**Inter-Agency Standing Committee**

**Joint IASC Working Group / Emergency Directors Group Meeting**

26 April 2018

***SR’s Talking Points***

**Introduction**

* This morning’s discussion focused on determining priorities for collective action. Collective - and improved - IDP response has to be amongst these priorities. Our experience and evidence across the world shows durable solutions for IDPs can only be reached through truly collective action throughout the stages of displacement.
* The 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement is a good time to be taking stock of our achievements, and acknowledging the - growing - challenges. We are all familiar with the figures - over 40 million people displaced by conflict in 2016. A further 24 million displaced by natural and man-made disasters in the same year. An additional estimated 15 million people are displaced every year by development projects, a cause of displacement recognized in the Guiding Principles.
* Millions of other displacements are not systematically captured including those caused by land grabs, criminal violence and slow-onset disasters, such as drought. Without more attention to prevention, protection and solutions – as well as projected shocks related to the environment, economy, demographics and geopolitics - people will continue to be displaced.
* Forward momentum on addressing internal displacement has waned in recent years. The consistency and reliability of the humanitarian response to the urgent protection needs of IDPs has been limited, development actors have been inadequately engaged and international attention to internal displacement has been very limited.
* Compounding these factors are challenges in addressing the conditions that trigger crises and displacement, as well as displacement situations with significant protection issues and limited humanitarian access.
* As you know, internal displacement is a complex human rights, humanitarian and development challenge, requiring a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach. The commitment of Agenda 2030 to ‘leave no one behind’ underscored this.
* Acknowledging this, in its 2017 resolution on IDPs the UN General Assembly called on States, UN entities, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders to mark the 20th anniversary in 2018 of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

**GP20**

* In response, the Mandate convened a meeting in 2017 bringing together stakeholders to identify priority areas for action, with a view to working more collaboratively and effectively to promote and support the common goal of resolving and reducing displacement in line with the Guiding Principles, through prevention, protection and solutions for IDPs - as per the UNGA Resolution.
* The Guiding Principles are an appropriate and internationally recognized framework for this work, with their emphasis on “sovereignty as responsibility,” the participation of IDPs in decisions that affect them, and their applicability in displacement mitigation through to solutions.
* Confirmed by the UN General Assembly on numerous occasions, the Guiding Principles are authoritative, restating the rights of IDPs as enshrined in international human rights and international humanitarian law. There nevertheless remains considerable room to improve awareness, knowledge and application of the Guiding Principles.
* Their 20th anniversary is therefore a strategic opportunity to foster multi-year action aimed at protection, prevention and solutions for IDPs.
* The process, which was driven by the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, UNHCR, OCHA and the GPC and undertaken in consultation with various UN agencies, international NGOs, NGO consortia, academia, Member States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other internal displacement experts – resulted in a **Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People (2018-2020)**.
* This was formally validated and launched in a stakeholder meeting on the 17th April, and a Steering Group to oversee its implementation – comprising of Member States, UN agencies and NGOs - is in the process of being established.

**GP20 Plan of Action - priority issues**

* Four issues were identified as priority areas during the process for more strategic, coordinated and collaborative action on internal displacement. Multi-stakeholder collaboration on these four issues is considered essential for producing the changes needed to reduce and resolve internal displacement through prevention, protection and solutions for IDPs.
* The four priority themes are reflected in the specific objectives the Plan of Action, which are the following;
* **1. Strengthening the participation of IDPs in decisions that affect them, including IDPs who may be particularly vulnerable or marginalized;**

IDPs report a lack of information provided to them during all phases of displacement. Mechanisms and processes for their consultation and participation are absent or inadequate and decision-making processes often fail to take their views, needs and objectives fully into account. As a key contributor to protection and solutions, host and receiving families and communities should also participate in the design, planning and implementation of actions and decisions that affect them.

* **2. Expand the development and implementation of national laws and policies on internal displacement;**

There is an absence or limited integration of IDPs’ specific issues in relevant national laws and policies, the failure to commit adequate financial resources to resolving internal displacement, and the lack of or weak durable solutions strategies. Where there is political will, implementation of laws and policies on internal displacement is often limited.

* **3. Increase the number of States with the capacity to collect, analyze and use quality data on internal displacement for designing an effective response to internal displacement**

Quality data and analysis on internal displacement, including the number of displaced, disaggregated by age, sex, location, and diversity, the needs, intentions and capacities of IDPs as compared to host communities, as well as their progress towards durable solutions, is often scarce. This inhibits the design of effective policies and responses at the local and national levels, as well as an understanding of the relative severity of displacement situations globally.

* **and 4. Scale up engagement on solutions for IDPs, including through Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs’) implementation**

Durable solutions for the majority of the world’s IDPs living in protracted displacement are slow to materialize or remain elusive. Protracted displacement can erode the resilience of IDPs and host communities, and entrench impoverishment, marginalization, inequality and vulnerability. This impedes sustainable development for entire regions or countries. It can also contribute to renewed crises and displacement, which can reverse development gains.

**GP20 Plan of Action - a call for collective action**

* Collaborative activities on these issues are intended to create changes that will contribute to reaching the Plan of Action’s goal and lay the groundwork for a possible high-level initiative on internal displacement.
* Many of your teams have demonstrated excellent collaborative approaches in developing this Plan of Action. Today I call upon you all to rally around the goal and objectives of this Plan of Action and to be as bold, ambitious and concrete as possible in implementing your actions going forward, be they individual or collective.

**Project “Informing Responses to Support Durable Solutions for IDPs”**

* In connection with the GP20 thematic priorities around data and durable solutions - I am also happy to present to all of you the results of the interagency project *Informing Responses to Support Durable Solutions for IDPs*.
* The project aimed to address the challenge of building a shared evidence-base to inform responses to support durable solutions for IDPs and measure progress towards them, by developing a Library of durable solutions indicators and a Guide to their use by governments, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors.
* The project took as a starting point the IASC-endorsed *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons* from 2010, widely recognized as the benchmark on durable solutions for IDPs. Despite conceptual clarity provided by the Framework on the definition, principles and criteria related to durable solutions, many challenges persisted when trying to use it in practice, including to pursue evidence-based action to support internally displaced persons in achieving durable solutions.
* The Durable Solutions Indicator Library and Analysis Guide mark an important milestone in addressing this challenge by providing a means for collaborative analysis that can inform planning for durable solutions from early stages of a crisis - while also allowing for the analysis to be linked to national development planning.
* Piloted in various countries, the indicators and the analysis process take into account the specific nature of each displacement situation and aim to inform joint action through context-specific priorities.
* The project was an inter-agency effort over several years, carried out under the leadership of my Mandate, coordinated by the Joint IDP Profiling Service, and implemented in collaboration with a Technical Steering Committee comprising the following organisations: DRC, ICRC, IDMC, IOM, Feinstein International Center, Global Cluster on Early Recovery, Global Protection Cluster, NRC, Oxfam, Platform on Disaster Displacement, UN Peacebuilding Fund, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNOCHA, UNHCR, World Bank and Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat.
* I would like to draw your attention to the significant milestone that the completion of this project represents, and to the fact that we aim for the IASC’s endorsement of its outputs - the Durable Solutions Indicator Library and Analysis Guide - to accompany the 2010 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs. This will hopefully encourage their wide dissemination and use in contexts impacted by internal displacement to advance joint efforts to support durable solutions for IDPs.