



UN Women Inputs to UN Secretary General's 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.***

Across the world, women and girls face discrimination and violence every day due to gender inequality, and these conditions are further exacerbated in crisis and displacement contexts. With women and girls making up an estimated 50 per cent of the over 70.8 million forcibly displaced worldwide¹, it is necessary to ensure that States, the international community and civil society, not only address their specific needs and aspirations are addressed, but also seek out and utilize their capacity and contributions in a manner that is informed and aimed at facilitating positive transformation and empowerment.

Traditional responses to forced displacement have proven inadequate with increasing numbers of people being left without access to durable solutions. With the average length of displacement now measured in decades, it is essential to develop innovative solutions that recognize and address the diverse needs of women, girls, boys and men, and are conceived and implemented in a gender responsive way. Attaining solutions for displaced persons, including diverse women and girls, requires the concerted efforts of all actors, particularly States, from the early stages of displacement, including in emergencies.

It is essential that the provision of services to displaced populations offers viable long-term solutions that protect their rights and maintains their dignity. Central to this must be the development of their self-reliance and empowerment - especially for women and girls – allowing them to build a future of their own choosing and freeing them from dependence and vulnerability. For women and girls, this requires an interlinked and multi-sectoral approach that addresses, strongly and without compromise, women's equal and meaningful participation in decision making processes, specifically in peace and reconciliation efforts; equitable access to education, health and livelihoods opportunities; and effective gender mainstreaming efforts into all modalities aimed at providing assistance to displaced persons. In many cases, ensuring women's contributions and increased self-reliance will lead to positive social and economic outcomes not only for themselves, but for their families, communities and host countries as well, meaning more effective and cost-efficient service delivery.

¹ UNHCR 2018

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

Similar to the normative and commitment framework and architecture that was developed for refugees (NY Declaration on Refugees and Migrants 2016, the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework 2017), a similar dedicated system needs to be put in place to serve and protect the needs and rights of internally displaced people.

Such a framework will require shared global responsibility, support networks and available resources and capacity to help alleviate pressure on crisis affected states both in terms of prevention and response – especially those affected by climate change.

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.*

With half a billion people in over 20 countries and territories currently affected by protracted crises², and with the ever mounting threat of adverse climate change, it is clear that siloed humanitarian response, separated from DRR and developmental strategies and sustainable peace efforts, is no longer a viable model for the vast majority of crisis affected and/or at-risk populations.

Strategies that address the vulnerabilities and rights of the displaced across the humanitarian, development, peace nexus must set out a durable solution road map. Such longer term strategies open up the potential for transformative change in the lives of displaced women, girls, men and boys as was noted in [UNW's 2015 study on Gender and Humanitarian Outcomes](#). For affected women and girls, this entails developing viable long-term solutions that develops their self-reliance and empowerment, as well as protecting their rights and maintain their dignity. This will lead to positive social and economic outcomes, reducing the impact of cyclical or recurrent shocks and stresses, and sustaining peace, essential for development. This will not only benefit the women and girls themselves, but also their families, communities and host communities as well, meaning more effective and cost-efficient service delivery.

For women and girls, this requires an interlinked and multi-sectoral approach that addresses:

- Equitable access to education, health and livelihoods opportunities;
- Facilitating women and girl's right to choose as individuals the durable solution path that best meets their own aspirations and abilities;
- Effective gender mainstreaming efforts into all modalities aimed at providing assistance to displaced persons.
- Women's equal and meaningful participation in decision making processes, including in peace and reconciliation efforts;

² FAO 2020

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.*

Efforts to create durable solutions to displacement and to address the conditions – including attaining and sustaining peace – which caused it, that do not address the specific needs, rights and contributions from half of the affected population – namely the women and girls – are highly unlikely to succeed.

All HDPN strategies need to be based on a gender analysis that sets out the causes and the specific impact of the displacement on the affected women, girls, men and boys. The participation of women as contributors and leaders in the decision making, planning and implementation processes of any given strategic plan is also essential to their success.

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.*

Investment in local women's organizations that represents the needs of displaced women and girls is essential to achieving durable solutions in displacement settings. As it stands, funding to local women's organizations is significantly lacking. Often treated as the delivery arm of larger NGOs, local women's organizations are not consulted on programme design, delivery, or monitoring and evaluation. They are often asked to work in the hardest to reach places, because they are often the only ones that can reach into those places, and yet their expertise and knowledge from doing this work is not actively engaged in programme design, implementation and accountability mechanisms.

Commitments to funding local women's groups have already been made and must be honored. At the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016, signatories pledged increased support for local women's groups (raising levels of funding to women's groups from 1% to 4% by 2020); universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH); GBV prevention; gender responsive humanitarian programming; and full compliance with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents. They set a target of 15% for gender equality and women and girls' empowerment programming in humanitarian settings. They also committed to apply the IASC, ECHO and other gender and age markers to 100% of humanitarian funding allocations by 2018, and that funding would be allocated only to actions that explicitly included a gender analysis with Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) by 2018.

Funding for gender mainstreamed and targeted programming that contributes towards gender transformative results and/or addresses specific identified needs of displaced women, girls, men and boys remains under-funded and must also be prioritized. UNW's research shows that gender

mainstreamed programming receives approximately 61% of what was requested from donors, but targeted programming only receives about 39%³.

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

The need for gender analysis and the use of sex and age disaggregated data is recognized as a key in being able to get a complete understanding of the specific impacts of a crisis on the affected women, girls, men and boys in order to formalize an effective response. Despite many policy commitments to apply these standards in data collection, gaps still remain in their implementation. In the [IASC 2018 Gender Accountability Framework Report](#) it was noted that whilst 90% of HNOs included a gender analysis in the crisis statement and 54% of them had at least half of the sectors demonstrate the use of SADD, only 44% of them had both. Furthermore, there was a gap between what was identified in gender analysis of the HNO and what was finally prioritized, with less than half the HRPs including the already identified needs of women and girls in the final plan.

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

Effective response management, coordination and accountability that meets the needs of displaced women and girls requires the inclusion of the voices of the displaced women and girls in the decision making processes. In the IASC 2018 Gender Accountability Framework, only one third (6 of 18) of the crisis contexts that reported back stated that they had included local women's representation in the planning process.

To ensure adequate integration of gender into the management of displacement response requires sustained gender-in-displacement-settings senior capacity sitting in and advising the HCT or its equivalent. Further, there should be an active interagency gender coordination group tasked with ensuring gender integration across all segments of the response programme cycle, including a gender accountability framework based on established commitments, roles and responsibilities and standards (c.f. [IASC Gender Accountability Framework](#)).