

BREAKING THE IMPASSE

REDUCING PROTRACTED INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENT AS A COLLECTIVE OUTCOME



KEY MESSAGES

Main message of the study: Achieve collective outcomes that aim to address protracted internal displacement and prevent new displacement from becoming protracted.

- 1. In protracted situations, internal displacement is primarily a development and political challenge,** which may also require continued responses to persistent humanitarian needs in displacement-affected communities.
- 2. Move early towards self-sufficiency in protracted situations.** IDPs should not have to wait until a conflict is fully resolved or all impacts of a disaster have ceased before they can begin rebuilding their lives in accordance with the fundamental standards of human rights and dignity. In particular, efforts should be made to help IDPs secure better access to livelihood opportunities, adequate housing with security of tenure, and basic services to reduce aid dependency.
- 3. Systematize and strengthen cooperation across the humanitarian, development and political divide to achieve collective outcomes that address protracted internal displacement and prevent new displacement from becoming protracted.ⁱ** States, humanitarian and development partners, donors, civil society, the private sector and, depending on the circumstances, human rights, peace and security or disaster risk reduction (DRR) actors should combine their efforts to i) analyse the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of IDPs and their hosts, ii) identify the reasons why displacement is protracted, and iii) agree on and implement strategic, clear and quantifiable collective outcomes.
- 4. Participation of IDPs and host communities.** Interventions should focus on the specific needs of both IDPs and their hosts. In particular, programming should use area-based approaches that prioritize investments for IDPs and host communities in livelihoods, housing with security of tenure, and access to basic services. It is critical to ensure that IDPs and their hosts are consulted and participate in decisions affecting them, including with respect to planning and implementation.
- 5. Governments should lead efforts to achieve collective outcomes.** Governments should integrate internal displacement into national development plans, adopt normative and institutional frameworks on internal displacement, and ensure that local authorities have sufficient capacity to support their total population, including IDPs. In the absence of State-led initiatives, collective outcomes on protracted internal displacement should be agreed on within the UN system, albeit necessarily in consultation with relevant authorities and displacement-affected communities.
- 6. Secure multi-year, flexible funding that transcends the humanitarian-development divide.** Bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as international financial institutions, should direct multi-year, flexible funding towards collective outcomes that reverse the trend of protracted internal displacement by targeting its causes.
- 7. The UN Secretary-General should convene a high-level event** on the new outcome-oriented approach to protracted internal displacement in 2018 on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. This event could provide a platform for promoting UN institutional and operational changes to enhance system-wide responses to protracted internal displacement, and secure commitments from Governments, organizations, donors, civil society and the private sector.

i. In the context of protracted internal displacement, **collective outcomes** can be understood as commonly agreed results or impacts that reduce the particular needs, risks and vulnerabilities of IDPs and increase their resilience through targets that are strategic, clear, quantifiable and measurable, and which are achieved through the combined efforts of Governments at national, subnational and local levels, international humanitarian and development actors, IDPs, local communities, civil society and the private sector and, depending on the circumstances, human rights, peace and security or DRR actors.