***Reference Group on Protracted Internal Displacement***

**DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION AND FINALIZATION**

**Terms of Reference**

***August 2016***

**1. Background/Scope of Work**

**Background to Responding to Displacement and Enhancing Protection Outcomes**

The IASC Working Group (WG) agreed to forming a Reference Group on Protracted Displacements during the development of its 2016-2017 Strategic Priorities. The Reference Group will assist the IASC achieve its objectives related to the priority on *Responding to Displacement and Enhancing Protection Outcomes.*  The WG Sponsor(s) of the Reference Group – UNDP and UNHCR – will provide the overall guidance for the achievement of objectives related to this priority.

The Reference Group on Protracted Displacement is charged with supporting ‘the implementation of the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in protracted displacement’ under the Outcome ‘Enhance protection of the most vulnerable groups in emergencies.’

As the IASC is primarily about humanitarian action, the focus of the Reference Group will be on what humanitarians should do differently while operating in protracted displacement situations, so as to avoid protracted humanitarian responses and to advance solutions where possible.

Given the critical role that development actors play in implementing or launching medium and longer-term interventions that can reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and support return to self-reliance, the Group will also look into the evolving roles of development actors in protracted displacement, so as to better articulate a clear division of labour for effective and sound collaboration.

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions endorsed in 2009 remains the key reference point for the work of the Reference Group;

The focus will be on supporting concrete action on IDPs and internal displacement in the context of conflict and natural disasters, while recognizing inter-linkages with situations of high level of violence and the effects of climate change. Particular attention to the issue of ‘invisibility’ of IDPs in urban and rural contexts and the specific needs of marginalised groups, such as women, youth, children, the elderly, but including also religious and ethnic minorities and others with a higher risk of being displaced or of not finding durable solutions;

Noting that every situation has the potential to become protracted if sustainable solutions are not available and sought from the beginning of an emergency, tt is suggested to use the plain English meaning of ‘protracted’, rather than getting lost in definitions that will not serve practical value;

The scope of work, expected results and activities of the Reference Group are defined in light of on-going streams of work:

* The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and the IASC WG responsibility to review and promote the implementation of the Durable Solutions Framework for IDPs;
* The Global Protection Cluster, including its Task Team on Law and Policy and the promotion of the Whole of System Protection Review results;
* The Task Team on Strengthening the Hum/Dev Nexus;
* The Early Recovery Cluster/Technical Working Group on Durable Solutions and the work to update the SG’s Decision on Durable Solutions and finalise the preliminary guidance on Solutions Strategies;
* The Solutions Alliance;
* The Humanitarian-Development Action Group (HDAG), noting that IDPs have not been a focus to date, and of the UNDG and the work on the SDGs;
* The Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Laws and Policies, which focuses on internal displacement;
* The JIPS/SR project on Durable Solutions Indicators;
* The work of IDMC on tracking internally displaced populations (including attempts to overcome the challenge of an unclear end-point).

The scope of the work of the Reference Group should also take into consideration outcomes of High-Level meetings such as the World Humanitarian Summit in May and the High-Level Meeting on Large Movement of Refugees and Migrants in September this year.

Particular attention will be taken to avoid the potential overlap with the IASC Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian/Development Nexus with a focus on protracted contexts.

Guidance and policy on protracted internal displacement will be anchored on on-the-ground realities and challenges as well as analysis already undertaken on the issue.  They should also identify and assess parallels in adjacent areas that can be useful in defining how to operate more efficiently and effectively in protracted internal displacement situations. Learning from other events occurring in 2016 on new approaches to protracted forced displacement will be crucial.

**2. Expected Results: Product and Tasks**

Given that reference groups are not operational and the IASC Working Group and its members hold responsibility and authority for ensuring implementation, **the Reference Group on Protracted Displacements will be focused on producing policy on operating in internal displacement contexts within the period of the IASC Work Plan (2016-2017).**  During this time frame, the Reference Group will support the implementation of the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions, including through working together to:

* Reach a common understanding among members of and expand thinking on operating in protracted internal displacement situations, recognising that context will alter both needs and options (context in this case includes: continued civil war or local conflict; unresolved administrative challenges around HLP; recurring disasters; new development planning) ;
* Identify the specific needs of IDPs in protracted situations, noting in particular the invisibility of IDP communities who have to some degree settled into hosting areas, and their marginalisation from many processes;
* Identify key lessons from reports and studies on protracted displacement issued by relevant processes;
* Review and draw upon country-specific recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs;
* Identify and assess parallels in adjacent areas (e.g. disaster risk reduction, favouring national development systems over international action, etc.) so the operational policy can be enriched by lessons from the work to support governments and local civil society;
* Identify and agree on recommendations and potentially joint guidance that focus on (a) how to set up a response so as to avoid protracted displacement; b) how to frame interventions on pathways to solutions; c) how to support the necessary engagement of development actors (including Government and national civil society) and a coherent collaborative approach between humanitarian and development actors based on a joint understanding of comparative advantage;
* Organize issues and recommendations into an easy-to-use document;
* Conduct peer reviews, integrate comments, finalize document and share for endorsement.

**2. Working Methods**

**Chairs/Co-chairs and Participants**

The Reference Group will be co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP. The co-chairs will jointly facilitate the work of the Reference Group, including by:

* Convening meetings of the Reference Group and liaising with the IASC Secretariat on venue arrangements and related logistics;
* Proposing the agenda and preparing minutes for each meeting;
* Preparing materials for distribution to the Reference Group;
* Drafting the annual work plan for discussion and agreement by the Reference Group;
* Maintaining an e-mail distribution list of participants and facilitating the flow of communication; and
* Working closely with the IASC Secretariat to ensure that the IASC website and calendar are updated with information relevant to the Reference Group;
* Ensuring regular information sharing with other relevant groups (including UNDP Programming and SDG Working Groups).

Participation in the Reference Group will be open to interested humanitarian organisations, bringing together NGOs, UN, IOM, the World Bank, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and other international organisations together on an equal footing. Participants are expected to actively contribute to the work of the Reference Group and take on responsibilities to advance the Reference Group’s work.

Participants represent their organisations and, where applicable, ensure that their WG or EDG representatives or Principals are regularly briefed on the Reference Group’s work and progress. Experts, donors, and/or governments may be invited as observers to provide technical input or to discuss certain relevant issues, when needed. Operational NGOs are encouraged to participate actively.

**Considering the focus on internal displacement, there is an important role to play by the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs as a potential ‘champion’ of the work of the Reference Group.**

**Meeting schedule, frequency and decision-making**

Meetings will be held at least quarterly and as frequently as needed. Decisions will be taken by consensus and silence of participants will be interpreted as approval of proposals and documents. Meetings will be held in Geneva and a phone bridge will be opened to facilitate remote participation.

**Funding and Resources**

The Reference Group will draw on pooled resources and funding that may become available from co-chairs and participants. The Reference Group may develop resource mobilization proposals as required and agreed by co-chairs and participants but as the scope of work is at present limited, it is expected that additional resources will not be needed at this time.

**3. Reporting**

**Accountability**

* The 84th IASC Working Group in March 2013 agreed that Task Teams and Reference Groups are to be “accountable to the Working Group.” In order to support Task Teams, (an) IASC Working Group Sponsor(s) will work closely with the Task Team to meet its objectives and ensure links with the IASC Working Group. The Task Team (Co-) Chairs and WG Sponsor are responsible for ensuring their Task Team’s accountability to the WG. The Reference Group might be asked to update the Working Group on its work. The Sponsor will seek relevant synergies between Task Teams and Reference Groups under the Working Group priorities. This Reference Group falls under the Working Group priority III.

\*NB: The role of (a) WG Sponsor(s) is clarified in the Annex. \*

**Reporting to the WG**

* Progress updates will be provided in writing when requested by the Working Group. KEY MILESTONES TO BE DEFINED.

**Monitoring implementation**

* The Sponsor(s) and Co-Chairs are responsible for monitoring implementation of the Reference Group’s objectives and work plan, with the support of the IASC Secretariat. Implementation will be monitored through dialogues and consultations as well as progress reports.

**IASC Working Group Sponsor(s):** UNHCR, UNDP

**IASC Reference Group (Co-) Chair(s):** UNHCR, UNDP

**IASC Working Group Champion:** the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

**Annex: The Role of IASC WG Sponsors**

The term 'Sponsor' is a new designation at the IASC. In essence, a Sponsor is a Working Group member who oversees and advocates for a particular priority, and ensures that policy development for the said priority is aligned at all levels – from designation by the Principals, through discussion at the WG, and through elaboration at the Task Teams, and that the various outputs under this priority are in sync. In some cases, the Sponsor will also be a Co-Chair of a Task Team (TT)/Reference Group (RG); where this is not the case, the Sponsor can be from the same organization as the Co-Chair of the relevant TT/RG.

More precisely, the functions of WG Sponsors are as follows:

* Act as a manager, or focal point, for the IASC priority;
* Ensure a liaison function between the subsidiary bodies (TT/RG) and the WG;
* Advocate for the priority or the TT/RG’s work vis-à-vis the WG, when necessary;
* Ensure synergy between the distinct outputs;
* Facilitate the TT/RG getting items on the WG agenda for discussion and decision, when necessary;
* Provide strategic guidance to the TT/RG; and
* Work closely with the TT/RG (Co-) Chairs to ensure accountability of the TT/RG to deliver on the expected results within the set time frame.

As the IASC Secretariat closely follows each of the IASC subsidiary bodies, the WG Sponsors can call upon the IASC Secretariat to support them in the above functions.