

Progress Report from April to December 2016

IASC Reference Group on Protracted Internal Displacement

Objectives (overview)

The Reference Group on Protracted Displacements is focused on producing policy guidance on operating in internal displacement contexts, with an emphasis on responses that ensure the visibility of IDPs in protracted situations until they have found solutions and that support their inclusion in national systems and in peace and development programming.

Building on research and analysis by several independent thought leaders and studies commissioned by members, the Reference Group will collaborate in 2017 with development and peacebuilding coordination bodies on practical and consistent guidance applicable to all international actors engaging in IDP situations, so as to improve the predictability and cohesiveness of responses and inclusive service provision throughout the displacement cycle.

Key Achievements/Products/Outputs in Reporting Period

- Agreement on a role and objectives for the Reference Group that would fill an identifiable need without conflicting with the work of other entities;
- Agreement with the Reference Group on the Humanitarian and Development Nexus, and with development and peacebuilding actors and coordinating bodies, that guidance should speak to greater collaboration between States and international actors and between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors in addressing protracted IDP situations and should be issued jointly by the IASC and other peak bodies;
- Agreement with OCHA that the study commissioned on the topic of *Protracted Internal Displacement* undertaken by Walter Kälin, the former Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, from September 2016 to January 2017, with contributions from several members of the IASC Reference Group would provide the foundation for the development of the operational guidance;
- The Study identified protracted internal displacement as a key humanitarian, development and peacebuilding challenge; it contributed to conceptualizing protracted internal displacement building on different notions; it consolidated understanding on the causes and impacts of protracted internal displacement; it identified: the need to achieve common agreements on collective outcomes to be pursued, challenges in forging partnerships, effective practices to address protracted internal displacement, based on the context and responses in five protracted situations;
- The identification of experts and fundraising to conduct baseline research into less visible population and how different actors have contributed to their finding solutions, as a complement to the Kälin study (The Institute of International and Development Studies at the Graduate Institute of Geneva, expected September 2017).

Challenges to Achieving Expected Objectives/Activities in 2017 and Possible Work Plan Alterations

- The Reference Group was formed in April 2016 just before the World Humanitarian Summit and in a period during which protracted displacement of IDPs was under discussion in multiple multilateral fora. This delayed commencement of the RG's work at first instance.
- At the same time, international attention was on the rise for refugees and migrants, with the UN Summit on
- In accordance with the IASC Work Plan 2016-2017, the contribution of the Reference Group was framed under 'support to the implementation of the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs in protracted displacement. Other than this broad scope of work, the IASC did not identify a clear role or specific task for the Reference Group. The TORs needed to be defined by the group and a programme of work designed to facilitate the implementation of numerous and wide-ranging agreements reached during 2016, without duplicating the work of others.
- Since there is consensus that effective programming in IDP situations in general and in protracted situations in particular requires close collaboration with not only States and other Development actors but also with Peacebuilding actors, it was necessary to reach agreement with those beyond the IASC membership.
- Since the Reference Group was started only in April 2016 and had not been foreseen in any work plans until that time, funding for the necessary research and the administrative steps needed to commence work took more time than had been hoped.

Planned Activities/Products for Remainder of Envisaged Life Span of the TT/RG

Since the Graduate Institute research will build on the work of the Kälin study (a final version is expected to be available in April 2017), it is expected that the main findings of the baseline research will be available mid-2017 and that a final report will be available in September 2017.

The guidance is expected to be drawn from the two studies and other, ongoing, initiatives and to be agreed at a workshop in the last quarter of 2017, for review, validation and publication by the first quarter of 2018. The Reference Group is expected to disband once the guidance is issued.

Further feedback requested while reporting

Areas Requiring Guidance/Advice from the WG

Since the guidance will be issued in concert with development and peacebuilding coordinating bodies (as well as with the Reference Group on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus), any guidance from the WG and its wish to be involved in the review and endorsement process would be appreciated.

Further detail on how workstreams/products support or relate to either a WHS and/or GB commitment/workstream.

The guidance, once complete, is expected to address numerous WHS and GB priorities, in particular those relating to national leadership; engagement with and support to national civil society; greater focus on international support to systems that can facilitate improved enjoyment of rights and advances against SDG implementation strategies. It will speak to the principle of Leave No One Behind, drawing on the 2030 Agenda and making the link to the ongoing update of the UNDAF guidance, which identifies IDPs as among those groups likely to be left behind if programming is not inclusive from the beginning.

Co-Chairs: Glauca Boyer, (UNDP) and Jackie Keegan (UNHCR), both have served since inception.

WG Sponsors: Izumi Nakamitsu, (UNDP) and Kelly T. Clements (UNHCR)

The Reference Group also has 'champions': Chaloka Beyani, UN Special rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs (From June 2016 – 31 October 2016); Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, UN Special rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs (From October 2016 to present)

Secretariat Support: UNHCR and UNDP have played the role of secretariat.

Composition of the Reference Group: FAO; ILO; OCHA; Solutions Alliance Secretariat; WFP; IRC; UNICEF; IOM; JIPS; IDMC; IASC Secretariat; Graduate Institute IHEID; Global Protection Cluster; Global Cluster for Early Recovery; UNEP; WHO; IRC; Interaction.