



Internally Displaced Persons, the Sustainable Development Goals and Perspectives for Durable Solutions

Organized by ICVA

and the

Co-Chairs of the Geneva and New York-based Groups of Friends of the High-Level Panel,
The Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mali and Norway

25 June 2020 (15:00 GVA-time / 09:00 NY-time)

With over 50 million people currently displaced inside their own countries, the global number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has never been higher¹, making work towards durable solutions ever more important. In this perspective, the international community has come to recognize that internal displacement should be tackled through cooperation between humanitarian and development actors and connected to long-term development policies and programs, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals.

Adopted in 2015, the 2030 Agenda pledged to “leave no one behind” and mentioned IDPs as a vulnerable group that must be empowered through the implementation of the SDGs. Although no specific targets on IDPs were included, it is now widely recognized that internal displacement impacts all SDGs, while all SDGs impact internal displacement.

Indeed, it is estimated that internal displacement cost the world about \$20 billion in 2019 and progress toward the SDGs could be jeopardized if IDPs are not reached.² The burden this represents for national economies is significant and mostly borne by displaced people themselves and their host communities. On the other hand, including IDPs in policies to implement the SDGs could help reduce the occurrence and impact of displacement and ensure that IDPs contribute to local economies and economic growth. Overall, quality and comparable data, trusted and owned by governments can help to include IDPs in policy and development planning processes. Reference to the SDGs in the context of IDP responses also have the potential of supporting the achievement of gender equality for all.

The international community has a responsibility to assist and support countries in this endeavor, as recognized by the recent setting-up of a High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The panel’s objective is to focus primarily on addressing protracted displacement and achieving durable solutions, with the stated purpose of working towards “advancing the participation and inclusion of IDPs and displacement-affected communities in the realization of the 2030 Agenda”.³

The objective of this meeting will be to further feed into the work of the Panel as it relate to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and the Sustainable Developments Goals, in an effort to contribute to generating bold, creative and practical ideas on solutions to internal displacement. In particular, the meeting aims at teasing out recommendations that would be officially submitted to the Panel in writing for their consideration. The meeting will be

¹ [Global Report on Internal Displacement](#) (GRID) 2020

² GRID 2020

³ [Terms of Reference – High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#)



structured around short presentations from various stakeholders, before opening the floor for an in-depth and stimulating discussion.

Speakers will include:

- Opening remarks: Assistant Secretary-General **Mr. George Okoth-Obbo**, Head of the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
- **Amb. David Donoghue**, former Ireland’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and former co-facilitator for the 2030 Agenda and for the New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees
- **Mr. George Conway**, Deputy Director of the Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Program
- **Ms. Natalia Baal**, Senior Strategy & Policy Officer, World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
- **Dr. Ulrika Blom**, Uganda Country Director, Norwegian Refugee Council

Guiding Questions:

- How to stimulate multi-stakeholders’ partnerships around the humanitarian-peace-development nexus?
- Even though specific targets for IDPs are not specified, some countries have included the needs of IDPs in their plans to reach the SDGs and there has been a greater emphasis on including internal displacement in voluntary national reviews (VNRs), the follow-up mechanism for reporting progress against the SDGs. How can reporting on SDG Indicators help unpack the causes of displacement and how to address them through preventive measures and support for durable solutions? How to stimulate such reporting by additional Member States?
- What are the gaps and the challenges in integrating internal displacement into SDG implementation plans and roadmaps? What are the good practices and examples that could be shared with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement?

Selected References:

- IDMC, [Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\) 2020](#), May 2020
- Greta Zeender, [The Sustainable Development Goals and IDPs](#), Forced Migration Review, October 2018
- Walter Kälin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, [Breaking the impasse: reducing protracted internal displacement as a collective outcome](#), June 2017
- Reaching Internally Displaced Persons to Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, International Peace Institute, 17 July 2018: <https://www.ipinst.org/2018/07/internally-displaced-persons-2030-agenda-sustainable-development#9>
- Alice Debarre, Archibald Henry, and Masooma Rahmaty, “Reaching Internally Displaced Persons to Achieve the 2030 Agenda”, International Peace Institute, 29 November 2018: https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/1811_IDPs-and-SDGs.pdf