CONFRONTING THE BARRIERS TO IDP WOMEN AND GIRLS’ PARTICIPATION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Wednesday 8 May 2019

9.00-10.30 New York Time/15.00-16.30 Geneva time/ 17.00-18.30 Nairobi time
Link: https://bit.ly/2Dy8NUA  Meeting number: 701 620 074  Meeting password: vSFCRMd6

Background

By the end of 2017, there were an estimated 40 million people internally displaced by conflict and violence, while during the same year over 19 million people were estimated to have been displaced by disasters.¹ According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 2017 dramatically demonstrated an increase in internal displacement across the globe with an estimated 30.6 million displacements. Although the numbers are high, internal displacement has not received sufficient attention from the international community and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable, struggling to access protection and their rights.

IDP women and girls are disproportionally affected by internal displacement both in terms of numbers and impacts.² In most instances, gender-specific outcomes of internal displacement are ignored, despite the significant impact that gender has at different phases of internal displacement. Gender experiences influence the way women and men live which affects pre-displacement, the experience and the process of displacement and their choice of return, local integration and settlement elsewhere in the country, and achievement of durable solutions. In many armed conflicts, gender is an important factor that determines the cause of displacement as women and girls are systematically targeted as a tool of war.

This webinar is part of the GP20 initiative launched for the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal displacement, which aims to bring much needed attention to the issue of internal displacement and strengthen collaboration to address this. This webinar will be an opportunity to learn about the linkages between gender equality and internal displacement as well as the IDP women and girls’ participation in processes and mechanisms in Niger, South Sudan and other contexts. It also supports implementation of UNHCR’s commitments to women and girls as articulated in its updated Policy on Age, Gender and Diversity (2018).

It will focus on the following questions:

- How can IDP women and girls fully benefit from policies and laws intended to protect them?
- How can participation fully empower IDP women and girls to access their rights?
- What are the obstacles that prevent IDP women and girls from full participation and leadership in processes and mechanisms that impact their lives?
- Where has there been progress on implementation of the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs on participation of IDP women and girls from 2012?
- What are key recommendations to strengthen IDP women and girls’ participation and leadership?

The target audience for this webinar are those interested to learn from practical experiences to strengthen IDP women and girls’ participation and leadership.

Agenda

Introduction: Nancy Polutan-Teulieres, Senior Protection Officer (Internal Displacement), UNHCR (5 minutes)

1) Charing the session and overview by Rebecca Eapen, Senior Adviser (Gender Equality), UNHCR (5 minutes)
2) Presentation by Kristine Anderson, Researcher/Author, Tearing Down the Walls: Confronting the Barriers to Internally Displaced Women and Girls’ Participation in Humanitarian Settings (15 minutes)
3) Presentation by Dale Buscher, Senior Director for Programs, Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC) (15 minutes)
4) Q&A (15 minutes)
5) Concluding remarks by Kristine Anderson, Researcher/Author and Dale Buscher, Senior Director of Programs (WRC) (5 minutes)

² Exact global figures are not known, women and children compose a large majority of those internally displaced in many countries, see the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2018: http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/