

Reporting by Session Note-takers at the 2019 Annual Consultations with NGOs

Date:	Wednesday 3 July, 2019
Session Title:	IDPs and data: Evidence across the Displacement Continuum
Moderator:	Ms. Sumbul Rizvi, Senior Advisor on Internal Displacement, UNHCR
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Major points arising from speakers and discussions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration / coordination around data are critical throughout the displacement continuum, including for preparedness and early warning. Key stakeholders – including national and local government, humanitarian and development actors, NGOs and affected communities (internally displaced persons and hosts) – need to be involved, as appropriate, at the onset and throughout a displacement crisis. Good practice examples shared included the humanitarian coordination platform in place in Afghanistan, and the early warning and early action dashboard developed by FSNAU in Somalia, and the platform in Kumamoto, Japan focused on sharing information on IDPs following the earthquake and its aftershocks as well as finding immediate solutions. • Joint analysis is key to build consensus with relevant stakeholders, including authorities, and ensure their buy-in on the results. This is important at all stages of displacement but particularly critical when it comes to protracted displacement and durable solutions analysis. NGOs need to be included adequately in this process, as they can inform and enrich the analysis through their “historical memory” and often strong ties to affected communities. Good practice examples shared included the Displaced and Returnees Executive Committee (DiREC, a national platform bringing together representatives from Ministries, IOM, OCHA, UN-Habitat, and USAID) in Afghanistan and their work on profiling, and the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). JIPS Coordinator also shared experience in their area, and AHC-O picked up on this point in the discussion. • NGOs have a key role to play in the above, and in particular in engaging affected communities and supporting protection analysis and monitoring, for sound data and effective action. Examples provided included inter-agency call centres and complaints mechanisms, awareness raising and training initiatives, legal advice, etc. • Participation and engagement of internally displaced people is essential in key stages of the data collection, analysis and use throughout the displacement continuum, to elevate the information to be used for advocacy and decision-making purposes. The voices of the marginalised, especially women, youth, disabled and elderly, must be enabled. • Better harmonization and improved linkages between data are needed to strengthen the use of data and overcome the current challenges, in particular 	

regarding data gaps for early warning and preparedness, protection analysis, as well as adequate data to inform durable solutions. Good practice examples included the UNHCR-IOM Data Sharing Agreement and related Data Sharing Protocol currently being developed by OCHA in Afghanistan, as well as the early warning – early action dashboard developed by FSNAU to share data in Somalia.

- The **use of a mixed methods** for targeting eligibility, receiving referrals from a broad mix of NGOs, government counterparts, protection outreach, legal aid and self-referral/complaints mechanisms. A good practice example was highlighted in the Iraq presentation about a Ministry of Interior (MOI) pilot project on civil documentation in IDP camps through survey assessments of those IDPs who lacked legal documentation.

Recommendations/Conclusions/Decisions on the way forward

- **Collaboration / coordination around data throughout the displacement continuum** – UNHCR needs to invest in adequate collaboration mechanisms, which are key across the spectrum in relation to IDP data including constructive engagement with governments, and (better) linkages to existing coordination platforms for immediate response.
- **Joint data analysis** – UNHCR should work with partners to develop a common analysis framework that includes humanitarian and development-specific indicators, to make data useful for all stakeholders. In addition, UNHCR should enhance its efforts to work with governments to inform statistics on displaced populations and inclusion in national development plans, in addition to strengthening its own capacity on data collection, analysis and use in internal displacement situations.
- **Better harmonization and improved linkages between data systems** – efforts are needed from UNHCR and partners to establish and improve data sharing management systems and protocols that all actors adhere to, and to improve the use of secondary data. This also calls for improved timing of data collection exercises especially in protracted situations.
- UNHCR should also contribute to strengthening **data security abilities by all data sharing stakeholders**, especially in regard to data relating to individual vulnerabilities, risks and needs.

Top two quotes from the session

- “Timely data analysis is crucial to humanitarian planning, response and solutions in internal displacement situations.” – Sumbul Rizvi, UNHCR
- “In Afghanistan, actors are good at data collection, analysis and use to inform coordinated humanitarian response but this doesn’t link to data needs for longer-term solutions.” – Dr. Farshid Farzan, Welthungerhilfe Afghanistan
- “Data collected by humanitarian actors might not be usable for development actors. This is a gap that needs to be addressed.” – Dr. Farshid Farzan, Welthungerhilfe Afghanistan
- “Young people and their voices should be part of the peace process as they assisted with local NGOs in documenting and gathering information on the cases of the disappeared.” – Ismael Gamboa Ocampo, IDP youth delegate, GYAC

- “Government engagement [in Somalia] is crucial: we often actually undermine efforts put in supporting governments in taking the lead, especially when it comes to durable solutions. [...] If we don’t have all stakeholders around the table we end up with one party disagreeing and then being unable to act upon the data. The investment is really worth it – otherwise we end up with data we don’t agree on how to use. UNHCR needs to work more on engaging with governments and data linkages incl. link to solutions.” Anna Geller, DRC / Protection Cluster co-lead in Somalia

Any general points regarding UNHCR-NGO partnerships

- Key role UNHCR could play in facilitating joint data analysis, data harmonization, and data sharing management systems and standards
- Ensure stronger focus on coordination, protection and solutions for IDPs which includes (standard setting, working with governments, development actors, and national systems).