



## Swiss Submission to the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement

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

The global narrative around internal displacement must change: while humanitarian and human rights concerns are important, the international community must realize that protracted internal displacement represents also a developmental, and peace challenge, representing a key obstacle to achieving the promise of the Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind. In other words: The challenge of internal displacement must be re-conceptualized as a humanitarian-development-peace challenge. It needs to be recognized that, if left unresolved, displacement-related challenges across sectors can hamper a country's development trajectory and stability. To find durable solutions to displacement should thus be of global, regional and national interest.

The Panel must not shy away from addressing the two main root causes of internal displacement: armed conflict/violence and disasters/the adverse effects of climate change.

In its report, the Panel should already include a clear vision of the way in which its recommendations will be implemented, addressing both the question of regional and global IDP governance and the role of States. To that effect, the Panel could consider setting up a follow-up mechanism or process. In addition, the panel could consider recommending the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internal displacement.

The role of local actors/municipalities for the inclusion of internally displaced people is essential. They play a key role in ensuring that the different segments of the population can continue to exercise their rights, access basic services and that the needs and vulnerabilities of displacement affected communities are acknowledged and addressed. It is typically at the local level where practical solutions are found and innovative approaches emerge, where private enterprises, public administrations, associations and individuals collaborate to develop promising initiatives. The expertise and experience of local actors therefore deserve more attention. Good practices that they develop should inform strategic planning and policy development at the national, regional and global level. Conversely, local governments and actors need to receive the necessary financial and human resources and support to address displacement-related challenges in an integrated manner.

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

A particularly promising approach to catalyze action among both donor and affected countries consists in demonstrating the long-term economic impact of protracted internal displacement. In this way, international action on internal displacement can be re-conceptualized not as a threat to national sovereignty, but as a vitally important contribution to achieving inclusive sustainable development and peace in the long-term.

Other lines of argument could a) focus on the link between internal and cross-border displacement and/or irregular migration, justifying increased international action on internal displacement as a way to prevent cross-border flight as well as unsafe and irregular migration; or b) emphasize the ever-increasing humanitarian funding needs, justifying improved IDP protection and increased action to find durable solutions as a way to reduce humanitarian funding needs.

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.*

A key factor in ensuring a more effective response is the coordination among donors regarding the question of effective funding mechanisms. Globally, donors should coordinate amongst each other to adopt a coherent approach to support collective outcomes and create corresponding financial incentives. Donors should also ensure a swift implementation of the recommendations by the OECD DAC regarding the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. At country levels, donors should meet together with the RC Offices and discuss a) best practices on the use of pooled funds; ii) multi-year funding packages for collective outcomes; iii) use of cash grants; iv) support for local authorities and civil society; and v) alternative financing models.

**SDGs:** To the extent that not addressing protracted internal displacement is recognized as a key obstacle to achieving the SDGs, all UN entities should consider their mandated responsibilities also with respect to internal displacement. States should include IDPs in national and local development plans to achieve SDGs. In addition, internal displacement should be included in the High-Level Political Forum and affected countries could be encouraged and supported in including internal displacement into their voluntary national reviews.

**Climate change:** Within the UNFCCC process, the work and recommendations of the Task Force on Displacement with regards to internal displacement should be promoted and the IPCC should be encouraged to issue a special report on climate change and displacement.

**DRR:** States should include disaster displacement in their DRR-related national and local plans and strategies. To that effect, the guidelines on how to include disaster displacement into national DRR strategies should be promoted.

**Displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change:** The vast majority of internal displacement is disaster-related internal displacement. In 2019, out of the 33.4 million newly internally displaced persons, 24.9 million were displaced in the context of disasters. Against the backdrop of climate change, these numbers are likely to rise. It is therefore of utmost importance to be better prepared, invest more in prevention and work early towards solutions. In this regard, Switzerland would like to express its support for submission by the Chair of the Envoy of the PDD to the Panel.

**Peacebuilding:** there are two dimensions to the interface between forced displacement and peace that require consideration and further analysis: a) In what way do fragility, violence and armed conflicts trigger internal displacement and involuntary migration movements? How do violations of human rights and international humanitarian law contribute to internal displacement? b) To what extent are displacement situations not only the consequence of conflict, but influence conflict dynamics and therefore also conflict transformation, including dealing with the past? Strategic and systematic inclusion of forced displacement related challenges in peace policy and programming offer untapped potential for conflict prevention and transformation. At the same time, conflict-sensitive displacement and migration policies are a vital contribution to peacebuilding. An improved understanding and articulation of the nexus between forced displacement and peace will enable states, peace and displacement policy practitioners and affected populations to work together more closely and to achieve better results in both fields.

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.*

*On the humanitarian-development-peace nexus:*

In recent years, the international community has reflected extensively on the nexus between development, humanitarian aid and peace. Whilst the nexus between humanitarian aid and development is rooted in discussions on linking relief and rehabilitation to development, the triple nexus gained traction only over the last five years. The introduction of the concept of Sustaining Peace following the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in 2015, the growing importance of the Peacebuilding Fund and the introduction of the New Way of Working paved the way for the

integration of the humanitarian, development and peace instruments towards reaching collective outcomes.

Promoted in respective strategies of agencies of the three instruments, however, the triple nexus has so far not been operationalized in a systematic way. The reasons are manifold: the challenge of internal displacement was traditionally considered a humanitarian issue and – consequently - aid has been provided in a fragmented sectoral way, dependent on the mandate of the humanitarian agencies. Even though perspectives on internal displacement have started to change, institutional bottlenecks, competition among agencies, funding mechanisms and organizational cultures can prevent a meaningful collaboration among development, humanitarian and peace agencies.

Finding durable solutions for displacement-affected communities at global, regional and local levels is a best practice for strengthening the triple nexus. At the core of durable solutions lies the recognition that the challenge of internal displacement cannot be solved with humanitarian aid alone. It is only through the integrated collaboration of peace, development and humanitarian aid actors at the level of government, UN agencies, as well as donors that durable solutions for internal displacement are achieved. This requires the recognition of all stakeholders that such a collaboration is more than the sum of its parts.

By providing recommendations on how to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the Panel might want to gain insight from contexts, in which such integrated approaches have been successfully developed. It might then determine whether and to what extent such good practices and the conducive factors which enabled them might be applicable to other contexts.

#### *On the role of the Resident Coordinator*

Insofar as they are responsible for bringing the UN system together at the country level, it has been recognized that resident coordinators play a crucial role in overcoming some of the challenges mentioned above and in promoting the humanitarian-development nexus. Where they are part of integrated missions through their designation of DSRSGs, they can also reach out to peace actors. Hence, it is of vital importance that the recent enhancement of their role through the UN development system reforms is not hampered by lack funding. RCs should be able to use these reforms to assume a leadership role in addressing internal displacement and in bringing together the expertise and respective mandates of the entire UN family in a given country context.

The capacity of RCs to address protracted displacement can be strengthened, for example, by enhancing dedicated staff resources within their offices. Several RC Offices have already benefitted from technical as well as high-level expertise and coordination capacity with regard to internal displacement. Establishing a unit for durable solutions within the RCO has proven to be highly effective in providing such expertise.

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.*

Since the resources that are currently available to address internal displacement are not sufficient to work towards long-term solutions, the World Bank and other financial institutions need to be involved. In addition, innovative models that provide incentives for private actors to invest in solutions at scale need to be developed. The Panel could consider the financing models developed to support refugee-hosting countries and propose them for internal displacement (making sure that governments do not receive financing based on the number of IDPs they have, as this could create a reverse incentive).

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.*

There is urgent need for systematized, disaggregated data collection that can be used in urban, camp, and non-camp settings.

IDP statistics must better link to national budgets and policy processes. To that effect, the work of the UN Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics should be supported.

The data-related recommendations of the Panel should feed into the World Data Forum, which will take place in Bern in October 2020.

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

See above 3.-6.

The role of cities: In order to improve the emergency assistance for IDPs and identify durable solutions, the international community must acknowledge that most IDPs seek shelter with host families and outside camp settings. Their first entry point is at local level thus being under the responsibility of local municipalities. Although the New Urban Agenda includes multiple references to internal displacement, the reality that most IDPs seek shelter with host families or outside of camp settings has not been fully integrated into the system of international, national and local actors yet. This has implications for humanitarian actors seeking to identify IDPs in need of emergency assistance, as well as development actors' ability to find durable solutions. Efforts must therefore focus on identifying and sharing effective practices on a) how to identify IDPs and ensure their needs are adequately met; b) how to apply an urban planning dimension to the development of durable solutions strategies; c) how to apply an area-based approach to internal displacement in practice; d) how to strengthen municipalities' capacity to provide assistance to IDPs, including by ensuring that fiscal transfers and budget allocations are not calculated on the basis of a municipality's host population, and e) analyze to what extent existing systems cover IDPs and can absorb shocks.

More analysis and more programming needs to address the question of livelihood for IDPs, as this will help IDPs move towards self-reliance. IDPs need to be provided with opportunities for sustainable employment and decent work, and they should be assisted in adapting their skills to enter the urban labor market. To that effect, partnerships with the private sector should be built and pertinent labor market analysis as part of durable solutions strategies should be pursued.

IDPs should also have access to basic services including health, education, and housing. The importance of access to health care is particularly evident in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure that the vulnerabilities and needs of IDPs are adequately reflected in programming, collaboration with organizations working in the "Accountability to Affected Populations" domain should be strengthened. In this regard, donors, NGOs and INGOs as well as UN agencies should adhere to normative standards, such as the Sphere Standards or the Core Humanitarian standard.

Relatedly, a truly inclusive approach that ensures that the rights, needs and vulnerabilities of *all* internally displaced persons are taken into account requires the consideration of age, gender, and diversity, including disability. In this regard, Switzerland would like to extend its support for the submission of a consortium of NGOs, led by the Women's Refugee Commission, on "Ensuring an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Inclusive Approach to Internal Displacement."

Switzerland would also like to express its support to the submission prepared by the GP20 Initiative