

**-Level Panel on Internal Displacement  
- Call for Submissions and Inputs -**

The Secretary General's High-Level [Panel](#) on Internal Displacement has been established to generate recommendations for stepped – up actions by Governments, the United Nations and other actors to better prevent, respond to and drive forward solutions to internal displacement<sup>1</sup>.

The Panel has been called upon to think out of the box, be bold and innovative in its analysis and practical in its recommendations. The Panel is committed to carry out face-to-face consultations with a wide range of stakeholders at global, regional, and national levels. In light however of the current situation resulting from the global coronavirus crisis, it is for now prioritizing channels for gathering inputs remotely.

As a first step, the Panel is hereby calling for written contributions. In the spirit of the approach indicated already, the submissions should be bold, creative and practical. They need not focus on the day to day activities or programmes of the contributor but rather on what can make a difference on the respective challenges and imperatives of internal displacement.

Without intending thereby to restrict the nature and scope of the inputs, the questions outlined below can be used a guide in formulating the submissions:

- 1. The key issues, problems or imperative which, as you see it, should be prioritized by the Panel in its analysis of the crisis of internal displacement today and how prevention, response at large and solutions can be effectively advanced.**

Internal displacement is an area where many of the asks of the UN development system reform can materialize.

First, the imperative of prevention. Analysing and addressing the root causes and drivers of displacement, e.g. conflict, climate change, poverty, lack of access to basic services and resources, etc., in the first place is critical to prevent people from moving within their own country or across borders in search of a better life. Internal displacement has reached

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Asia and the Pacific region, are particularly vulnerable and exposed to natural disasters driven by climate change. UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams can concretely contribute to prevention efforts, through their advocacy and leadership of collective support to countries. Guided by the 2030 Agenda imperative to leave no one behind, the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework represents an important opportunity to identify, analyse and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in specific country contexts, including IDPs. The Common Country Analysis now becomes a system-wide, in-depth, impartial, evidence-based and multi-dimensional risk analysis which outlines a country's progress, but also gaps towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. It is updated regularly to respond to changes in the country situation, identifying the people left behind or at risk of being left behind- including IDPs, their vulnerabilities and the impact on their lives.

Second, the importance of cross-pillar approaches. Tackling displacement requires close collaboration and coordination across humanitarian, development and peace actors. Over time, protracted displacement has been traditionally addressed by the humanitarian community with short-

discussed in the context of resilience and stability programming.

**2. Across the objectives of prevention, response and solutions, how can national political will, responsibility and capacity be catalyzed and cultivated.**

The UN system could more effectively use the empowered role of UN Resident Coordinators, their access to the highest authorities in country, their leverage of UN Country Team entities, their access to the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General and their ability to leverage global financing instruments to create, cultivate and catalyze national political will in support of prevention and response efforts to displacement.

Involving the most marginalized countries in these discussions, many of whom are in active conflict or protracted crisis, is critical. Rather than imposing sanctions and other political restrictions on such governments, creating space and using the RC and UNCT programming are key to engage in a dialogue to find solutions.

There should also be a focus on ensuring that in contexts with a political-peacekeeping

the resources required to implement long

IOM can play an exceptionally important role in qualifying the context and monitoring the situation of displacement which could then be used for advocacy with Member States, individually or at a sub-regional level. OHCHR can do the same with shaping the evidence and narrative on IDPs and human rights.

There are several country examples where the UN system has collectively engaged with partners, affected people and authorities to promote complementary and mutually reinforcing interventions to catalyze and support sustainable solutions to internal displacement.

In Pakistan, the UNCT support interventions across humanitarian, development and peace for more than five million people who have gone through repeated periods of displacement over the last 30 years. The work involves coherent interventions across humanitarian, development and peace partners to rehabilitate basic service infrastructure, ensure quality education, support skills development, and create livelihoods opportunities for IDPs in the newly merged districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Support to governance, legal reforms and capacity building is also provided.

In Pakistan, in 2019, the UNCT, in collaboration with the HCT, also provided humanitarian assistance to one million people affected by repeated droughts, the worst being the one from 2018-2019 in Sindh and Baluchistan, which displaced hundreds of thousands more people. The UN and its partners provided short-term humanitarian assistance but complemented it with development support on nutrition, agricultural livelihoods and improved water supplies.

In Myanmar, the UNCT support Rakhine State IDPs through an area-based programme approach. The programme delivers integrated solutions and combines the humanitarian response with developmental interventions that address the key drivers of poverty, vulnerability, exclusion, inter-communal conflict, weakness of the social contract between the state and the people, and enhanced support to communities to rebuild critical infrastructure.

In Afghanistan, in the first half of 2019, about 319,000 new displacements were recorded, 213,000 associated with conflict and 106,000 due to disasters. The UN Country Team worked together with the HCT to help them and the host communities through:

1. Increased access to basic services for community resilience and social cohesion;
2. Improved access to adequate land and housing;
3. Improved access to livelihoods and jobs through market-based programming;
4. Facilitating voluntary, gradual and safe return, regular and responsible migration and mobility by implementing well-planned and managed policies; and
5. Ensuring access of the returnees and displaced populations, and host communities to the infrastructure services in areas of high return and displacement, including (or particularly) in the returnee townships.

**5. New or creative financing solutions which can be built up or better utilized in enabling more effective responses to displacement and the achievement of durable solutions.**

livelihoods for IDPs and host communities.

However, financing is not always the issue. Many times, when a single community, like IDPs, is singled out for financial assistance and/or livelihood support, it can cause tensions. For countries that do not recognize internal displacement or where the IDPs are ethnically, religiously or racially different to the governing class, the selective financial will only exacerbate the situation further; particularly if there is a large poor segment of the population more favorable to the government. This is the case in Syria, Yemen and Iraq. Care should be taken in framing and offering opportunities that do not inadvertently create even greater inequality or tensions.

**7. What steps could be taken to strengthen the effectiveness of response management, coordination and accountability at all levels in contexts of internal displacement?**

Please see answer to question 4. Three main elements could be considered to strengthen the effectiveness of response management and accountability: i. Empower national and local governments, by strengthening their capacity, resources and accountability; ii. Adopt a whole-of-society approach, starting with engaging with displaced people and host communities; and iii. Go beyond humanitarian assistance, by adopting cross-pillar approaches to analysis, planning, programming and financing. Please also see question 1 above for parameters of engagement.

**8. Across the questions and elements highlighted above, it will be appreciated if the submissions:**

- i. Highlight the protection needs, vulnerability and unique experiences and effects of displacement on people of different genders, ages, abilities and diversities.**
- ii. Address the questions of meaningful participation and inclusion of the internally displaced and affected communities in the respective responses.**
- iii. Include examples, practices or experiences which help illustrate the questions at stake and, in particular, from which lessons or conclusions can be drawn.**

Agencies, Funds and Programmes implementing projects on the ground to address this question.

Submissions should be sent as either an MS Word or PDF attachment to [idpspanel@un.org](mailto:idpspanel@un.org) by **24 April 2020**.