



ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK 19-21 June 2018

Title:

Reducing displacement risk and addressing complex internal displacement crises: Ethiopia, showcasing emerging good practice in operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus'

Sponsors and Organizers:

The European Union, International Organization for Migration, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Date and Time: Tuesday, 19 June 2018, 18:00 – 19:15

Place: Conference Room 12, UN Secretariat, New York

The side-event will be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability. This event is organized in the context of the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.*

Background and objectives

In 2017, the world again experienced high rates of internal displacement, driven by conflicts, political instability, sudden and slow-onset disasters, environmental factors and unsustainable refugee returns: according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement, there were 30.6 million new internal displacements associated with conflict or disasters across 143 countries and territories. 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which provide a critical normative framework, grounded in international law, for addressing internal displacement.

However, the growing complexity and interconnectedness of the drivers of displacement is leading to increasingly protracted displacement crises, and for the majority of internally displaced people, durable solutions are ever more elusive. Moreover, the adoption of laws and policies has in many cases been outstripped by the rate at which displacement occurs. High levels of displacement affect the achievement of broader economic and social development goals, undermining progress on the 2030 Agenda. Reducing the risk of displacement and progressing towards durable solutions requires governments and the humanitarian and development sectors to strengthen collaborative and complementary approaches, and make more effective investments to resolve internal displacement situations and build resilience to future shocks and stressors. These efforts should be underpinned by a sound and shared evidence base to inform

contextually-appropriate planning and response, and spur innovative partnerships built on comparative advantage.

The changes outlined in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity to alleviate suffering, reduce risk and lessen vulnerability call for a 'New Way of Working' (NWOW), to operationalize the humanitarian-development nexus. In Ethiopia, the NWOW is being put into practice, under the leadership of the Ethiopian Government, with support from the international community. The focus is on progressively resolving internal displacement, by responding to humanitarian needs while reinforcing established systems and institutions, and building resilience through development programming.

The side event will provide a much-needed forum for:

- reflecting on ways to strengthen the evidence base on internal displacement, to better inform risk planning and efforts to achieve durable solutions
- highlighting the importance of state-led responses and exchanging concrete examples of good practices in resolving protracted displacement
- exploring how UN agencies, donors and other actors can best support national efforts to address protracted displacement, as well as the ongoing challenges to operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus

OCHA will open the event, outlining its work on protracted displacement and durable solutions, including the 2017 *Breaking the Impasse* study and its co-chairing of the *Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People* launched in April 2018. On the panel, the Permanent Representative of the Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations in Geneva will outline how Ethiopia is working with humanitarian and development actors to develop an integrated and forward-looking approach to durable solutions, as exemplified by the Somali Region Durable Solutions Strategy. Central to this strategy is a focus on understanding the complex factors driving displacement, and recognition of the need to complement short-term humanitarian action with longer term development programming. The UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia will provide an additional perspective on this work, discussing how the UN system is using the NWOW to support national efforts to reduce vulnerability to recurrent crises, while building resilience. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre will speak on the major gaps in accounting for internal displacement, including how governments and humanitarian/development agencies can work together to strengthen data collection, risk assessment and progress monitoring, and the challenges in understanding the complex drivers of displacement and its development impacts. The EU will provide a broad operational and donor perspective on addressing internal displacement, particularly in protracted situations, informed by its critical work delivering humanitarian aid worldwide. IOM will moderate the panel and close the event, summarising key discussion points, reflecting on the Ethiopia example of operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus to support progress towards resolving internal displacement, and contributing to global discussion on the NWOW.

Discussion points

The discussion will focus on:

- The challenges to creating a stronger evidence base as a common basis for action, better to inform national and international policy-making, planning and implementation
- How states can integrate internal displacement most effectively in both long-term development planning and crisis response, and how UN agencies, donors, and other actors can work together to support states in this process
- What 'operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus' means in the context of internal displacement, including ways to address financing, coordination and evidence gaps

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

- Concrete examples of good national practices for progressing toward durable solutions and reducing internal displacement risk
- Clarity on the types of evidence needed to inform humanitarian and development responses, including the key data gaps which must be addressed to effectively address protracted internal displacement
- A stronger understanding of how donors and humanitarian and development agencies can work more effectively in support of governments to address and resolve protracted internal displacement

Format:

Panel discussion, followed by a question and answer session.

Chair and opening remarks:

- OCHA: Mr. Strohmeyer, Policy Director (TBC)

Moderator and closing remarks:

- IOM: Mr. Mohammed Abdiker, Director, Department of Operations and Emergencies

Panel composition:

- Ambassador Negash Kebret Batora, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Geneva
- Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia
- Alexandra Bilak, Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- Joanne Adamson, Deputy Permanent Representative, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Background Material

Global Report on Internal Displacement 2018

Somali Region Durable Solutions Strategy

IOM's Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations Framework

Breaking the Impasse Study

Contact

For more information, please contact:

- Avigail Shai, Political Adviser, IDMC, avigail.shai@idmc.ch +41 76 399 4606 or +41 22 552 36 24
- Greta Zeender, Adviser on Internal Displacement, Policy Advice and Planning Section/Policy Branch, UNOCHA zeender@un.org, +212-316-0494
- Anna Reichenberg, Humanitarian Officer, IOM areichenberg@iom.int +1 212 681 7257 or +1 646 708 5037
- Alice Soukupova, Policy Advisor, European Union, Alice.SOUKUPOVA@ec.europa.eu +32 488 441967 or +32 2 29 81231