



## GP2.0 Fall Meeting

### *Leave No One Behind: Building Strategies to Empower the Most At-Risk Internally Displaced*

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

08.00-09.30am NY | 02.00-03.30pm GVA | 07.00-08.30pm BKK

**Coordinating organizations:** OCHA, UNICEF, Major Group for Children and Youth

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

Reaching yet again the highest figure on record, 55 million people were internally displaced by the end of 2020 due to conflict, violence and disasters around the world.<sup>1</sup> To aggravate this situation, there are population groups among the internally displaced that remain invisible because of exclusion and marginalization, which creates a set of overlapping vulnerabilities. They are the most vulnerable within the already highly vulnerable displaced population.

The gender dimensions of internal displacement cannot be overstated as women and girls account for more than half of the IDP population. Compounded by displacement-related risks, women and girls are more at risk of experiencing gender-based violence and increased barriers to essential services and meaningful participation such as limited access to education, healthcare, livelihoods, as well as to participation in decision-making within their community. IDP adolescent girls in particular are among the most disempowered populations with growing risk of forced and child marriage.<sup>2</sup>

Nearly half of the IDP population – over 23.3 million – are estimated to be children.<sup>3</sup> Among them, nearly 19.4 million have been displaced by violence and conflict,<sup>4</sup> and in each day of 2020, almost 26,900 children were displaced by climate-related disasters alone.<sup>5</sup> Internally displaced children persistently lack access to basic services jeopardizing their right to education, health, protection and non-discrimination. These deprivations are aggravated by displacement risks that threaten their lives: family separation, child labour and child marriage, violence, exploitation, abuse and trafficking.<sup>6</sup> Further, internally displaced children and youth often face a gap between their aspirations and the opportunities available for them to reach their potential and transition successfully into the workforce. With the right support and opportunities young IDPs can be innovators, change-makers and pillars of their communities and countries.

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<sup>1</sup> IDMC GRID 2021 Report: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/>.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, Tearing Down the Walls: Confronting the Barriers to Internally Displaced Women and Girl's Participation in Humanitarian Settings, 2019: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/70156.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> IDMC GRID 2021 Report: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/>

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF data website, April 2021, Child Displacement, available at <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/displacement/>

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF UK, 2021, Futures at Risk – Protecting the rights of children on the move in a changing climate, p.5 available at <https://www.unicef.org.uk/futures-at-risk-climate-report/>

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF Lost at Home 2020 Report: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/lost-home-2020>



LGBTIQ people are often a target of violence which can lead to displacement and are also frequently persecuted and systematically discriminated against during displacement. Homosexuality is criminalized in eight countries where 51% of all IDPs live. It is roughly estimated that there could be between 660,000 and 1.9 million lesbian, gay or bisexual IDPs, and between 27,500 and 935,000 intersex IDPs in the world.<sup>7</sup>

People with disabilities may be unable to move out of harm's way and often face barriers accessing information and assistance. The prevalence of disability among populations in humanitarian settings is staggeringly high in certain countries: 54.3% of the adult population of Afghanistan and 27% of Syria have a disability.<sup>8</sup> Women and girls with disabilities experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, based on age, gender and disability as well as other factors, such as nationality and socioeconomic status. Persons with disabilities face even greater risk of GBV during crises as they are more dependent on others for survival and less able to protect themselves from harm and less visible.<sup>9</sup>

There are 2.6 million elderly among the internally displaced global population.<sup>10</sup> More than 46% of the older persons population above 60 years old worldwide have a type of disability – overlapping ageing and disability risks.<sup>11</sup> Older persons IDPs experience mental health issues linked to loss of respect, influence and participation in the community, as a result of displacement. They often lack access to information about their rights and services available, mobility or confidence to seek advice.<sup>12</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities reinforcing the multiple layers of exclusion: older persons and persons with disabilities were exposed to health risks and further isolation during displacement, IDP children had interrupted education with less access to alternative learning opportunities than the general population, women and girls suffered a spike in intimate partner violence all while facing the heightened barriers in accessing GBV services, as a result of lockdown measures. The economic downturn pushed IDPs into negative coping mechanisms such as increased debts, begging, forced and child marriage and child labour, putting them at higher risk.<sup>13</sup>

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promised to leave no one behind, reinforcing the urgency to devise responses to internal displacement that include all IDPs. To meet this commitment of

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<sup>7</sup> IDMC Hidden Pride: the Challenges Faced by LGBTIQ+ IDPs, 2021: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/expert-opinion/hidden-pride-the-challenges-faced-by-lgbtqi-idps>

<sup>8</sup> Including physical, intellectual, psychosocial, sensory or other impairments. See IDMC, UNHCR, IDA, Disability, Displacement and Climate Change, 2021: [https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Disability\\_Displacement\\_Climate%20Change.pdf](https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Disability_Displacement_Climate%20Change.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> UN DESA, Leaving no one behind: the COVID-19 crisis through the disability and gender lens: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/dspd/covid-19-disability.html>

<sup>10</sup> IDMC GRID 2021 Report: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/>

<sup>11</sup> UN DESA, Ageing and Disability: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/disability-and-ageing.html>.

<sup>12</sup> HelpAge, Humanitarian Policy Group (ODI), Older people in displacement: falling through the cracks of emergency response, 2018: <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/12292.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> IDMC GRID 2021 Report: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/>



reaching the furthest behind, the specific vulnerabilities of displaced women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ must be taken into account when building strategies to address and advance durable solutions to internal displacement.

Although much progress has been achieved during the past years to obtain granular data, a critical gap remains in standardizing disaggregated IDP data on age, sex and disability at global level. Sex, age and disability data is essential to inform a targeted analysis that acknowledges the specific risks and needs of each population group to guide an inclusive approach that empowers each individual. Deepening our understanding about the differentiated impact of displacement on different population groups is fundamental to foster strategies that support IDPs in becoming agents of their own lives and to achieve durable solutions.

#### **Objective of the session:**

The overarching objective of this session is to generate a debate among government, civil society, international community and IDP rights activists on strategies to support and amplify the self directed needs and priorities of the most vulnerable IDPs to address the risks they face during displacement increase their agency in decisions that affect their own lives and support them to reach their potential.

#### **Key questions:**

The Fall session of the GP2.0 Group aims to discuss how humanitarian and development responses can reach the most vulnerable IDPs, in particular to find solutions to their displacement. The meeting will offer a space for dialogue and reflection on:

- What are the main challenges for the protection and assistance of the most vulnerable IDPs?
- What are the successful elements of intersectional approaches to address IDP marginalization?
- How can those vulnerable groups achieve participation and equal rights?
- What are the ways in which solidarity among various IDP vulnerable groups and host community can be fostered to promote inclusion?
- What actions can be taken to address gender inequalities in internal displacement that disproportionately impact displaced women and girls?
- What aspects of empowerment are particularly effective for the achievement of durable solutions?
- How do we build systems that are more inclusive of vulnerable IDPs?

#### **Proposed themes for the panel discussion**

- Stories of internally displaced persons shaping up their own solutions. Including examples of women's and persons with disabilities meaningful participation humanitarian and development processes and decision-making. What are the enabling factors and barriers, and how can the international community best support to empower this agency?
- Closing the gap between aspirations and learning and earning opportunities for internally displaced children and youth – how do we work with young IDPs to cocreate better solutions to help them reach their potential?



**Format:** panel discussion shaped by speakers who will be identified earlier on in the process.

***A final programme of the event and background documents will be sent to all registered participants closer to the date of the event.***

**References:**

GP20, [“Working Together Better to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement. GP20 Compilation of National Practices”](#), 2020.

HelpAge, Samuel Hall, [Covid-19, Displacement & Older People in Afghanistan](#), 2020.

HelpAge, Humanitarian Policy Group (ODI), [Older people in displacement](#): falling through the cracks of emergency response, 2018.

HelpAge, IDMC, [The neglected generation](#): the impact of displacement on older people, 2013.

IDMC, [GRID Report](#), 2021.

IDMC, Hidden in Plain Sight – [Women and Girls](#) in internal displacement, 2018.

IDMC, Hidden Pride: the Challenges Faced by [LGBTIQ+](#) IDPs, 2021.

IDMC, Hidden in Plain Sight – [Becoming an Adult](#) in Internal Displacement, 2020.

IDMC, UNHCR, IDA (International Disability Alliance), [Disability, Displacement and Climate Change](#), 2021.

OCHA, Walter Kälin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, [Breaking the Impasse](#), 2017.

UN DESA, [Ageing and Disability](#), 2015.

UNHCR, [Global Trends](#) Report, 2021.

UNHCR, [Tearing Down the Walls](#): Confronting the Barriers to Internally Displaced Women and Girl’s Participation in Humanitarian Settings, 2019.

UNICEF, [Lost at Home](#) – the risks and challenges for internally displaced children and the urgent actions needed to protect them, 2020.

UNICEF, [Voices of Young IDPs and their Host Communities](#), 2020.

UNICEF, [Talent on the Move](#) – Listening to children and young people on the move to unlock their potential, 2021.

UN SG High Level Panel on Internal Displacement, [Concept Paper on Issues and Challenges before the Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), February 2020.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs (Cecilia Jimenez-Damary), [Report to the UN Human Rights Council 2020 on Persons with disabilities in the context of internal displacement](#), May 2020.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs (Cecilia Jimenez-Damary), [Report to the UN General Assembly 2019 Protection of internally displaced children](#), July 2019.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs (Chaloka Beyani) [Report to the UN Human Rights Council 2013 Internally displaced women: progress, challenges and the way ahead](#), March 2013.