

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

IASC DEPUTIES GROUP AD HOC MEETING

Background Note: Independent Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement

Prepared by OCHA in consultation with the Independent Review Team

Virtual, 26 January 2023

Background

In follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel and Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the IASC decided to commission an Independent Review of Humanitarian Responses to Internal Displacement. Following a competitive tender, the IASC Deputies Group, in November 2022, selected a team of independent consultants assembled by Overseas Development Institute's (ODI) Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) to carry out the review (*see Review Team composition in annex*). Funding for the review has been largely secured and the Review Team is set to start its work in January 2023. The upcoming Deputies Group meeting on 26 January will provide an initial opportunity for the Deputies Group to engage with the Review Team, which will be represented by its Team Leader, Mr. Lewis Sida.

The Review's Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (TORs) adopted by the IASC in June 2022 outline the request to the Review Team to "examine and provide actionable recommendations on how IASC leadership arrangements, coordination structures, programming processes, and advocacy efforts, at global and country-level, can better meet the key protection and assistance needs of and deliver outcomes to IDP populations and their host communities, including with respect to advancing resilience, self-reliance, and durable solutions." Specifically, the TORs three central questions ask the Review Team to inquire (1) how IASC coordination structures and programming processes can better meet the needs and rights of IDPs; (2) how leadership responsibilities and accountabilities within the humanitarian system can be strengthened to ensure a better IDP response; and (3) how the humanitarian response can lay a better groundwork for solutions for IDPs.

In October 2022 a group of eight donors sent a letter to the IASC proposing that a number of specific questions be explored as part of the review. The IASC Deputies Group largely endorsed these questions (with the exception of making prevention of displacement part of the Review) and appended them to – and made them part of – the TORs.

The TORs also foresee the establishment of a Reference Group which will provide advice and serve as a sounding board to the Review Team. Nominations for the Reference Group have been submitted and its composition will be communicated shortly.

ODI's Proposed Review Framework and Methodology

In line with the TORs, ODI's review framework, submitted as part of the tender, proposes to center on three key areas: (1) Coordination and programming, (2) Leadership and accountability, (3) Resilience and laying the groundwork for solutions. ODI suggests framing the analysis within the following overarching questions:

1. **Specific needs of IDPs:** What specific needs do IDPs have that require acknowledgement, responses and institutional arrangements on the part of humanitarian actors?
2. **Scope, adaptability and relevance of approaches:** What is the scope of humanitarian action regarding IDPs? How should humanitarian actors adapt to increase the relevance of their approaches in different IDP settings, including to better interface with other actors (national and sub-national governments, civil society, development and peacebuilding actors, etc.) to lay the groundwork for solutions?
3. **Improvements to IASC leadership, coordination and programming structures and approaches:** What changes are necessary to address the current and likely future needs of IDPs, ensure more predictable and effective responses and deliver improved outcomes?
4. **Pathways to change:** What are the current barriers to and enablers of change, particularly the availability of humanitarian financing, reliable data and analysis and humanitarian access? How can these be managed to better meet the needs of IDPs and deliver improved outcomes?

In terms of methodology, the Review Team intends to ground the review at the outset in a thorough inception process, defining the review's scope and approach through a series of broad-based consultations with relevant stakeholders.

Following the inception process, a second phase will draw out the information and analysis required to situate the review in the current policy and operational environment. This will include:

- a) a literature review exploring how the IASC currently frames its approaches to the IDP response, examining how these approaches align with evidence on the effectiveness of responses in meeting IDP needs, and exploring how policies and practices intersect with new and emerging dynamics such as new geopolitics and climate change; and
- b) an online survey aiming to supplement the initial consultations and literature review with a more diverse range of opinions from across IDP coordination response at global, regional and country levels.

A third phase involves in-depth data gathering and engagement at country and global levels. During this phase the Review Team will carry out six country case studies, based on in-country research conducted in collaboration with national researchers with strong knowledge and networks. *(The countries will be confirmed during the inception phase)*. In parallel with country case studies, the Review Team will carry out key informant interviews, sampled to capture both the range of different actors and constituencies within IDP responses as well as the diversity of large-scale displacement contexts worldwide. Throughout the review, the team will carry out iterative analysis of data collected.

During a fourth phase, workshops with key stakeholders will aim to validate findings and support the development of recommendations. The fifth and final phase includes the editing, publication, and translation of the final report.

Against his background, this Deputies Group might explore the following questions:

- How can relevant stakeholders help ensure coherence and cross-fertilization across related initiatives, prior and ongoing, including follow-up to the Independent Review of IASC's Implementation of the Protection Policy, efforts to advance accountability to affected populations, the work of the Special Adviser on Solutions, and other efforts to implement the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement?
- What considerations might the Review Team take into account during its inception phase to ensure the review will remain focused on issues specific to internal displacement?
- What criteria might the Review Team want to consider in its selection of case study countries? (*ODI developed draft criteria for case study selection which might be helpful to consider, namely: urban/rural, camp/non-camp, IDP/IDP and refugees; length of displacement; magnitude; and regional diversity.*)
- At what points will the IASC Deputies Group want to engage with the Review Team? How can the IASC Deputies Group best prepare for effective follow up to the Review Team's recommendations?

ANNEX: Review Team Composition

- **Mr. Lewis Sida**, Co-Director of the Humanitarian Learning Centre at IDS, who would serve as Team Leader
- **Mr. Kevin Kennedy**, former senior UN official, who would serve as Senior Diplomatic Advisor
- **Ms. Erin Mooney**, an internationally recognized authority on internal displacement, who would serve as the Senior IDP Expert
- **Ms. Sorcha O'Callaghan**, Director of HPG, who would provide oversight and quality control.
- **Mr. Patrick Saez**, Senior Research Fellow with HPG, who would serve as HPG's lead.
- **Mr. Oliver Lough**, Senior Research Fellow with HPG
- **Ms. Leen Fouad**, Research Officer with HPG
- **Ms. Tina Nelis**, Research Officer with IDS.