



for refugees, leadership by an empowered international actor with political and diplomatic heft, backed by the international community, is required to address their concerns.

The establishment of the IDP HLP provides a crucial opportunity for the international community to evaluate how traditional IDP responses can be adjusted to account for the diverse and rapidly-evolving displacement crises worldwide. More than ever before, top-down, humanitarian approaches will not be sufficient for the kind of long-term, sustainable, and holistic responses that are becoming evidently necessary. While many local responses happen organically, the international community has a clear role to play in investing in local institutions, including them in the planning for seeking durable solutions, and funding them for their sustained work.

Core to Catholic Relief Services' guiding Catholic Social Teaching is the principle of subsidiarity—that those who are closest to the problems should be the architects of the solutions. Based on this principle, and our extensive experience in humanitarian and development response, we provide the following recommendations for the HLP geared towards improving our collective response to IDPs.

We have much to learn from the UN Global Compact on Refugees, given the many similarities a displaced person experiences, no matter if they have crossed a national border. Therefore, the changes we seek and the pathways to doing so are not dissimilar from those laid out by the Global Compact on Refugees.

1. Address the need for long-term responses

We can extrapolate findings from [our research](#) looking at the role of local faith actors in refugee response, showing the comparative advantage of local institutions: extended presence in their communities, in-depth knowledge of community needs, their multi-sectoral/holistic approach, and a range of capacities to deliver results rapidly. Our field staff of IDP projects confirm that local organizations are able to reach populations and communities that larger international organizations often cannot, both due to their geographic location, but also because they are more trusted by the community where they possess deep roots. Yet international funding to local organizations is

people in need, no matter their religious affiliation, across their communities. They play a direct role in influencing how the displaced are welcomed and accepted in the community, utilizing their shared identities to respond to their beneficiaries, and providing services based on need, and not status.

*Role in peacebuilding and the "triple nexus":* There is a growing understanding that the intersection of humanitarian response, peacebuilding and development is essential to address both the root causes and ongoing needs of protracted displacement. Local organizations are service providers, leaders in their communities, and maintain steadfast presence in their communities; therefore, they embody an ideal triple nexus response. While they are uniquely aware of the needs of the community, they have the trust to address brewing concerns, and can play an important role in national dialogues which underpin ending

2. Elevate Protection by Local Actors to Do No Harm

accountability