

From Durable Solutions to Development Solutions

1. Towards a new narrative and dynamic on internal displacement

Responses to address internal displacement, similar to refugee movements, have been for the most part the domain of humanitarian agencies. However, new impetus towards rethinking solutions to

2 Current approaches to internal displacement and durable solutions

Following the massive internal displacement crisis in Darfur, the international community and UN had been unable to agree on a collective approach in the absence of a formal mandated entity responsible

In the footsteps of Agenda 2030 and the recent introduction of the “triple nexus” approach, it is evident that displacement solutions are an area of particular potential for rights-based, driven, led by States and underpinned by a solid development approach. In addition, displacement occurs particularly in fragile environments and therefore benefits strongly from the various concepts and mechanisms developed to tackle the underlying causes of fragility that have led to lack of inclusion of displaced populations into the national development effort.

Significant resources have been directed, mostly from humanitarian funding towards enhanced resilience of displaced populations, particularly at individual and community levels. However, it is much harder to see these efforts linked with, let alone be driven by, local governance programmes. For those state representatives located closest to their constituencies, a particular and evident focus on the interest of population groups that were excluded from the national development efforts would be a key precondition for a successful approach to displacement solutions.

Central to Agenda 2030 and the Secretary General’s thinking has been the principle of “prevention” and relatively little effort has gone into this as most actions on displacement have focused on managing ongoing displacement and, to a much lesser extent, solutions. A more systematic mapping of local conflict dynamics, with the close cooperation of sub-national authorities, could support stabilizing and anchoring factors. Likewise, promoting more nationally owned approaches to managing multi-dimensional risks including disaster risk resilience and climate change adaptation, could help prevent and preempt what are in most cases highly repetitive and predictable forced population movements.

States, in line with the Guiding Principles formulated 20 years ago, should be held responsible from the outset for the resolution of forced displacement within their population. In fact, this responsibility starts before movements take place, and includes addressing potential causes of future displacement, as well as management of human dignity by design, rather than by default, post facto. It is evident that not all States are willing or able to assume such a preventive, comprehensive role. H t t i n a g

institutions, particularly in countries with a high propensity towards internal displacement, are central to understanding the reality, contributing to national dialogue and shaping remedial developmental action

From the above, it is clear that development solutions to displacement require a multi-dimensional and integrated approach, as follows

Applying a preventive approach, the role of States is key in identifying owing and remedying risk factors that can cause displacement in the first place. Efforts by development partners are necessary to build and reinforce national capacities and promote nationally owned approaches to conflict prevention, disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience.

Displacement occurs due to a breach in social contract driven by a lack of access to basic rights (including security and justice), necessitating a gender-responsive and “whole-of-government” approach. Fundamental to this is enabling the full enjoyment of displaced persons of their rights as citizens. This includes access to national IDs, land and property rights, access to judicial remedies for disputes, and accountable security institutions that offer a fair protective environment. Rebuilding core features of the social contract will enable a rebuilding of trust between the state and displaced members of society.

Based on nationally owned data management, digital technologies and analysis capacity around displacement, a better understanding can emerge of systematic inequalities and exclusion in society. This will help direct development investments and financing towards redressing these imbalances, and promote affirmative action policies, including better targeted safety nets, equal opportunities for employment and livelihoods, thus leading towards the full enjoyment of fundamental rights.

For solutions to be nationally owned and led, States need to be equipped and capacitated whilst adopting a “governance angle” to resolving the displacement reality. In particular

onally I

