



ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA 24-26 June 2019

Title:

Addressing internal displacement associated with disasters and conflict: Planning for the long haul

Sponsors and Organizers:

This event is convened under the auspices of the GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for IDPs with its co-chairs, OCHA and UNHCR, and Special Adviser, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs. It is organized by the GP20 Coordinator, OCHA and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). GP20 Plan of Action partners and the Platform on Disaster Displacement are co-sponsors of this event.

Date and Time: Tuesday 25 June 2019, 17.45-19.15

Place: Room XXII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year's HAS theme: *"Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General"*.

Background and objectives

Internal displacement remains a significant global phenomenon. Extreme weather events, such as floods, storms, wildfires and drought, continue to force millions of people from their homes every year, and as the impacts of climate change are expected to intensify both in scale and frequency, displacement driven by sudden and slow-onset disasters is expected to increase. Meanwhile, conflict and violence remain key drivers of internal displacement, also displacing millions of people annually. In some circumstances, conflict interacts with disasters or environmental degradation and vice versa. This can prevent the internally displaced from returning relatively quickly to their homes, force them to flee again, exacerbate tensions with other groups, and complicate the achievement of durable solutions.

While displacement can affect all countries regardless of their levels of income or development, the risks and impact of disasters and conflict are often disproportionately borne by those countries and communities which already face significant development and humanitarian challenges. Having lost their homes, livelihoods and often more, internally displaced persons struggle to access their rights and can face particular vulnerabilities and discrimination. Their displacement can become protracted for numerous reasons, including prolonged conflict, slow recovery, inadequate national legal frameworks, a sole focus on humanitarian assistance, and lack of dedicated financial resources.¹ The high costs associated with addressing the impacts of displacement could further undermine national development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reducing the risk and impacts of disaster displacement while preventing and addressing the consequences of conflict displacement require governments and the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors to work together more effectively to resolve protracted crises, support internally displaced persons to secure durable solutions, and invest in efforts to manage risk and build resilience in the long term. It is also important to understand the unique specificities of conflict and disaster displacement to ensure they are appropriately addressed. This side event will explore the parallels and distinctions between internal displacement caused by conflict and disasters as well as good practices, challenges and opportunities in addressing these complex issues.

Discussion points

- Offer concrete examples of good national practices for reducing displacement risk associated with sudden and slow-onset disasters while often also managing the impact of other causes of displacement, such as conflict and violence
- Clarify the commonalities and the distinctions between displacement caused by conflict and disasters in terms of achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons and why this matters
- Outline the evidence needed to inform planning, prevention and responses to better address protracted displacement crises arising from interconnected or multi-causal drivers and help secure durable solutions

Key concrete action points and recommendations/take away messages

- Some displaced people can never go back home after disasters or conflict, and this needs to be acknowledged, planned for and managed
- Reducing protracted internal displacement can only be achieved through durable solutions for people who are already displaced and preventing the conditions that force people to flee their homes
- Existing frameworks providing protection and support to IDPs should be implemented with adequate financial and human resources

¹ Walter Kälin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, Breaking the Impasse: Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement as a Collective Outcome, available at <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Breaking-the-impasse.pdf>

- Stronger evidence on interconnected or multi-causal drivers and impacts of internal displacement is needed to inform better planning, prevention and responses to protracted displacement crises

Format

Introduction (3 minutes)	The Chair introduces the session, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs and the panelists
Keynote address (5 minutes)	UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs
Panel discussion (30 minutes)	The Chair asks the panelists questions in an interactive and conversational format
Q&A (45 minutes)	Discussion period with the audience

Chair and moderator:

- OCHA Policy Chief

Panel composition:

- UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs
- Government Representative – Fiji
- Government Representative – Iraq
- Director-General DG ECHO
- IDMC- Head of Policy and Research
- Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement

Background Material

- [IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2019](#)
- [IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters, 2011](#)
- [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, 2010](#)
- [OCHA, Breaking the Impasse: Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement as a Collective Outcome, 2017](#)
- [GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for IDPs, 2018-2020](#)

Contact

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