2015 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Protracted Internal Displacement: Rethinking the Humanitarian Response

ECHO - IDMC

Time and Date (19 June, 17:15 – 18:30)
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme: *The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness.*

**Background and objectives**

The numbers of people displaced worldwide by conflict and disasters increase each year. More people are exposed and vulnerable to multiple drivers of displacement in increasingly complex situations, with growing numbers left in displacement for long or protracted periods of time.

At the end of 2014, 38 million people were displaced due to conflict within the borders of their country, the majority for extended periods of time. Analysis shows that most cases of protracted displacement result from a failure to anchor IDPs’ return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in broader development and peace-building programmes. In one in five cases, governance failures by an absent state are a key factor in perpetuating displacement. In 2014, humanitarian agencies and NGOs were still the main responders to a third of IDPs living in protracted displacement, and there was little from development agencies and donor governments, and no visible private sector investment.

The purpose of the side event will be to present the latest global trends in internal displacement, with a specific focus on protracted situations. The panel will discuss in more detail the protection challenges faced by IDPs trapped in displacement over long periods of time, and consider the impacts on individuals, groups and host communities. The panel will also discuss whether the current humanitarian response framework is well suited to address these impacts, and look at possible transformational approaches to prevent or unlock protracted situations.

**Discussion points**

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions:

- What are the latest global trends in internal displacement, and what causes displacement situations to become protracted?
- Is the current humanitarian response framework fit to address the growing scale and long term nature and impacts of internal displacement?
• What needs to change in the current humanitarian architecture in order to better prevent and unlock protracted situations?

**Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**

- Examination of key obstacles and bottlenecks in the existing response framework
- Presentation of some best practices/lessons learnt in response from both humanitarian and development perspective
- Provide recommendations on actions for addressing the protracted nature of internal displacement, including in the run up to the Sept 2015 SDG Summit and 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.

**Format**

Panel discussion

**(Co-)Chair(s):**
- IDMC
- ECHO

**Moderator:**
- ECHO Florika Fink-Hooijer

**Panel composition:**
- Mr. Alfredo Zamudio, IDMC Director
- Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, ECHO
- Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of Policy Development and Studies Branch, OCHA.
- Xx, World Bank

**Background Material**

IDMC Global Overview 2015 report
Home Sweet Home: Housing practices and tools that support durable solutions for urban IDPs, IDMC, 2015

**Contact**

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