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**Advancing Human Development Approaches  
in Addressing Internal Displacement**

**UNDP Written Submission for the  
UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement**

**June 2020**

## Introduction

UNDP welcomes the establishment of the first ever UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Since the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in 1998, the number of persons displaced within their own countries rose significantly. Last year, the number of people displaced as a result of conflict reached an all-time high of over 41 million. In 2018 alone, an additional 28 million women, men and children were displaced from their homes due to conflict and disasters.

This dire situation is further compounded with the COVID-19 pandemic which has profoundly changed the global, regional and country landscape. New UNDP estimates for global human development – as a combined measure of the world’s education, health and living standards – is on course to decline this year - for the first time, since the concept was developed in 1990. The decline is expected across the majority of countries - rich and poor - in every region. Our data dashboards reveal widely disparate levels of ability to prepare and respond. Developing countries, and those in crisis, will suffer the most, along with the already vulnerable all over the world; those that rely on the informal economy, women, those living with disabilities, refugees, and the displaced, as well as those that suffer from stigma.

In response, UNDP advocates for responding to internal displacement crises through a human development and people-centred approach and recognizing the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to safety, protection, opportunity, and for advancing themselves. It focuses on rebuilding the lives of displaced persons in dignity and to strengthen host communities under pressure to expand services, create jobs and address long-standing development issues. This means bringing the humanitarian and development communities together in complementary ways to support countries throughout a crisis – from strengthening resilience and preparedness from the onset to creating lasting solutions.

This is central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) principle of leaving no one behind and the importance of addressing the most vulnerable first. The UN 2030 Development Agenda is a *“plan of action for people, planet and prosperity”* to strengthen universal peace and eradicate poverty. *“The special needs of people affected by complex humanitarian emergencies”* are specifically recognized, notably refugees, displaced persons and host communities. The SDGs goes beyond improving socio-economic conditions and *seeks to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.*

Working in over 30 countries in forced displacement settings, UNDP uses a resilience lens in a complex crisis or disaster which can contribute to durable solutions in the short, medium and long term, by:

- Supporting Governments with national and local strategy, policy and institutional development that are inclusive of IDPs;
- Supporting efforts to prevent and/or minimize the risks of people being forcibly displaced;
- Supporting IDPs and host communities to cope and recover from shocks (resilience-based development approach). This can be through livelihoods recovery, governance, justice, rule of law, and social cohesion programmes;
- Where possible, enabling voluntary, dignified and sustainable return and community-based reintegration of IDPs.

This paper has been prepared according to the guiding questions as requested by the HLP Secretariat accompanied with reflections and lessons learned from a selected set of UNDP Country Offices. UNDP affirms its support to contribute to the Panel’s deliberations towards finding concrete long-term solutions. More than ever, this is the opportunity for humanitarian, development and peace partners to join forces to reach the furthest behind first, not only to meet their urgent humanitarian needs, but to reduce risk and vulnerability, and build a more sustainable, inclusive and peaceful future.

**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.**

### **Addressing Internal Displacement, Achieving Sustainable Development Goals**

The 2030 Development Agenda is a universal agenda adopted unanimously by all UN member states which takes the longer-term perspective and commitment. With the SDG Decade of Action, there is a strategic opportunity to concretely define the global goals and targets towards addressing and ending forced displacement, that are aligned with the universal SDGs. This can help to ensure that the 2030 Development Agenda works for IDPs and host communities especially when they are the furthest left behind.

In line with the UN Reform agenda and commitment towards strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, UNDP recommends the updating and renewing of the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions as an integrated protection framework with a whole-of-society approach. This will help towards increasing the predictability of responses and solutions, including clarifying normative and operational mandates, roles and responsibilities for humanitarian, development and peace actors operating in internal displacement settings.

Building on existing collaborations and innovative joint-initiatives, the updated Framework on integrated and comprehensive solutions could be informed by commissioning independent meta-review and/or evaluation of ongoing joint-programmes and initiatives on prevention, response and solutions in internal displacement settings that works for IDPs and host communities. This can be carried out as part of the planned consultation with IDPs and host communities.

Thirdly, UNDP recommends prioritising policy research and analysis towards understanding the multi-dimensional development impact of displacement on persons and communities on the move, host communities, local and national development. This includes policy research such as the following topics:

- enabling factors that can lead to internal displacement;
- factors that minimize likelihood of displacement;
- inequalities, discrimination and specific vulnerabilities arising from displacement, especially for long periods and its impact on local and national development;
- coping and risk management behaviours of IDPs and host communities;
- impact of returns and reintegration policies on local and national development;
- insurance and/or risk financing in internal displacement contexts

The research and analysis above will need to be differentiated according to conflict- or climate-related internal displacement as well as when there are mixed/interlinked factors that has led to internal displacement.

Finally, building on the GP20 Global Action Plan, UNDP proposes strengthening a global joint-collaboration such as on #EndInternalDisplacement2030, a joined-up solidarity and advocacy effort for the next 10 years focused on identifying and highlighting innovative solutions towards addressing protracted displacement, prevention, response, recovery and solutions for the purpose of scaling up. This can also be the global platform to define and track sustainable development outcomes, goals and targets for IDPs and host communities by 2030 and implementing these with member states and partners.

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

**Promoting Resilience-based Development and Prosperity for All**

UNDP recommends placing **resilience-based development at the front and centre of IDP and host community support and solutions**. This is in recognition that host communities are the first to absorb the shock of any major influx of displaced persons, often demonstrating extraordinary generosity. Increasingly, displaced persons are residing outside of camps, without access to humanitarian support and most of them are relying on the informal economy.

Experience in responding to large-scale movements of displaced persons shows the need to combine short-term responses to displacement impacts with medium to long-term development interventions by building on local and national capacities. A multi-stakeholder resilience-based development<sup>1</sup> approach does this by bringing together humanitarian and development, and where relevant, peace interventions in crisis and post-crisis situations, supporting host communities and displaced persons to better cope with and recover from displacement impacts, and to protect development gains. A resilience-based development approach will help ensure that affected communities not only recover from crises, but also improve their prospects to contribute to national development and advance towards lasting peace and prosperity.

UNDP recommends supporting municipalities and/or local governments to plan for high numbers of displaced persons to arrive in their communities and ensure access to basic services through participatory local governance systems. The private sector, municipal government, civil society and the population should be capacitated to plan and budget in an inclusive manner for service delivery, such as health, education, documentation, local economic development, solid waste management etc. This needs to be done in coordination with the national governments. Municipalities can also play a key role in strengthening social cohesion between IDPs and host communities, where tensions occur.

**UNDP Somalia – Working Together on the Durable Solutions Initiative**

Since 2006, UNDP Somalia has been one of the leading organizations supporting the Durable Solutions Initiative launched jointly by the Government of Somalia and the United Nations. UNDP in Somalia has three dedicated projects in the area of durable solutions, Saameynta (funded by SDC and the Government of the Netherlands), Midnimo II[PBF] and EU REINTEG [EU]. Saameynta focuses on implementing for the first-time land value sharing models that are expected to generate financing for service delivery to women and men in a situation of displacement, as well as for other vulnerable groups in urban centres affected by displacement. The project has also a strong focus on local governance systems and participation of IDPs in local decision making on the revenues generated by the land sharing models. UNDP leads this initiative that is implemented jointly with IOM and UN Habitat. In the same partnership configuration, UNDP is leading in Galmudug and Hirshabelle, Midnimo II. The project focus is on social cohesion, urban resilience as well as livelihoods and employment for displaced women and men. Finally, UNDP implements in Mogadishu, together with UNHCR and UN Habitat the EU Reintegration programme, focusing on business incubation for IDPs, cash for work initiatives and public private partnerships. UNDP has mainstreamed support to internally displaced groups also through other initiatives, which do not focus

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<sup>1</sup> A resilience-based approach is a transformative process of strengthening the capacity of women, men, communities, institutions, and countries to anticipate, prevent, recover from, and transform in the aftermath of shocks, stresses and change. For host communities, this refers to supporting them to cope with, recover from the impact of displacement and protect development gains.

primarily on displacement but undeniably contribute to durable solutions. The Joint Programme on Local Governance has thus included displaced populations in its service delivery budgeting, planning, as well as in urban planning interventions, Dhulka Nabada (the Land of Peace – PBF) supports the creation of a fair land administration system, looking with particular interest at land tenure security for IDPs. The Joint Framework on Rule of Law, led by UNDP, has facilitated the provision of legal assistance and Alternative Dispute Resolution for displacement affected groups. The Integrated Electoral Support Group which aim at including IDPs in Electoral Processes and through the Innovation Challenges of the Economic Recovery and Institutional Development which has involved IDPs in developing business solutions with applied innovation technology.

### **Results, challenges and lessons learned**

UNDP has been a key actor that has fundamentally helped shifting the approach with which internal displacement issues had been previously dealt with, supporting long term and developmental approaches to processes of local integration, return and resettlement. UNDP has introduced for the first-time business incubation approaches to support long term employment for displacement affected communities. UNDP has increased access to justice in settlements making available ADR options for displaced groups that do not have access to legal remedial. Through the integrated work with UNSOM, IDPs will be in a much better position to vote at the general elections set for 2020/2021. UNDP has also advocated and actively engaged local governments in the discussion and policies related to resolving urban displacement and provide services for displaced populations. UNDP's support to the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development also meant that women IDPs in hard to reach areas could participate in national consultations aimed at establishing the status of women and girls. The information is to be used as a baseline against which to measure the impact of government commitments to advance the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda and more so of those women and girls most left behind.

IDPs are not a homogeneous group and the differential impact of development processes on IDP as a whole and different groups within the IDP (like women and children or different clans) is complex, where different actor behavior and systemic factors and processes that combine to realize impact of development action are still partially understood. Although the situation is improving, the absence of (real-time) data and analytics, combined with a structure to deliver development programmes that are still predominantly based on multi-annual fixed-plan propositions, pose challenges to ensure appropriate adaptive planning of action to explore solutions and create the desired systemic changes. A related challenge is that multiple actors (including government, private sector, NGOs and development agencies) support development action directly focusing on IDPs, but often doing so with very different intentions and very different strategic notions behind their interventions. This makes it complicated to stimulate coherence and consistency in both action and approach, reinforced by the situation where no single actor has sufficient capacity or power to 'push through' solutions.

The challenge for UNDP – and other durable solutions actors - in Somalia lies in achieving impact result at scale. Until now roughly half of the caseload of internally displaced persons has been reached by Durable Solutions interventions, and it is unclear if those will be able to have the expected long-term effects on voluntary safe and dignified local integration, return and resettlement. A durable solutions approach could be an entry point and a game changer to address power imbalances between the different genders, the different generations, the different constituencies. Normative values that speak to power sharing and inclusivity will go a long way in sustaining resilience and ultimately development.

### **Partnerships with Government and other UN agencies**

In its engagement on displacement solutions UNDP has delivered primarily in a joint programme modality. Key UN partners are UNHCR, IOM, UN Habitat and UNIDO. UNDP operates its durable solutions interventions through

the Ministry of Planning Investment Economic Development, the Ministry of Interior Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Public Works Reconstruction and Housing. UNDP leverages a very strong partnership with local governments and care-taker administrations in all Federal Member States.

**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.**

### **Integrated Assessment, Analysis and Programming**

Addressing protracted internal displacement can no longer be a purely a humanitarian concern. The SDGs underscore the need for development action and investments in preventing, responding and resolving protracted displacement.

While this is not a new discussion, the nature of the discussion has changed. Firstly, there is the renewed importance given to the prevention agenda. Prevention is the best way to prevent crisis from happening in the first place – and one of its corollaries, displacement. Prevention of conflicts, but also prevention of disasters due to natural hazards. And secondly, because of the momentum around the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, which calls for much more deliberate, concerted and joined-up efforts between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors in a context specific manner to reduce risks, vulnerabilities and needs. As a New Way of Working, UNDP recommends that the thinking and discussion shifts away from separating what humanitarians do, and this is what development does, towards making these interventions more seamless and integrated. It is about changing and incentivizing the business model to one that is joined up instead of one that is linear and chronological. This means working jointly from the start through joint-assessments and analysis to have a common understanding of the factors that are driving displacement (whether conflict, disaster, climate change) and based on the findings to develop joined up responses and programming in a predictable and coherent way.

### **UNDP Iraq – Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS)**

UNDP’s Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) was established in 2015 to support the Government of Iraq’s (GOI) stabilization effort. The primary objective of FFS has been to create the conditions to allow the safe and dignified return of approximately 6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their places of origin across territories formally occupied by ISIS. As a partnership driven initiative, FFS works closely with the GOI-at the national governorate and local levels, the Global Coalition to defeat ISIS, the international donor community and a host of UN agencies – most prominently UNMAS, IOM, UNHCR, UN-Habitat and OCHA to address the most critical stabilization needs in Iraq. Focusing on four ‘windows’ of operation, FFS interventions have targeted the rehabilitation of war damaged public infrastructure and repairs to housing, the creation of short-term livelihood opportunities, the provision of capacity support to municipalities, and delivery of interventions to encourage community level social cohesion.

The conditions in which the FFS has been operating continue to be extraordinarily challenging and in many ways represent the complex dynamics that typically test recovery operations in contemporary conflict situations. Utilizing the local private sector, FFS has delivered more than 2,300 projects at varying scale, many of which have been implemented in the most fragile and conflict affected areas of Iraq.

The partnership approach of FFS has been central to the project’s achievements. Fostering strong partnerships with the GOI at all levels, the international community, UN agencies and civil society have ensured strong results

delivery contributing to the return of more than 4.7 million individuals. UNDP leveraged other AFP's expertise such as UNMAS on demining activities in thousands of heavily contaminated project sites; IOM on latest analysis of IDP and returnee dynamics; OCHA to ensure coordination on returns response; and complementing the GOI's reconstruction agency to scale-up rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. To date, more than 9 million Iraqis have benefitted from FFS interventions.

The next phase of stabilization as conceptualized by UNDP recognizes the urgency of facilitating the return of the remaining 1.4 million IDPs who now face the threat of protracted displacement. UNDP will continue to rely on proven partnership modalities to work with its established network of government, donor, UN agencies, private sector, civil society and NGO community with a range of interventions to enable remaining IDPs to return home, prevent secondary displacement or ensure a durable solution is found for the most vulnerable individuals. UNDP will explore (a) durable solutions for remaining IDPs through a coalition of agencies led by IOM and UNDP; (b) support the reintegration of ISIS-associated families; and (c) mainstream HR and environmental sustainability.

### **UNHCR and UNDP Integrated Collaboration in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

UNHCR and UNDP are currently implementing a joint project within the framework of the 2019-2020 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the DRC situation in refugee hosting areas which also fits into humanitarian-development programming initiatives in the country. Following a pilot phase in Haut Uele and North Kivu during 2019, the project is focused in North Kivu, Eastern DRC, for 2020. Through an effective humanitarian and development response, both organizations can better understand and address the needs of those in displacement, as well as of the host communities, ensuring that opportunities for sustainable, people-centered development are provided. Within the humanitarian-development nexus, they acknowledge the importance of combining their efforts to improve the living conditions of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities, and to respond to the hopes of Congolese men, women, girls and boys, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability. The project partners with local authorities, the police, civil society organizations including women and youth groups, as well as community leaders.

### **Results achieved and Good practices**

Thus far, the following have been achieved: better mapping of needs relating to local governance and decentralization process in refugees/returnees/IDPs' hosting communities; police officers equipped with skills to address refugees/returnees/IDPs' safety and protection needs; and local development plans taking into account the needs of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities developed.

Lessons learned from this pilot phase include relief from the local population from UNDP's involvement in the project/intervention areas, as they had development needs/priorities going beyond the mandate of UNHCR; the attitudes of the local populations vis-à-vis refugees, returnees, IDPs are slightly changing as a result of the project approach (addressing the needs of those in displacement, as well as of the host communities, ensuring that opportunities for sustainable, people-centered development are provided); and better understanding of the concept and expectations of citizen participation has led to a more positive attitude of the population vis-à-vis those who are marginalized and vulnerable in the communities.



#### **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.**

##### **Integrated Solutions**

Root causes of forced displacement include insufficient development gains, lack of access to social basic services and essential livelihoods, protracted conflicts, violent extremism, discrimination and lack of good governance, weak rule of law, human rights abuses, lack of accountability, systematic exclusion and marginalization, climate change, weak natural resources management and environmental degradation (including for instance land degradation and water scarcity).

The UN Secretary General's Report in Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants urges *"investments in sustainable development and conflict-prevention, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is more cost-effective than mobilizing a response to large movements."*

UNDP recommends investing in strengthening development-humanitarian-peace capacities to develop integrated solutions packages in alignment with the SDGs together with Governments and regional entities.

##### **UNDP Sudan Programme on IDPs, Returnees and Durable Solutions**

###### **Working with IDPs and host communities all together**

In Sudan, UNDP supported IDPs, refugees and host communities to come together to support community work. This included the rehabilitation of irrigations schemes in White Nile State where IDPs and host communities worked jointly in the earth work. This enabled the IDPs to be perceived as people who contribute to the local community development rather than as a burden to communities, hence regaining a sense of dignity among the displaced population.

By using a community-based approach in assisting IDPs and host communities, this enabled IDPs to be involved in the planning, execution and monitoring of assistance. This is achieved by ensuring that community-level institutions managing assistance have sufficient representation and active participation of IDPs.

With partners, UNHCR and UNDP ensured that short term humanitarian assistance provided to displaced population in camps or settlements are linked to the long-term development ventures implemented in host communities. This led to synergies and complementarity and guaranteed the services provided by UNHCR as a humanitarian actor are maintained and sustained by income obtained from the economic ventures generated by development interventions implemented in host communities by UNDP.

Similarly, UNDP partnered with UNHCR and Sudan Commission for Refugees to support refugees and host communities in White Nile State. The project saw the rehabilitation of irrigation canals by UNDP and teaching farmers new farming technology in wheat production to increase domestic production in conflict-impacted communities aiming to create jobs, foster peace and improve food supply. The intervention brought 46 square kilometers of new farmland under cultivation along the rehabilitated canals ensuring water-demanding crops like wheat can flourish. This in turn led to a successful commercial harvest of up to 202.5 tons of wheat (over 4,050 sacks) - enough for 4,860,000 loaves of Sudan's traditional bread (retail value: 9.7 million Sudanese Pounds or US\$ 176,000). The work also provided an opportunity to strengthen ties between displaced groups and host communities, addressing previous tensions over resources and livelihoods.



## **UNDP is leading on the Recovery, Return and Reintegration (RRR) Humanitarian Sector**

The RRR Sector is dedicated to track IDPs spontaneous returns, coordinate Durable Solutions and monitor issues in return areas. UNDP supports the RRR working groups in five states and Khartoum through which government line ministries and focal government agencies like Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and Voluntary Returns and Reintegration Commission (VRRRC) are represented together with all Humanitarian actors in each region. The RRR track and triangulates reports on Return movements and organizes inter agencies missions for Fact Finding, Verification of return (UNHCR-led), registration (IOM-Led) and produces reports on number of returnees and situations of areas of return. Cumulatively, the sector produces annual figures of returnees that feeds into the HNO and HRP for the country.

### **Lessons learned**

- 1) A successful Durable Solutions intervention must be owned and led by the national government
- 2) Engagement of Government line ministries and in the early stages of planning through implementation will not only guarantee that interventions are aligned with state and government priorities, but also ensures that concerned ministries are able to provide technical advice and assistance in the implementation of assistance and ensures sustainability.
- 3) In protracted crisis, experience demonstrated that options for DS is not as rigid as in the guidelines, there could be combination of options for the family and that should be taken into consideration and planning process.
- 4) For any solution to be durable, issues of access to land for livelihood and for housing need to be solicited; as well as guaranteeing security and availability of basic services the three are central in the options selection of the DS.
- 5) Letting communities to take lead role in managing assistance provided to them is vital for sustainability and a viable exit strategy.
- 6) Establishment of gender responsive and an inclusive community management committees (CMCs) which draw membership from all elements of the community. Working with such community level institutions guarantee community ownership and created a platform for the participation of women, IDPs and other minority groups to be involved in decision making processes governing their affairs.

## **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.**

In order to secure timely, predictable and adequate public and private funding, UNDP recommends enhancing national governments in developing **coordinated funding and financing strategy for large scale internal displacement**. The Strategy can elaborate on existing and emerging funding and financing opportunities, grants and/or loans, to attract more flexible and predictable multi-year funding to respond to the needs of IDPs within a changing aid environment. This includes rising private development financing, the rising trend of earmarking ODA and the impressive trend of rising domestic resource mobilisations in many middle-income countries. It can be aligned to the discussions and negotiations under SDG17 on global partnerships.

In developing the strategy, there is also an opportunity to pursue partnerships and resources to help to connect shared global development and humanitarian goals and targets to the specific priorities of national governments

and the challenges IDPs and host communities face. For IDP-hosting areas, the strategy can give examples of different funding and financing models that are available which can be adapted to national needs and contexts.

For example, UNDP proposes working together with partners to explore how insurance can meet the needs IDPs such as by integration into national schemes that can help ensure continuity of access to social welfare and social protection. UNDP also recommends promoting close collaboration with the Joint Multinational Development Banks (MDB) Group, established by the Africa Development Bank, the European Bank for Recovery and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank Group and the World Bank Group to identify joint country engagement opportunities.

### **UNDP Colombia - Improving durable solutions and peacebuilding through Human Security Business Partnerships in post-agreement Colombia**

With UN partners, UNDP and UNHCR is collaborating on a project with a major impact on sustainable solutions issues. As a global pilot of this methodological approach, the initiative combined the protection approach with the early recovery approach in a program called the "Transitional Solutions Initiative" (2012-2017). This program took place in 17 municipalities in the country with more than 35,000 displaced peoples and host communities. This project had a holistic approach, that built on community-based solutions and is articulated with institutional authorities. Building on this experience, UNDP and UNHCR continues to collaborate (2019-2021) with more focus on generating public-private partnerships by actively linking the private sector in the search for solutions in processes of return, relocation, reconciliation and integration of IDPS in territories focused on by the peace process.

### **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.**

UNDP affirms that there is critical demand for more coherent data on forced displacement across humanitarian and development partners, including reliable information about the development impact of large movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) including the socioeconomic impact on host communities. A common understanding of the context and the risks of large movements can provide a better basis for joint humanitarian and development efforts, with the appropriate linkages to peacebuilding efforts. Integrated, joint analyses that include humanitarian, development and peacebuilding dimensions remain the exception rather than the rule.

In this context, UNDP recommends investing in shared, strategic analysis, from identifying pre-crisis risks and baselines, to in-crisis and immediate post-crisis analyses, considering the evolving needs and institutional dynamics. These analyses should be localized wherever possible through partnership with regional, national and/or local academic and research institutions. Mechanisms to share analyses between international actors to be strengthened to minimise duplication and increase complementarity

Crucially, UNDP also recommends strengthening regional, national and local government capacities through multi-stakeholder collaboration to build a joint evidence base on the social and economic impact of internal displacement, as a basis for well-informed policies and programming. This will require investment in intensive, technical advice and training support for local and national actors to lead assessment and analyses.

### **UNDP Afghanistan – Human Journeys: Mapping Afghan Returnees Journey from Pakistan to Afghanistan**

Since 2002, millions of Afghans have returned to Afghanistan, either to settle there, or as part of an onward journey to other countries. Reintegrating them sustainably is a major challenge for the Government of Afghanistan

and development and humanitarian actors. This challenge is likely to increase further as a result of COVID-19 because many of the circa 2.4 million Afghans still hosted by Pakistan may now return to Afghanistan sooner rather than later.

Afghan returnees have been identified as one of the most vulnerable population groups within the country. In addition to their acute need for access to health services, education and shelter, their lack of opportunities for vocational training and employment increases their poverty and exposes them to episodes of further displacement. Returnees often become de-facto IDPs with conflict, lack of security and loss of community networks preventing them from returning to their places of origin. Reintegration of Afghan returnees demonstrates the clear dependency between the humanitarian and development action where initial emergency assistance must be supplemented by long-term multi-sectoral solutions to tackle structural issues that expose the vulnerable population to persistent risk. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates all these issues because it overwhelms already strained public services, severely limits the availability of work and has a corrosive effect on social structures which support the disadvantaged.

The joint UNDP, UNHCR and IOM research project on the lived experience of returnees and behavioural aspects of their journey complements existing data and assessments and builds on the work of UN agencies, local ministries and other actors. Available data on returnees often focuses on status questions - income profiles or immediate needs. While this is important for emergency measures, it does not provide a complete picture of the overall experience of the returnee population. By applying an ethnographic mapping methodology and using sensemaking based approaches and tool, focusing on the “human dimension”, the research project identifies patterns in the way that returnees make sense of their everyday lives and how this influences their decisions on onward migration; it also assesses the extent to which they feel they have been, or are, able to successfully reintegrate in Afghanistan. The journey mapping component of the research adds information on access to and the quality of assistance/services that are provided to the returnees, for example: cash grants, referral systems, health services and provision of civil documents.

Implemented alongside the existing bilateral dialogue between the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan on return planning, the findings will inform programming on ways to: strengthen/transform institutional systems for returnees, refugees and receiving communities; strengthen integrated cross-border solutions; and increase opportunities to mobilize joint resources. Continued development of the approach used in this project will provide government and UN stakeholders access to a new level of information that enables the real-time decisions required for adaptive planning and management of shared priorities within their respective mandates.

The research method used on this project presents an opportunity for humanitarian and development partners to better understand how to plan, integrate and deliver impact at scale, as well as inform national policies and priorities regarding return and reintegration.

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

One of the main aims of the UN Reform Agenda is to ensure a more coherent and coordinated delivery of UN services at the country level. By ensuring that UN agencies, programmes and expertise are better aligned in support of country needs and demands, this could strengthen the responsiveness, efficiency and impact of the UN system in support of Member States seeking to address internal displacement situations.

UNDP recommends clarifying and establishing a predictable, service-oriented global platform for international cooperation on internal displacement that provide support and guidance to Member States and partners (implementing agencies/entities, including civil society. This includes updating the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions. This will help towards increasing the predictability and coherence of responses and solutions, including clarifying normative and operational mandates, roles and responsibilities for humanitarian, development and peace actors in internal displacement settings.

UNDP suggests drawing inspiration from current examples of multi-lateral and multi-stakeholder global mechanisms for international cooperation such as the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees. It is envisaged that the global platform for international cooperation will be responsive to country demands and supportive of national and sub-national levels efforts to address internal displacement.

In national and sub-national settings, UNDP recommends **engaging with and leveraging on already existing national humanitarian and development national coordination mechanisms** which are supported by the UN and humanitarian country teams. This is also the opportunity to align IDP response strategies and national protection frameworks, with resilience-building and SDG implementation plans, particularly in protracted settings or return and reintegration contexts,

### **UNDP Colombia**

Over 50 years of internal armed conflict has led to the largest internal displacement of people in the country, which continues despite the peace agreement signed in 2016 between the national government and the FARC-EP. Although considerable progress has been made in implementing transitional justice processes and move forward with the implementation of the victims' law, the violent intervention of other armed guerrilla groups, FARC dissidents and criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and other illicit endeavors, whose activity is centered mainly around the geostrategic passages of the country (rural border zones or the Pacific region), continues. This has led to continued armed violence, confinement, forced recruitment of children and adolescents, affectations due to anti-personnel mines and un-exploded munitions, sexual violence and internal displacement among others.

Of the nearly 9 million victims recorded in the Single Victim Registration System of the Victim's Unit (UARIV), at least 7.5 million are victims of internal displacement, placing Colombia as the country with one of the highest numbers of internal displacement in the world amongst those with protracted internal armed conflict.

UNDP Colombia has been consistently supporting various projects to support national and territorial governments and the organization of victims to strengthen victim's public policies. These policies include sustainable solutions on issues of prevention, protection, and comprehensive reparation for victims, including internally displaced persons. This include work related to the strengthening of existing regulations (Victims Act 2008); support for public transitional justice policy and collective reparation program development; and support for return, relocation, and urban integration of displaced populations programs. As such, this enhanced UNDP's role on transitional justice mechanisms support, according to the peace agreement, as the Special Justice for Peace mechanism, the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, and the Unit for the Search of Disappeared Persons.

Building on UNDP's long experience in supporting victim organizations throughout the country, encouraging the creation of victim roundtables and strengthening their capacity to enforce rights. This is being done through the backing of organizational strategies, social and economic empowerment, psychosocial accompaniment, infrastructure development, access to justice and accompaniment in the reporting of collective cases of human rights violations.

Since 2014, UNDP has been also working with the Ministry of Labor with the aim of contributing to the reparation in terms of income generation of individual and collective victims of the armed conflict, who live in rural settings, through the establishment of inclusive businesses. The strategy includes strengthening entrepreneurial, organizational, technical capacities and the activation of community social capital. This work is being carried out in 17 departments and 42 municipalities, most of them in prioritized peacebuilding territories.

### **Lessons Learned**

The situation of forced displacement in Colombia has been overshadowed by the massive influx of migrants in vulnerable conditions. While significant progress has been made in terms of implementing the Victims law, many challenges remain regarding the completion of the agreed victim reparation processes. Only 30% of all processes have been met and many compliance challenges remain in the return, relocation, and collective repair processes. Urban integration of the displaced population is also challenging, mainly as the vast majority of displaced persons do not want to return to their sites of origin and are located in urban or peri-urban territories seeking integration into new settlements that are at times unregulated by the municipality and lack basic services.

### **The UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme in the Ukraine**

The United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP) has been formulated and is coordinated and implemented by UNDP in partnership with UN Women, UNFPA and FAO. The UN RPP has addressed priority needs in eastern Ukraine following the outbreak of the armed conflict in the spring of 2014. The programme is intended to strengthen community security and social cohesion, support the economic recovery of conflict-affected communities, and further the implementation of decentralisation and healthcare reforms in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The total budget for 2019-2022 is over US\$80 million.

The Programme's interventions are grouped under the following key Programme components:

Component 1: Economic Recovery and Restoration of Critical Infrastructure

Component 2: Local Governance and Decentralisation Reform

Component 3: Community Security and Social Cohesion

The specific goal that the Programme aims to achieve in its second phase is that conflict-affected women and men in eastern Ukraine, including IDPs, become more resilient and trust in public institutions increases.

The key lessons learned during the implementation of the RPP's projects are the following:

- In the context of promoting entrepreneurship and market opportunities for business growth, business skills should not be assumed among people willing to set up a small business. The specific case of "survival" entrepreneurs, observed among IDPs, needs special attention. Ongoing support through start-up grants, tailored training and advisory support is essential for this target group.
- In the context of supporting effective public service delivery for IDPs: the delivery of administrative and other crucial social and legal aid services needs to become more mobile and innovative and aimed at genuinely reaching out to women and men living along the conflict "contact line".
- In the context of promoting community security and social cohesion:

- Community security working groups (CSWGs), involving IDPs and host communities in security related decision making, have achieved success in raising security issues to law enforcement and local authorities. They are necessary bridges to closing the gap between vulnerable groups and institutions.

- Activities that have involved building dialogue within local communities have proven helpful and have, to some extent, not only helped address security and social cohesion, it has also improved governance and economic issues.