



United Nations Development Programme

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY ON DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

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FOREWORD

The human instinct of flight or fight allowed our ancestors to respond quickly to dangers in their environment. Today, a series of new threats, including violent conflicts, persecution and disasters induced by climate change are leaving millions of people with no option but to abandon their homes in search of safety for themselves and their families. The majority of people forced from their homes remain displaced within their own countries in refugee-like conditions for years or even generations. These internally displaced persons (IDPs) are cut off from their communities, deprived of livelihoods and vital services. Many of them, despite being citizens or residents of their own countries, must rely on international aid for their food, health, education, protection, and other needs. They are often exposed to abhorrent human rights abuses. Women and girls, in particular, face the abject consequences of sexual violence and gender-based discrimination. As the number of IDPs reached an all-time high of 71.1 million people in 2022, more must be done to address the root causes of internal displacement and empower people caught in a cycle of crisis.

In tandem with critical humanitarian assistance, development and peacebuilding are the most viable means of conflict prevention; an essential component of crisis response, and the most sustainable way out of it. Therefore, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) new *Institutional Strategy on Development Solutions to Internal Displacement* will assist countries in their efforts to recognize that IDPs are citizens with rights rather than just people in need; and to repair the social contract between an affected population and its government. First, it underscores the centrality of promoting a development solutions approach at the national-level, including through political economy analysis and national strategies. Second, it calls for focus on building national and local actors' capacity in rolling out solutions including poverty reduction, ensuring social cohesion, and empowering women

and young people. Third, it outlines how UNDP will assist countries to unlock critical financing to prevent and tackle internal displacement, including through Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFS). Finally, it outlines how the organization will deepen its support to governments at all levels and extend vital partnerships via UN Country Teams, NGOs, civil society, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and the private sector to expand development-led solutions.

Given that over 50 percent of UNDP's programming is in fragile contexts, the organization can leverage its unique knowledge, networks, and trust to tackle internal displacement, which is leaving an indelible scar on families across the world and holding back progress on the Global Goals. This strategy also commits UNDP to support at least 15 countries – which are home to the majority of IDPs – to significantly reduce, resolve, and prevent further internal displacement by 2030. In line with UNDP's Strategic Plan and Crisis Offer, this will involve putting the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement into action by rebuilding homes, livelihoods, and access to services.

Every day, thousands of people have no option but to make the excruciating decision of *flight*: leaving their homes to seek sanctuary, perhaps never to return. Yet, resilience, the ability to rebound from adversity, is a defining human trait that provides hope for the future. Through this new Strategy, our overarching aim is to help ensure that people across the globe will not have to make the decision to flee; those that do will be given the opportunity and resources to rebuild their lives as quickly as possible; and that communities who welcome displaced people will have the support and resources they need. All people, including IDPs, must be able to play an active part in investing in a peaceful, more sustainable, and more inclusive today to help prevent the crises of tomorrow.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Achim Steiner'.

**Achim Steiner, Administrator,
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)**

OBJECTIVES

Record numbers of people have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence and disasters while remaining in their own countries. Beyond the figures are human beings facing enormous suffering. The *Institutional Strategy on Development Solutions to Internal Displacement*

shows how the global community can effectively address internal displacement through nationally owned development solutions. The Strategy outlines what UNDP can do to improve the lives of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and displacement-affected communities.

By 2030, UNDP will help at least 15 countries most affected by internal displacement to sustainably reduce, resolve and prevent further internal displacement through nationally owned development solutions.

In the next two years, UNDP will work with countries on preventing and resolving internal displacement in affected communities, including:

- Assisting countries to design and implement national solutions strategies and to improve policies and regulations in alignment with the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), regional conventions and the [UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda](#).
- Aiding countries to improve the collection and analysis of data and to implement and monitor plans on resolving internal displacement.
- Supporting joint UN intervention in the pilot countries selected by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Internal Displacement.
- Implementing 50 percent of IDP programmes with other UN agencies, 40 percent with civil society organizations and 30 percent with the private sector.
- Advancing 30 innovative gender-responsive and community-driven actions to prevent and resolve internal displacement.
- Helping countries develop funding plans for internal displacement responses, in line with Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs). At least 75 percent of work on INFFs will be in partnership with International Financial Institutions (IFIs).



THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

The numbers of people forcibly displaced within their own countries by conflict and disasters have been climbing rapidly over the past decade and in 2022 reached record numbers (71.1 million IDPs). Over the next 30 years, millions more are predicted to be uprooted by increasing extreme weather events and environmental degradation.

IDPs are often denied basic rights such as housing, health, education and decent work. They face violence and other human rights abuses, and/or have lost their lands, houses, property and livelihoods. Developing countries with high poverty levels and fewer resources witness the largest number of IDPs.



- Two-thirds of the +100 million forcibly displaced people worldwide remain within their own countries.
- Women and girls made up over half of the world's IDPs. Over 30.5 million were children and youth.
- The cost of providing every IDP with housing, education, health and security for one year was estimated at over US \$21 billion.
- Over 80 percent of all IDPs live in fragile settings and 72 percent in sub-regions where incomes per capita are below the national average.
- Most of the protracted internal displacement was caused by violence and conflict but the number of internal displacements due to disasters is growing.
- Climate change could force more than 216 million people to relocate within their own countries by 2050.
- There is a complex interconnection between displacements related to disasters and now more frequently climate change and those prompted by conflict and violence.
- More than half of all IDPs live in or near cities, often in hazard-prone informal and under-serviced settlements.
- Humanitarian funding does not promote long-term and joined-up approaches across humanitarian, development and peace actors.
- Leaving IDPs in a state of protracted marginalization is not only an economic and humanitarian challenge, but it can also become an obstacle to long-term peace, stability, recovery and reconstruction.

DIRECTIONS OF CHANGE

As the UN Secretary-General has noted, **“More of the same is not good enough.”**

UNDP’s approach is on people-centred interventions that increase displacement-affected communities’ agency and opportunities, strengthen resilience and capacities and help to

lay the foundations for sustainable recovery, and towards transformative – greener, more inclusive and equitable – sustainable development pathways.



OUTCOMES

UNDP promotes the creation of the legal, political, economic, social and environmental conditions that allow for nationally owned prevention, responses and development solutions to internal displacement. Our approach is guided

by our mandate to support sustainable human development through inclusive governance processes which enable the voice of the poor and marginalized groups to be acted on and help improve their opportunities.

The strategy will assist in developing the capacities at the national and local level and these will in the long-term contribute to **three** main outcomes:

SOCIETY

1

A renewed social contract between displaced citizens and the state at national and local levels.

IDPs and DACs live in a safe, healthy and secure social, economic and political environment, are protected from environmental risks and contribute to and benefit from local economic development in ways that promote individual and community resilience.

PEOPLE

2

IDPs, irrespective of age, gender and diversity, are treated equally to other citizens and enjoy corresponding human security and dignity.

IDPs and DACs have increased trust in their national and local government's ability and willingness to provide them with legal and physical protection, and economic, political and cultural choices and opportunities, allowing them to contribute to the resilience of their communities and to the sustainable development of their country.

STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS

3

Resilient institutions at national and local levels are equipped to prevent, manage and implement inclusive and gender-responsive solutions to address internal displacement.

National and local institutions have increased resilience to shocks and crises and have data and evidence to address the root causes of displacement, to create and maintain social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

INPUTS

UNDP's knowledge and expertise on governance, resilience, climate action, social cohesion, sustainable human development and development financing make it uniquely placed to address the root causes of displacement as well as in finding

development solutions to internal displacement after population movements have taken place.

UNDP's Institutional Strategy proposes **four** key inputs.

Strategic input 1: Promoting a development approach to solutions

- Policy dialogues at the national and local levels to foster ownership.
- Political economy analysis, research and improved data and analytics.
- National strategies that support joint planning and priority setting.

Strategic input 2: Integrated prevention and solutions programming

UNDP will specifically focus on building national and local authorities' and other actors' capacities and service provision through an integrated portfolio contextualized to each country including:

- (Local) governance,
- Resilience,
- Poverty reduction and reducing inequalities,
- Environmental sustainability,
- Access to clean energy,
- Gender equality and female empowerment.

Strategic input 3: Focused development solutions financing

- Helping countries develop INFFs that mainstream internal displacement.
- Mobilizing public finance and unlocking private capital.
- Deepening engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), IFIs, including regional and national development banks and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Strategic input 4: Extended engagement and partnerships

Including with:

- National and local governments and affected communities,
- Human rights, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors and civil society,
- IFIs,
- Private sector and academia,
- And investing in local, national and regional coordination fora.

UNDP supports coordination through the UN Resident Coordinators, the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, and regional collaborative platforms. UNDP manages a UN Solutions Adviser Facility for the deployment of Solutions Advisers to UN Country Teams.

PATHWAYS

UNDP will work along **five** pathways that can accelerate progress towards solutions to prevent and resolve internal displacement.

1

Strengthening governance institutions at the national and particularly the local level for prevention and solutions so state and non-state actors (civil society, private sector) are better equipped with data, tools and knowledge.

2

Fostering socio-economic (re)integration of IDPs and DACs and reducing poverty and inequalities through local economic development and access to livelihoods and jobs.

3

Improving security and access to justice for IDPs and DACs that also address root causes and ensures equitable justice for all.

4

Enhancing civic and political participation, allowing IDPs to exercise their civil and political rights and to contribute to the development of their communities as agents of change.

5

Promoting social cohesion to manage the impact of displacement on affected populations and ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Targeted responses to address gender equality and women's empowerment: Women and girls experience displacement differently from men and boys, and face specific challenges that must be well understood, including the particularly high exposure to risks of physical and sexual violence, abuse, kidnappings, early and forced marriages, partner violence, gender-based discrimination and labour exploitation.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

UNDP will extend its partnerships with national and local governments and affected communities and will expand partnerships with human rights,

humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors and support solutions platforms and coordination forums.



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

Over 50 percent of UNDP's programming and 9 out of the 10 UNDP's largest country offices are in fragile contexts, including those with large-scale displaced populations. Between 2018-2022, UNDP disbursed \$2.99 billion on projects that had a direct or indirect impact on IDPs, compared to, for example \$884 million targeting (directly or indirectly) refugees.

UNDP has supported the return and/or (re) integration of millions of IDPs, built capacities that have helped reduce the impact of disasters and the risk of violence in dozens of countries, and supported tens of millions of people in retaining their livelihoods, accessing basic social, security and justice services, and building better lives after crises.

Learning by doing, country offices in Colombia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Syria have accumulated a wealth of experience on internal displacement. At the regional level, the Sub-Regional Facility for the Syria Crisis (SRF) provided significant contributions to UNDP's approach to internal displacement.

Many previous UNDP initiatives however were funded from small, time-bound thematic project budgets. Others were part of larger programmes either linked to the humanitarian response, early recovery or stabilization efforts. Few projects addressed internal displacement as the main target. National and UN strategies on internal displacement were either lacking or not completed.

INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

A new time-bound **Inter-Bureau Task Team on Internal Displacement** will be created to ensure strategic, coherent, whole-of-UNDP engagement at global, regional and country levels.



Human resources support to country offices from technical teams, specialized internal displacement experts and regional bureaux and hubs.



Access to global knowledge and expertise through the Global Policy Network and Communities of Practise.



Developing staff's skills and knowledge with Internal Displacement E-learning Modules, UNDP Crisis and Nexus academies and a joint UN training course.



Policy guidance with practical information on how to operationalize the strategy and engage with governments and partners.



Monitoring results of internal targets adapted to national contexts as well as contribute to wider efforts including through a planned exercise in partnership with JIPS.

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United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017 USA

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One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

www.undp.org

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