on: 1) available approaches for better understanding forced mobility decisions and their drivers in the context of slow-onset environmental change, 2) systematic collection of displacement data as part of disaster loss data collection and 3) data collection efforts to understand displacement impacts would be useful and supporting to broader coordination mechanisms.

#### Data and ethics

- While the ethical production and analysis of IDP data must remain a central focus in all discussions and decisions on data. IOM would like to advocate a few key points related to this topic. There should exist platforms to support in the review of methodologies and operations of data collection and analysis to ensure that they adequately adhere to global standards and ethics, and take into account sensitivities of surveyed populations, ability and limitations of front line enumerators, Do No Harm considerations, and eventual responsible use of the data. This should be guided by the provision of a set of ethical and practical guidelines for humanitarian data collectors, users, and stakeholders to consider when applying data science for humanitarian work. This call is at the juncture of data science (in particular AI), ethics, responsible data management, humanitarian innovation, and humanitarian principles and standards and requires immediate focus and action to highlight key ethical considerations and to provide a practical guide for exploring or implementing advanced data science methods to support humanitarian outcomes. IOM asks the HLP to promote the development of guidelines that strengthen the fundamental foundations on how to work responsibly with humanitarian data allowing for more accessible and published data.

#### Data and participation

- Key to responsible data management is to ensure the data rights of those whose data is being collected; that of internally displaced persons. To support this participation is key, although, sometimes forgotten. Systematic feedback loop with displaced persons on assistance, protection and options for durable solutions is vital in ensuring ethical, accessible, appropriate and a need-based response. As durable solutions are the overall responsibility of the national authorities, planning for these solutions often becomes a top down approach linked to overall national development plans where IDPs voices are often not adequately included or reflected in the decision making. While national level durable solutions platforms remain essential for policy, advocacy, technical support and resource mobilization, regional or local level platforms must also exist and contain members of the displaced community.

#### Data and innovation

- Contribute to discussions on innovative ways to collect and analyze primary and secondary data from a protection standpoint, providing support from a methodological and operational perspective on research and data collection applied to hard to reach populations, with focus on protection. There is a need for the recognition of innovative and non-traditional data sources, such as mobile phone data, big data, locations data etc. that have major potential to bring



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

evidence for response to internal displacement. Strong advocacy is required to engage private sectors to foster further the use of those, in ethical and responsible ways. Also, the exploration of the possible scope to link biometric registration exercises conducted by IOM and other agencies in IDP camps and elsewhere with broader social protection schemes, both as a means to avoid duplication as well as to more strongly link international response to displacement crises to existing social safety nets.

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

Strengthening the effectiveness of response management

- Measures in countries at risk of displacement crises could be taken to ensure that governments can respond at the onset of an emergency with ready-made plans to mitigate the consequences of displacement. This generally requires, at minimum:
  - 1) Dedicated, responsible and trained government agencies
  - 2) Policies to protect displaced populations, and
  - 3) Information management capacities to manage information once a displacement occurs.
- Early action to manage displacement can minimize multiple and repeated displacement and ensure quality basic services can be delivered without interruption to both host and displaced populations. Standard operating procedures and contingency plans should be developed, tested and regularly updated to clarify roles and responsibilities of different government actors and be known by humanitarian and development partners to be able to support the implementation and coordination of actions. This can be done as part of capacity building of authorities at national and local levels to plan for potential displacement scenarios and how to react if they occur.
- Stretching the existing humanitarian response model to respond to protracted displacement crises is not the solution, but the default. Response management models that cater to protracted situations and the pursuit of durable solutions are needed, particularly for conflict related displacement.
- Guidelines to strengthen the responsible use of humanitarian data should be promoted.
- A central knowledge management portal is needed to gather all guidelines, frameworks, tools, good-practices and data related to internal displacement (including, for instance, internal displacement due to development projects).

Strengthening the effectiveness of coordination

- The cluster system is not an appropriate platform to coordinate durable solutions, particularly in conflict related displacements. More appropriate coordination mechanisms, some of which are already being explored in some countries, are:
  - Government-led durable solutions working groups or Secretariats. These can be housed in a specific government ministry and should include representation of various government sectors. The UN and civil society can support these initiatives.
  - UN-specific durable solutions working groups. These can be part of the Programme Management Team or housed in the Resident Coordinator's Office.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

- Issue-based coalitions
- Donor commitment is needed to fund the proposals, programmes and initiatives coming out of these fora. So far, financial support for the durable solution coordination platforms has been insufficient particularly when compared to the funding being allocated for clusters.
- Where the cluster system is present, it is important to ensure that agency-dominated dynamics do not undermine coordination. The Humanitarian Coordinator should ensure well-functioning and bilateral communication between the Humanitarian Country Team, the inter-agency working groups and clusters. Pool funding should be a transparent mechanism where managers have no ability to influence allocation; but rely on clusters and boards advisory.

#### Strengthening the effectiveness of accountability

- It is important to systematize participation and consultation methodologies throughout all phases of programming.
- To establish functional PSEA and accountability mechanisms it is necessary to consider the safe management of complaints and develop feedback systems.
- Organizations working with child IDPs should consider adopting an institutional child safeguarding policy and develop guidance on how to implement this policy and carry out training.

To achieve all these recommendations, the donor community should adjust its financing instruments and tools in line with the recommendations of the World Humanitarian Summit and the New Way of Working. This includes providing unearmarked funding, supporting multi-year programmes and financing activities that contribute to operationalizing the HPDN. In addition, development donors and their implementing partners need to accept the risk and unpredictability of operating in displacement contexts. Development donors can also play a key role in promoting government leadership and ownership, both at national and local level.

#### **Question 8: Across the questions and elements highlighted above, it will be appreciated if the submissions:**

In addition to the information already provided, some additional reflections with regards to protection as well as participation and inclusion are listed below.

- i. **Highlight the protection needs, vulnerability and unique experiences and effects of displacement on people of different genders, ages, abilities and diversities.**
  - **Special protection** must be afforded to vulnerable and at-risk groups in all phases of displacement. This is achieved through direct case management, assistance and interventions for individuals and groups identified as vulnerable and by ensuring they have meaningful access to available services and accountability mechanisms.
  - **The protection needs of women and girls**, including critical sexual and reproductive health needs (e.g. provision of the minimal initial service package, preventing and managing the consequences of sexual violence, reducing HIV, and preventing maternal and neonate mortality and morbidity). Similarly, their unique vulnerabilities to human trafficking, forced



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The UN Migration Agency

labour and sexual violence can cause a disproportionate burden of physical (HIV or other STIs) and mental health conditions. Important to also note the unique vulnerabilities of LGBTI, also given often limited capacities of health and humanitarian staff to meet their needs.

- **A one-size-fits-all approach is not adequate to address protection needs.** IDPs already face pre-existing difficulties and vulnerabilities that intersect with other factors such as gender, age, or belonging to a minority group.
  - **Person-centred programming** is needed to address protection needs. Risks may affect individuals very differently. Moreover, human rights violations or lack of access to basic services often have domino-like cascading effects and generate further series of violations, deeply increasing the vulnerability situation of individuals or groups and negatively affecting their resilience capacity. It must be noted that person-centered programming is time and human resources-intensive and requires holistic and longer-term approaches.
  - **Specialized protection vs protection mainstreaming.** IOM implements both specialized protection interventions (including gender-based violence and child protection), and protection mainstreaming. An example of protection mainstreaming is the gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation tools used various sectors of intervention. To carry out both specialized protection and protection mainstreaming, IOM is guided by its *Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework*, its *Framework to Address GBV in Crisis* and internal guidance notes as well as training on protection mainstreaming.
  - **Ensuring access** to food, NFIs, shelter, services and markets by the most vulnerable of affected populations is essential in emergency contexts.
  - **Examples of intervention targeting specific protection risks:**
    - **GBV** is one of the most widespread human rights abuses in the world, with consequences that reach beyond the individual and can affect entire families and communities. Displacement situations can exacerbate exposure to different forms of GBV.
    - **Persons with disabilities.** Infrastructure, services and information in camps or camp-like settings may not be accessible for persons with disabilities. To address these gaps, practitioners should collaborate with organizations that represent persons with disabilities and ensure inclusion and participation of this vulnerable group, in order to ensure programmes are accessible and inclusive.
    - **Child protection** services may not reach IDP children in or out of camps, especially in fragile settings; thus children may be at heightened risks when families are under duress and more likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage, child labour and exploitation, school drop-out and child abuse and neglect.
    - **Human traffickers** can exploit the vulnerabilities and exacerbated needs of IDPs. Being a victim of human trafficking can have significant long-term impacts on health and wellbeing.
- ii. **Address the questions of meaningful participation and inclusion of the internally displaced and affected communities in the respective responses.**



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- It is essential to integrate grassroots and community-based approaches, and work with local authorities and local organizations such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, or older people's associations throughout all phases of programming.
- Understanding the age, gender and abilities barriers to accessing services, using approaches that are sensitive to local culture and minority languages, that are child-friendly and sensitive to culture, language, gender and abilities, are commonly used throughout IOM programming and are considered as good practice for further replication and adoption. (e.g. in Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Bangladesh).
- Communities and their resources should be put at the center of interventions. For example, in North-East Nigeria, IOM supports the State Ministry of Health in the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Each psychosocial mobile team is composed of a social worker, a counsellor, an educator, and an artist or a community resource. These mobile teams are based in camps, host and return communities and have promoted continuity and quality of support in unstable environments.
- Inclusion cannot be a box checking exercise. It requires deliberative, often time-consuming participatory processes that need financial support and facilitation.
- Support for durable solutions should go beyond including vulnerable individuals, but also include those individuals with capacities, agents for change, and those that can foster more resilient societies.
- IDPs need to be included in, but not the sole focus of durable solutions approaches – providing assistance by status, even by quota (80% IDP, 20% host) can be a driver of conflict. It is better to provide assistance based on needs and capacities in a geographically defined displacement-affected area, with dedicated protection assistance for those with a heightened protection profile.