



Title:

Breaking the impasse: a new approach to addressing protracted internal displacement

Sponsors and Organizers:

OCHA

Time and Date Friday 23 June 2017, 13.15-14.45

Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

The global number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has reached an all-time high, as an increasing number of IDPs remain displaced for years or even decades. Protracted internal displacement is a development challenge with political and humanitarian dimensions. The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the SDGs, the World Humanitarian Summit and the Agenda for Humanity have acknowledged the importance of addressing displacement as part of sustainable development.

OCHA's commissioned a study on protracted internal displacement, *Breaking the Impasse* (June 2017) which highlights the need for a new approach—using collective outcomes to end or reduce vulnerability for IDPs and move towards durable solutions—and offers concrete recommendations to guide Governments, humanitarian and development organizations and donors.

This will be an opportunity to present the results and recommendation of this study and to build support for their implementation. The theme of this side event will be “a new approach to addressing protracted internal displacement” and will directly connect with the HAS' 2017 theme, particularly on eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and leaving no one behind, as IDPs in protracted situations are some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

Discussion points

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

- *1. The impact of protracted internal displacement on IDPs, host communities, local and national Governments calls for a new approach to internal displacement:*

The majority of IDPs stay with host families or settle in urban or peri-urban communities, placing social and financial burdens on host communities and local authorities that can undermine their own resilience over time. Humanitarian assistance does not generally mitigate that impact, and the increasing trend of protracted displacement calls for moving beyond care and maintenance to rebuilding lives, with humanitarian, development and, depending on the context, human rights, peace and security, and disaster risk reduction actors all all levels each have a distinct and essential role to play.

- *2. The approach must be context specific and requires far-reaching changes in how Governments and the international community address internal displacement.*

At the World Humanitarian Summit, many Governments, and humanitarian and development leaders agreed on the need for a new approach on addressing protracted internal displacement. A key challenge is ensuring a more coherent humanitarian, development and political response to protracted internal displacement that meets emergencies needs but also integrates IDPs and their host communities in development plans, so they can access housing, livelihood opportunities and basic services.

- *3. This requires a methodology to establish and implement collective and measurable outcomes.*

States, humanitarian and development partners, donors, civil society and the private sector should combine their efforts to i) analyze 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. In the process of carrying out joint analysis and programming, responsibilities of Government, humanitarian and development actors should be clearly defined.

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

The desired outcomes of the events are - through the showcase of the report's findings and recommendations - to 1) shine the spotlight on IDPs in protracted situations and advance IDPs on the international agenda 2) Build support for the new approach to protracted internal displacement based on collective outcomes.

Format

Chair/Moderator:

Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Director, OCHA Policy Development and Studies Branch

Panel composition:

- Mr. Walter Kälin, author of the report and former Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons
- Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Presidential Adviser on Human Rights, Colombia

- Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons
- Mr. Raphael Nägeli, Deputy Head of Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- Ms. Alexandra Bilak, Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Background Material

IDMC GRID Report, www.internal-displacement.org

OCHA, *Breaking the Impasse: Reducing Internal Displacement as a Collective Outcome*,
<https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Breaking-the-impasse.pdf>

Contact

For more information, please contact: Simon Bagshaw, bagshaw@un.org (in Geneva) and Greta Zeender, zeender@un.org, +1 212 963 5857 (in New York), Policy Advice and Planning Section/Policy Development and Studies Branch, OCHA