

#haydarpasamun'24



# STUDY GUIDE

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## GA3: SOCHUM



**HAYDARPAŞAMUN'24**  
**THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE**  
**SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN & CULTURAL ISSUES**  
**STUDY GUIDE**

**Agenda Item 1: Socio-economic Disparities in the Accessibility of Mental Health Services**

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## **1. Letter from the Chairboard**

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

I welcome you all to this year's edition of HaydarpaşaMUN. I am Yiğit Canca from Kabataş Erkek High School. It is my honor to serve as the Co-Chair of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. I have been participating in MUN conferences for 3 years and I gained priceless experience through the journey. I have made good memories and I made close friends. I believe that I can help you on your MUN journey and share my experiences. That is the reason Işıl and I would like to spend some quality time and organise elite debates with you.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, you can contact me via e-mail:  
yigitcanca1@gmail.com

We are looking forward to having fruitful debates.

Best Regards,

Yiğit Canca

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

I welcome you all to this year's edition of HaydarpaşaMUN. I am Işıl Meriç from Cağaloğlu Anatolian High School. It is my honor to serve as the Co-Chair of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

I have been participating in MUN conferences for 4 years and I gained priceless experience through the journey. That is the reason Yiğit and I would like to require the best committee environment for you to contribute your own journey.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, you can contact me via email:  
isilmeric97@gmail.com

We are looking forward to have fruitful debates.

Best Regards,  
Işıl Meriç

## **2. Introduction to the Committee**

The third committee of the General Assembly, also known as the Social Cultural and Humanitarian Committee was established in 1947, following the Charter of the United Nations. It mainly focuses on a wide range of topics revolving around humanitarian and social issues in the international community. SOCHUM is made up of all 193 member states of the United Nations, and its decisions are made by consensus. The committee focuses broadly on the welfare and human rights of protected groups such as children, refugees, victims of discrimination, and many others. The committee also discusses the international criminal justice system, issues related to the rights of indigenous peoples, the elimination of discrimination, the questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination.

The Committee works in union with other organs such as the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Refugees as well as its subbody Economic and Social Council. session usually begins late September and finishes at the end of the year. Some of the most impactful actions of the SOCHUM can be given as the proposal in 1990 regarding prisoners and the resolution written in 2000 about gender equality and women's rights, which still holds their value. Today for the global issues stated above, SOCHUM comes up with various laws, policies and practices that can be implied by the states to reach a more equal world.

## **3. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

One urgent issue that needs to be addressed right now in the complex field of global health is represented by the agenda item "Socio-economic Disparities in the Accessibility of Mental Health Services." The prevalent obstacles and disparities that continue to exist

in the accessibility of mental health care across various socioeconomic strata are brought into stark relief by this important topic. An essential component of human well-being, mental health is a global issue that cuts over national, cultural, and economic divides. We meet in this complex situation in order to explore the intricate relationship between socioeconomic determinants and mental health treatment accessibility.

Realizing that mental health is a basic human right rather than a privilege is crucial. But the sad truth is that access to appropriate mental health care is frequently disproportionately difficult for people from different socioeconomic situations. A wide range of elements are included in the socio-economic determinants, such as differences in income, educational attainment, work prospects, and the presence of social support systems. These factors have a complex role in shaping the state of mental health, impacting not only the frequency of mental health issues but also people's capacity to seek and get the right care.

Therefore, this agenda item is a call to action, a shared understanding that reducing socioeconomic gaps in mental health accessibility is essential to building a more just and healthy global community. The inequalities that we seek to address are widespread and necessitate an all-encompassing strategy. They are not limited to any particular area. Our shared dedication to removing obstacles and promoting mental health fairness calls for creative approaches, frameworks for policy, and cross-border cooperative projects. As we explore the intricacies of this agenda, let us endeavor to foster a dialogue that not only recognizes obstacles but also looks for revolutionary answers. This is a chance to use the knowledge and experience that this forum has amassed to help create a future in which everyone has access to mental health treatments regardless of their financial situation. By doing this, we set out on a path to a more compassionate and inclusive world where everyone's well-being is protected and mental health is given priority.

#### **4. Key Terms**

**Intersectional Analysis:** A methodological approach considering the interconnected influences of various social determinants, such as socio-economic status, race, and gender, on mental health outcomes and service access.

**Evidence-Based Interventions:** Approaches to mental health care that are supported by empirical research, ensuring that interventions are effective and tailored to address socio-economic disparities.

**Policy Analysis in Mental Health:** Examination of legislative and administrative frameworks to identify and assess their impact on socio-economic disparities in mental health service accessibility.

**Social Epidemiology:** The study of how social structures and processes contribute to patterns of health and illness, including mental health disparities influenced by socio-economic factors.

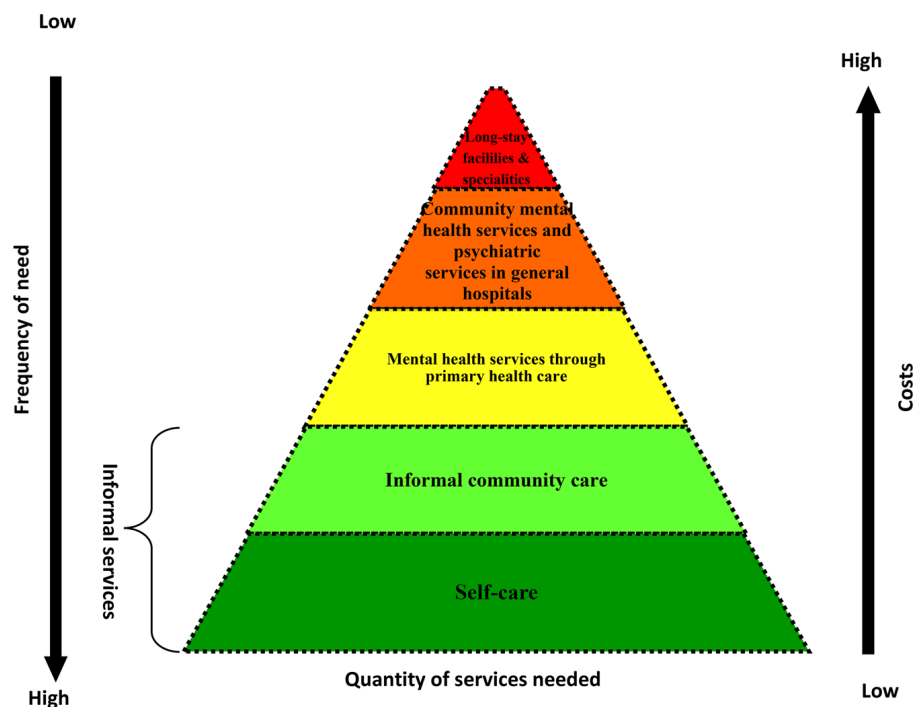
## 5. General Overview

Examining the differences in the availability and use of mental health services among various social and economic classes, the topic "Socio-economic Disparities in the Accessibility of Mental Health Services" explores the complex relationship between mental health and socioeconomic variables. This sophisticated investigation acknowledges that mental health is a complex issue that is entwined with social structures and economic circumstances in addition to being a biological and psychological concern.

The main worry stems from the finding that people with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds have differing levels of difficulties when attempting to get mental health services. The manifestation of socio-economic disparities can take various forms, such as variations in the availability of high-quality mental health care, financial obstacles, and differing attitudes towards seeking assistance and the stigma attached to it.

Social variables including money, education, employment, and access to support networks exacerbate these gaps even further. A thorough understanding of the structural factors impacting mental health outcomes is necessary to address socioeconomic disparities in mental health

treatment. This entails examining healthcare access inequalities, economic stratification, and the larger social, cultural, and policy factors that influence mental health experiences. Not only are the problems to be identified, but also evidence-based therapies and policy frameworks to support health equity and guarantee that mental health services are available, reasonably priced, and culturally appropriate for people from all socioeconomic levels have to be developed. Since socioeconomic differences in mental health accessibility are widespread and necessitate cooperative, cross-cultural solutions, this problem is by its very nature global. A wide range of academic fields are covered in the discussion, such as evidence-based interventions, social epidemiology, policy analysis, and health equity. By exploring this complex subject, talks want to open the door to a day when mental health care are available to everyone, fostering a more just and caring society.



## 6. Historical Development

"Socio-economic Disparities in the Accessibility of Mental Health Services" is a historical development that weaves together the development of societal structures, healthcare systems, and mental health understanding. Although mental health has always been important, in recent years there has been a greater focus on the specific socioeconomic issues that affect how accessible mental health is.



**Early Identifying Mental Health Issues:**

The early identification of mental health issues, which are frequently stigmatized and misinterpreted, is where the historical perspective starts. Cultural and religious views shaped societal reactions, and access to mental health care was restricted in many ways.

**Emergence of Modern Psychiatry:** Modern psychiatry first appeared in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, access to mental health care was frequently influenced by socioeconomic position, with wealthier people having more options, and the majority of mental health care was institutionalized. The goal of the deinstitutionalization movement in the middle of the 20th century was to relocate mental health services from huge facilities to settings that are more community-based. However, there were variations in the execution, and access was still influenced by socioeconomic considerations.

**Recognition of socioeconomic variables:** As the 20th century came to an end, there was an increasing recognition of the ways in which socioeconomic variables influenced mental health. Scholars and decision-makers started to see the role that socioeconomic variables have in the differences in mental health outcomes and service accessibility.

**Mental Health Parity and Healthcare Reforms:** In order to address disparities, mental health parity—which ensures that mental health services are covered to the same extent as other medical services—was advocated for in a number of countries during the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

**7. Past and Current Actions**

According to the historical account, the goal of the 20th-century Deinstitutionalization Movement was to transform mental health care by moving patients from huge institutions into settings that were more community-based. Despite having lofty objectives, the movement had a difficult time gaining the community's support and carrying them out successfully, which

prevented it from becoming widely successful. Simultaneously, late 20th-century Mental Health Parity Legislation introduced rules to guarantee equitable treatment for mental health care, with the goal of correcting discrepancies in insurance coverage. This legislative action marked a significant advancement in the recognition of the close relationship between mental health and general wellbeing. Both previous attempts, however, ran into a number of obstacles, highlighting how difficult and intricate it is to address socioeconomic differences in mental health accessibility.

The current state of mental health initiatives is characterized by a move toward integrated healthcare models that treat physical and mental health together in primary care settings. This calculated action attempts to improve accessibility to all-inclusive care and lessen fragmentation. Furthermore, the growth of telemedicine and digital mental health services in reaction to the COVID-19 epidemic is an ongoing effort to get around geographical limitations, even though it is accompanied by worries about the digital divide. Community outreach and education programs continue despite continuous efforts; they emphasize early intervention and destigmatization. Programs for crisis intervention, social determinant-focused legislative advocacy, and global partnerships highlight the need for a multimodal strategy to address the complex web of socioeconomic gaps in mental health accessibility.

## **8. Possible Solutions**

A comprehensive plan is required to address the socio-economic inequities in mental health treatment accessibility. In order to promote a more comprehensive approach to general well-being, integrated healthcare policies should be put into place first. This will guarantee that mental health care is smoothly integrated into primary care settings. Expanding telehealth and digital mental health services should be done at the same time as steps to close the digital divide are taken to provide fair access for people from all socioeconomic backgrounds. It is imperative to enhance and broaden community-based mental health initiatives, providing tailored and culturally sensitive services to cater to the particular socioeconomic needs of local populations. It is imperative to promote and implement workplace mental health initiatives that offer information, resources, and support in order to create a more positive work environment.

Regardless of socioeconomic status, anti-stigma campaigns and educational initiatives should be implemented widely to de-stigmatize obtaining mental health care. In order to remove financial obstacles that can prevent people from accessing mental health services, it is crucial to advocate for fair mental health insurance coverage. In order to reduce the demand on emergency mental health services, crisis intervention services should be extended and funded. To establish a more equitable mental health environment, policies that take into account socioeconomic determinants such as income disparity and education differences should be devised and put into action. Strong research projects, extensive data gathering, and international collaborations to exchange best practices and tactics can all help to further inform customized interventions, which will ultimately help to create a more inclusive and accessible mental health care system for everyone.

## **9. Further Reading**

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/mental-health-and-development.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3178190/>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(14\)00058-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(14)00058-7/fulltext)

## **10. Bibliography**

[https://www.who.int/mental\\_health/en/](https://www.who.int/mental_health/en/)

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/socioeconomic-status-ses/index.shtml>

<https://www.kff.org/global-issue/mental-health-and-socioeconomic-status/>

<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/cultural-competency/mental-health-disparities>

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_03/sr03\\_038.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_03/sr03_038.pdf)

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## **1. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

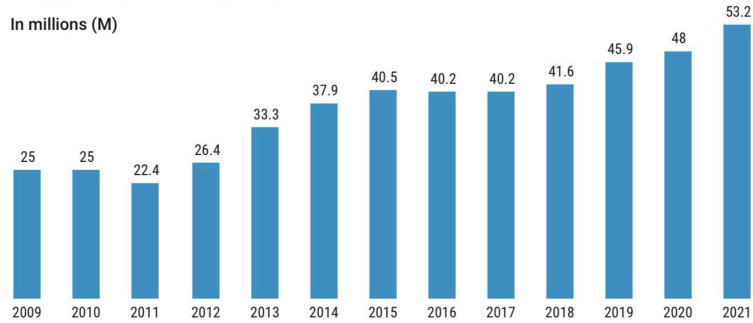
The world is at a breaking point. More people are currently displaced within their own countries than ever recorded before due to conflict, violence, disasters and the impact of climate change.

Conflicts are lasting ever longer and human rights are routinely and systematically violated. Climate-related disasters are growing in frequency and intensity. COVID-19 brought the world to its knees and has placed many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even further out of reach. Where these threats intersect— and they often do—the dangers multiply and become mutually reinforcing.

In all these crises, record numbers of people have been forced from their homes and entire communities remain trapped in protracted displacement. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has doubled over the last 10 years, with women, children and marginalized groups often facing the greatest impacts. The urgency to prevent internal displacement and find durable solutions is particularly acute in light of climate change, which is not only a driver of displacement but also a risk multiplier. The World Bank estimates that 216 million people could be forced to move internally by 2050 in just six regions due to climate change if immediate action is not taken.

**PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED  
BY CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE BY YEAR**

In millions (M)



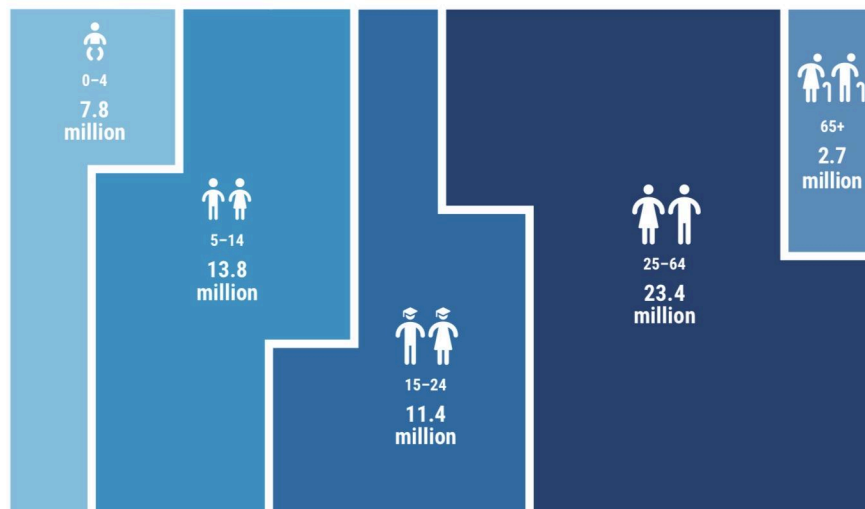
Source: IDMC, GRID 2022

**Table 1: People Internally Displaced By Year**

It is untenable for those who are internally displaced and long to re-establish a lasting home. It is untenable for host communities whose capacities to meet their own needs often become overstretched. And it is untenable for countries and cities for whom having large numbers of IDPs constitutes a major hurdle to meeting the SDGs.

**BREAKDOWN OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE BY AGE GROUP**

59.1 million IDPs by end 2021



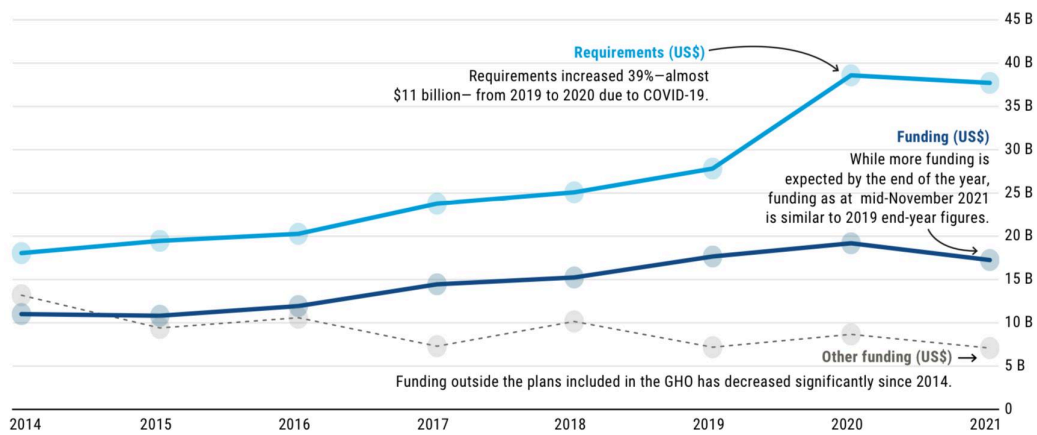
Estimated number of people of different age groups living in internal displacement as a result of conflict, violence and disasters globally at the end of 2021. Source: IDMC, GRID 2022

**Table 2: Breakdown of IDPs by Age Group**

Here we can see the number of people affected by internally displacement divided into age group sections. It is pretty clear that many IDPs suffer mental problems because of this problem.

There is also the economic part of this problem, here we can see a table for that:

## INTER-AGENCY COORDINATED APPEALS: FUNDING GAP (2014-2021)



All requirements and funding between 2014 and 2020 are as of end-year. Requirements and funding for 2021 as of 19 November.  
Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: WTO/CREG

**Table 3: The Funding Gap**

## 2. Key Terms

### a. IDP

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to the **United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**, are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border." This, however, is a descriptive definition, which does not confer a special legal status because IDPs, being inside their country, remain entitled to all the rights and guarantees as citizens and other habitual residents of their country. As such, national authorities have the primary responsibility to prevent forced displacement and to protect IDPs. There are two important elements in the IDP definition: the movement is involuntary and takes place within national borders. IDPs are thus distinct from individuals who can remain safely in their place of residence but have opted to depart on their own free will, without coercion. IDPs are also distinct from refugees because they have not crossed an internationally recognized territorial border, and thus do not require a special legal status as a result of being outside their country and without its

protection. As already explained above, IDPs are entitled to all the rights and guarantees as citizens and other habitual residents of their country.

The IDP definition references the triggers for internal displacement, such as an armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, and natural or human-made disasters. This is, however, not an exhaustive list, as indicated by the words "in particular". The phrase "as a result of or in order to avoid the effect of" also recognizes that persons may be internally displaced after suffering the effects of coercion or in anticipation of such effects.

In accordance with the IDP definition, specific groups, such as indigenous communities or pastoralists displaced because their routes of migration have been blocked by conflict, landmines or insecurity, may be considered IDPs. The homeless and poor urban communities, however, are not automatically considered to be IDPs even though they often suffer marginalization, impoverishment and human rights violations in their areas of residence. In the same vein, the IDP definition does not cover persons who move for economic reasons.

Irregular migrants or third country nationals who find themselves in situations similar to that of IDPs are entitled to protection and assistance under international humanitarian and human rights law. Refugees, as already explained, have a special legal status owing to their being outside their country of origin and thus without their country's protection.

#### **b. Humanitarian Coordinator**

Leaders who are equipped with the right knowledge, skills and experience are essential in the humanitarian field, and one of the most important positions is that of a humanitarian coordinator. As someone who deals with the fast-paced reality of a global emergency, a humanitarian coordinator is not only a leader but a manager, communicator, advocate, key decision-maker, and strategist all rolled into one. In this career guide, we'll explore the details of this vital position, including typical responsibilities and the education and experience required to succeed in the field. It is



a person in this position assesses the need for a humanitarian response and plans, coordinates, and implements as needed.

### **Responsibilities of a Humanitarian Coordinator**

The responsibilities may differ slightly depending on the role and organization, but in general, a humanitarian coordinator will:

- Identify and prioritize humanitarian response needs, advocating for affected populations
- Develop and implement a strategic response plan
- Mobilize resources, including funds, personnel, equipment and material for a logically sequenced and effective response
- Lead coordination efforts of a humanitarian response involving multiple agencies
- Coordinate/lead emergency team meetings
- Manage personnel and logistics
- Ensure the accountability and transparency of the overall effort, including overseeing a sufficient monitoring and evaluation operation

### **3. General Overview**

#### **a. Stages of Internal Displacement**

So here are the stages of Internal Displacement; first, here comes the economical and social problems which came out from reasons like war, job problems according to the economical life status, gender, religion, racism and much more causes internal displacement. And according to this Internal Displacement, many people became refugees and their life completely changed. They begin to face economical and social issues/negativities. In conclusion, the stages of Internal Displacement are hard and they cause many negative things in people's lives which are called IDPs.

#### **b. Displacement by Natural Disasters**

These Displacements are also caused by natural disasters. We can give examples for these natural disasters like earthquakes, fires, storms, tornadoes etc. People became homeless because of these natural disasters and in conclusion they face economical, social and other problems. And also they got forced to migrate and they became in a refugee position in the countries which they had migrated to.

#### **c. Displacement by Armed Conflict**

People also became IDPs according to some insecure country issues like wars which are happening or had happened in the past in their countries. For example, nowadays Palestine and people from and living there face some problems in conclusion of the war which is happening in their countries. They have been forced to migrate and many people have lost their families and their economic welfare.

#### **d. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**

IDPs, due to their forced displacement, are inherently vulnerable to deprivation, further displacement and other protection risks, such as lack of access to basic services, family separation, sexual and gender based violence, trafficking, discrimination and harassment. In view of such vulnerabilities and special needs, the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement seek to guarantee that IDPs, as citizens or habitual residents of their country, enjoy equally and without discrimination the same rights and freedoms under international and national law as do other persons in their country. This includes freedom of movement and the right to choose their place of residence. At the same time, IDPs retain the right, at all times, to seek safety in another part of their country; to seek asylum; and to be protected against forcible return to or resettlement in "any place where their life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk."

### **4. Historical Development**

From its very beginning, the emergence of internal displacement as a concept and how the international community would eventually respond has been inextricably linked to early developments related to refugee protection. In its first uses, the term ‘internal displacement’ itself was meant to distinguish a category separate from those refugees receiving assistance following World War II and, later as argued by France and the United States, for example, to set the limits for those who should be included in the 1951 Refugee Convention and who should not (internally displaced persons) -- as “no question of protection of the persons concerned was involved.”

As became apparent within years of the signing of the 1951 Convention, however, other displaced populations beyond refugees in Europe, were equally calling for international responses. Early on, UNHCR was among the first to recognize the necessity to address people displaced within their own countries in order to resolve refugee problems. With the Algerian crisis in 1957, UNHCR representatives visited millions who were internally displaced and living in camps in Algeria, after which then-High Commissioner Felix Schnyder explained to the Secretary-General his extending the agency’s support beyond purely refugees: “the fate of the repatriated ex-refugees can no longer be dissociated from that of the Algerian population as a whole without seriously endangering the country’s social stability.”

In the decade that followed, international responses to displacement, as seen primarily in the work of UNHCR, underwent a progressive enlargement, which reflected, in the words of then-High Commissioner Schnyder, UNHCR’s need “to gear its activities to the changing world.” This enlargement started from the fact that the 1951 Convention, the only international framework addressing displacement at the time, applied only to World War II refugees in Europe, and therefore entailed expanding activities to Africa and Asia, among others, and then also toward the internally displaced. This progressive expansion, however, was and continues to be contoured by the fact that UNHCR’s governing statute predicated its capacity to take on additional activities to those “determined by the General Assembly within the limits of available resources.” With that, based on its good offices and requests of states, the Secretary-General and the United Nations General Assembly, UNHCR began gradually expanding from strictly European refugees, to protection and assistance for refugees outside Europe, formalized through adoption of the 1967 Protocol, and then eventually to IDPs.

For UNHCR, the question of whether to assist IDPs was less about their needs and more about authorization, particularly from the General Assembly, in order to find assurance both that UNHCR was statutorily mandated to act, and that such intervention would be an acceptable, non-political act, particularly as Cold War dynamics were building. For example, in 1966, High Commissioner Sadruddin Agha Khan was approached by the United States regarding potential assistance for the internally displaced in a deeply divided conflict in Vietnam. The High Commissioner declined the request, citing need for General Assembly authorization that such involvement would be non-political. Other humanitarian organizations, while not focused on displacement specifically, faced similar dynamics in the provision of relief assistance. Notably, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in its role as guardian of international humanitarian law, faced increasing challenges in providing humanitarian assistance during civil conflict in the context of colonial wars of liberation and Cold War proxies.

Only a few years later, the authorization UNHCR sought would come. At the onset of the Bangladesh War in 1971, UNHCR was formally requested by the General Assembly to provide assistance not only to refugees, but the people of East Pakistan, and was requested again at the end of the First Sudanese Civil War in 1972, to assist refugees and people uprooted within Southern Sudan following a request from the President of Sudan subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly. These represented the continuation of a consistent trend by the General Assembly in requesting UNHCR to extend its activities, and this time to IDPs.

Throughout the 1970s, these requests from the General Assembly to UNHCR became more common, and began to establish the common understanding, confirmed by international practice, that internally displaced populations needed assistance, and most frequently involving UNHCR for its “particular expertise and experience.” At the request of or subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly, Secretary-General and governments, UNHCR went on to engage in several other situations of internal displacement, including in the former Portuguese colonies of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique in 1974, Vietnam and Laos in Southeast Asia in 1975 and Ethiopia and Uganda in Eastern and the Horn of Africa in 1979. In certain cases, such as Cyprus in 1974, UNHCR was designated to coordinate all United Nations relief assistance to the affected population, including IDPs. In other cases, such relief was envisioned for natural disasters, as outlined in a 1978 memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO). In

recognition of the growing importance of internal displacement, beginning in 1975 the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly both began referencing displaced persons along with refugees in resolutions regarding UNHCR. Then-High Commissioner Sadruddin Aga Khan remarked:

“[T]his is yet another example of the widening of UNHCR’s terms of reference... It shows that when facing the problem of displaced persons who clearly are not refugees in the legal sense of the word ... it is to UNHCR that the Secretary-General and governments tend to turn for assistance.”

By 1979, displaced persons had become prominent enough that the General Assembly requested that UNHCR promote “durable and speedy solutions for refugees and displaced persons (emphasis added) wherever they occur.”

Following a decade of being the General Assembly’s almost exclusive go-to on internal displacement, however, UNHCR began to step back in the 1980s. Conflict dynamics were shifting toward internal armed conflict, government refugee policies more frequently preferred containment, and forced displacement overall began to increase. Engagement with IDPs was also becoming increasingly more complex than pure relief assistance, such as in Nicaragua and Sri Lanka in the late 1980s, where it involved monitoring security following peace agreements and protection following outbreaks in fighting. While still assisting IDPs in Ethiopia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Chad<sup>16</sup> and providing emergency relief for those uprooted in Lebanon in 1982, for UNHCR there were more situations where it decided not to engage. In light of limited resources available and increasingly complex challenges, then-High Commissioner Poul Hoertling voiced his concerns over the international community “empirically and progressively assign[ing] new tasks to UNHCR in successive resolutions” and communicated his position to decline UNHCR’s involvement in certain situations of internal displacement, especially in countries where it had no refugee program, and even more so regarding natural disasters.

After having led the charge in recognizing the need to provide protection and assistance for IDPs and helping establish this practice as an international norm through responsive action, the General Assembly’s broad directives for UNHCR to find solutions for all displaced persons were an increasingly tall order, and rather than accept responsibility that it should shoulder this alone, UNHCR instead joined calls that others help fill the gaps. ICRC was among those

recognizing the response gaps for the internally displaced, when it committed in 1981 to intervene for protected persons under international humanitarian law, “especially when they cannot, in fact, benefit from any other protection or assistance, as in some cases of IDPs.” With the international response falling short, an independent report in 1986 by the former High Commissioner Sadraddin Aga Khan and Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, highlighted the need for clarity over responsibility and coordination, pointing out that no single United Nations agency was mandated to protect IDPs. Similarly, non- governmental organizations such as Friends World Committee for Consultation, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Refugee Policy Group, began concerted advocacy, as did regional organizations in Africa and the Americas, to raise awareness of gaps in protection and assistance for internally displaced populations.

### ***Building an international response framework in the 1990s***

By the 1990s, the number of IDPs globally had reached more than 20 million, and the early part of the decade became a watershed period, later triggering the much-needed development of a human rights- based framework and institutional response mechanisms for addressing internal displacement. During this time, post-Cold War dynamics, numerous complex emergencies and the emergence of humanitarian intervention were redefining how international actors responded to displacement. Perhaps most importantly, the concept of humanitarian intervention emerged as a major counterweight to national sovereignty, notably in northern Iraq when the situation there, including the protection and assistance needs of IDPs, were deemed to threaten international peace and security such as to justify military and non-military action under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Then-Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali’s Agenda for Peace, shared in 1992, also brought forward protection of civilians, peacekeeping and peacebuilding as key international issues for the time.

Operationally, the former Yugoslavia became one of the largest relief initiatives ever undertaken and helped set the precedent for international organizations to increasingly provide assistance directly to people in the midst of and affected by active conflicts, including for IDPs. As the number of peacekeeping missions increased significantly, this new type of humanitarian engagement also required closer involvement with political and peacekeeping mandates, which also at times covered IDPs, such as in Afghanistan and Somalia. Humanitarian issues frequently reached the Security Council agenda, including through

resolutions on humanitarian access and protection of civilians, for example in East Timor, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Against this background of bolder humanitarian interventions and greater awareness of the gaps for IDPs, the General Assembly began in 1991 issuing regular resolutions on internal displacement, human rights and mass exodus. This signaled a shift from making specific requests to respond to certain situations of internal displacement, mostly directed to UNHCR, to a broader call directed to all United Nations organs, governments, intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations.

At the same time, in response to continued calls for better mechanisms to respond to the needs of IDPs, the Secretary-General in 1992 appointed a Special Representative on IDPs. At the outset, the Special Representative was to analyze the issue and recommend institutional responses, which included consideration of proposals by some member states and agencies “for the United Nations either to explicitly mandate UNHCR [to include IDPs] or set up an equivalent body to cater more specifically to the needs of IDPs.” Whereas UNHCR was typically deemed “the institution best equipped legally and operationally to deal with the internally displaced,” then-High Commissioner Sadako Ogata pointed out that “the magnitude of the problem far exceeds the capacity and resources of UNHCR or any other single agency – [the needs] span the entire range of United Nations agencies - from emergency assistance to human rights protection to development aid.” Without the resources to establish or fund a single agency on displacement, the Special Representative recommended designating a focal point within the United Nations system on IDPs, with a view toward incremental progress monitored through annual reports to the Commission on Human Rights.

While unable to muster a consensus at the time for major institutional reform to address internal displacement, the Special Representative’s work developing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement did establish an important foundation for how organizations and states engage with internal displacement today. Developed through broad-based consultations led by the Special Representative and finalized in 1998, the Guiding Principles are drawn from international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as international refugee law by analogy, including UNHCR Executive Committee Decisions which were drawn from for inspiration. As such, in addition to providing the first definition of IDPs, they outline the standard of rights and guarantees applicable in protecting people from forced displacement, protection and assistance during internal displacement and achieving

durable solutions. While not a binding legal instrument, they were affirmed by the General Assembly and Human Rights Council, as well as regional bodies and states, and have since been widely promoted, disseminated and applied through legislation and policies on internal displacement, regionally and nationally.

While the Special Representative was looking at the issue of internal displacement, other parts of the United Nations had also resolved to strengthen humanitarian emergency assistance in general. In 1992, in addition to restating guiding principles on the importance of humanitarian assistance as a matter of international concern while still respecting sovereignty, the United Nations attempted to go further than it had before (such as with UNDRO) in enhancing coordination, cooperation and leadership in humanitarian emergencies. In doing so, it established new structures and positions, including the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as well as funding mechanisms such as the Central Emergency Relief Fund. This architecture for humanitarian emergencies, which itself underwent frequent reform in the following years, would become a major forum for efforts of the Special Representative on IDPs, as a member of the IASC, as well as for policies and procedures to clarify responsibilities among IASC members and comprehensive responses to internal displacement at global and field levels.

Institutional commitments and the case of UNHCR

In the span of a few decades, UNHCR had gone from being a key actor who helped establish that protecting and assisting IDPs is a globally accepted practice and norm -- even if not articulated in a binding international convention such as for refugees -- to staking a position, despite some saying it was the agency most legally and operationally equipped, that the problem was beyond the capacity of any single agency and required a multi-stakeholder response. How UNHCR arrived at this position regarding its institutional commitment, and how it maintained that position following internal self- reflection, is a useful case study, particularly as suggestions continue to emerge periodically recommending that a single agency be mandated for internal displacement.

Unlike refugee situations, where UNHCR's mandate requires that it provide international protection and seek permanent solutions worldwide, UNHCR's work on internal displacement is undertaken on the basis of paragraph 9 of its Statute, which foresees UNHCR engaging in "additional activities... as the General Assembly may determine, within the limits of available



resources.” As such, its internal decision-making has typically reflected a tension between two questions: first, to what degree has the General Assembly determined that UNHCR should engage in internal displacement; and second, in view of limited resources, what type of institutional commitment would be required?

From the 1970s until the end of the 1980s, UNHCR’s decisions whether to engage in internal displacement were based on a consistent, if ad hoc, approach of responding to specific requests from the General Assembly, Secretary-General and governments themselves. Through the 1970s, these requests continued to the extent that displaced persons were frequently mentioned alongside refugees in resolutions regarding UNHCR. However, they provided no specifics regarding how much institutional (and financial) commitment was required. Internal discussions on this matter at UNHCR began in 1989<sup>32</sup> with a consideration of its mandate and then in 1991-92, which concluded:

“The evolution of UNHCR's role ... has demonstrated that the mandate is resilient enough to allow, or indeed require, adaptation by UNHCR to new, unprecedented challenges through new approaches, including in the areas-of prevention and in-country protection. The Office should continue to seek specific endorsement from the Secretary-General or General Assembly where these activities involve a significant commitment of human, financial and material resources... [I]t is clear, with protection at the core of UNHCR's mandate, displacement, coupled with the need for protection, is the basis of UNHCR's competence for these groups... In this context, UNHCR should indicate its willingness to extend its humanitarian expertise to IDPs, on a case- by-case basis, in response to requests from the Secretary-General or General Assembly.”

The key question was, in light of (or despite) the General Assembly’s having given a broad directive for UNHCR to assist displaced persons ‘wherever they occur,’ to what degree should it make a “significant commitment of human, financial and material resources” for IDPs in comparison to refugees? On this, the working group advised UNHCR to seek specific endorsement from the Secretary- General or General Assembly.

At the end of 1992, the General Assembly acknowledged, for the first time, IDPs as part of UNHCR’s activities in its annual resolution on the work of the office of UNHCR, known as the omnibus resolution, as well as in its resolution on continuation of the office. The text of the resolution is encouraging, broad and open, “welcom[ing] UNHCR’s efforts on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary- General or competent United Nations organs with the

consent of the state, to undertake activities in favor of IDPs, taking into account the complementarities of mandates and expertise of other relevant organizations.” It does not address the issue of committing institutional resources. In the following year, the UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion No. 71 reiterated language from the 1992 omnibus resolution, but added for emphasis, “in consideration of the availability of sufficient resources.”

Sufficiency of resources has continued to guide almost all subsequent internal policies at UNHCR on whether to engage in situations of internal displacement. Under its first policy in 1993, decisions to engage were based on a case-by-case evaluation of the ‘links’ with refugee operations. UNHCR would give favorable consideration to assuming primary responsibility for international action on behalf of IDPs where there was a link between internal displacement and refugees, including in terms of geographic areas, in the present or in future return areas, where the needs of refugees and IDPs were similar in countries of asylum, or where there are cross-border components, either in terms of present or future population movements or operational advantages.

Subsequent internal policy formulations in 1997 and 2000 continued a case-by-case approach, while adding more criteria for consideration. The result is a near exhaustive list: state consent, access, staff security, adequate resources and capacity, relevance of UNHCR’s expertise, respect for humanitarian principles, clear lines of responsibility and accountability, ability to intervene directly on protection, and requests from the Secretary-General or competent principal United Nations organ, among others. In 2000, the refugee-link criteria was done away with, recognizing that “UNHCR’s interest in the internally displaced is provoked, not only by the risk or reality of a refugee outflow, but also by the ‘refugee-like’ nature of internal displacement calling for the Office’s particular expertise in protection and solutions.”

During this period, internal displacement for UNHCR was classified along with reintegration as a non-core activity. Under budgetary guidelines, donors were requested to consider funding secondarily to their contributions to refugee activities. However, in light of international attention on the issue, budgetary explanations were almost apologetic: “while of lesser priority, [non-core activities under special operations and programs] may have particular importance, especially when there is a question of the forced internal displacement of persons.”

Under these policies, UNHCR's engagement with situations of internal displacement gradually increased, although was far from comprehensive. Between 4 and 6 million out of more than 20 million estimated IDPs worldwide, benefited from UNHCR's protection and assistance each year between 1993 and 2005. Major operations in which it was involved included the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Georgia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Sri Lanka for most of the decade, as well as Angola, Burundi, Tajikistan and others.

## **8. Past and Current Actions**

Despite the United Nations having established in the 1990s an architecture for humanitarian emergencies and the Special Representative on IDPs making progress on awareness raising, guidance and standards, the issue of institutional mechanisms to address internal displacement continued to remain unsolved. In his report on United Nations reform in 1997, Secretary-General Kofi Annan observed that "providing protection and assistance to IDPs continues to fall into the gap between the mandates of the various United Nations agencies."

Between 1997 and 2006, and in response to serious criticism, the United Nations as a whole and IASC undertook numerous steps at humanitarian reform in order to improve predictability of engagement on both internal displacement and humanitarian emergencies. On internal displacement, these included designating the Emergency Relief Coordinator in 1998 as the focal point for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance to IDPs, establishing a senior network on internal displacement and the IASC tasking the Norwegian Refugee Council to establish an online database through the Global IDP Project.

While some member states and non-governmental organizations continued to advocate that a single agency such as UNHCR take formal responsibility for IDPs, the United Nations pursued collaborative approaches, clarifying roles and responsibilities at the country level and developing response strategies and action plans as a means of responding to situations of internal displacement. Major gaps and needs for improvement still remained. Following a broad review of international humanitarian efforts, the IASC agreed in December 2005 to establish the 'cluster leadership approach' as an initiative for more effective and accountable humanitarian response through coordination, funding and leadership. In 2006, clusters were initially piloted in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Uganda and Somalia, and have remained one of the main features of humanitarian coordination until today.

UNHCR's decisions regarding support for the cluster leadership approach came at the same time that the Secretary-General established a High-Level Panel on United Nations System-Wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, in which one of the recommendations was a strong rebuke:

“the role of UNHCR should be reviewed, to establish a clear mandate and to further strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations approach to addressing the needs of IDPs... UNHCR must reposition itself to provide protection and assistance for displaced people in need, regardless of whether they have crossed an international border.”

Amidst this imminent humanitarian reform, UNHCR consulted partners and members of its Executive Committee and developed a new internal displacement policy framework and implementation strategy. Under this policy, UNHCR committed to support the cluster approach in all new emergencies and countries with humanitarian coordinators, as well as collaborate in other longstanding situations of internal displacement. The 2007 policy was reinforced through establishment of an IDP Support Team and a temporary coordinator to oversee implementation of the corporate strategy.

With the introduction of the cluster approach, a revised IDP policy and the commitment of then High Commissioner Antonio Guterres to be “entirely committed to [internal displacement],” the number of IDPs being assisted by UNHCR almost doubled between 2005 and 2006, from 6.6 million to 12.8 million, and climbed to about 15 million in 2010. At the same time, UNHCR's policy still maintained refugees as first priority, stipulating that its role in situations of internal displacement should not detract from its mandated activities in relation to refugees or the fundamental right to seek asylum, and that it would seek to maximize the synergies and economies of scale that link the two functions. In natural disasters, it also committed to lend immediate support but not seek extensive or prolonged operational involvement. Language in UNHCR's annual omnibus resolution was also updated, no longer making reference to specific requests from the Secretary-General or United Nations organs, and instead emphasizing inter-agency arrangements and not undermining its refugee mandate:

“Takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to IDPs, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General

Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office for refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard.”

While UNHCR engaged more consistently in situations of internal displacement through inter-agency arrangements, its refugee-first positioning and the absence of operational commitments, particularly financially, in its policy meant that there would inevitably be implementation gaps. In 2010, when UNHCR first began reporting its annual budgets by population group, IDPs represented 21.7% of the annual budget, compared to 71% for refugees. Since then, they have never reached the same level in terms of proportion of the annual budget, instead averaging approximately 15% (and 14.9% in 2019). While not directly addressing the issue of operational and financial commitments, the High Commissioner’s 2013 Dialogue on Protection identified ‘implementation gaps,’ and committed to another internal review of policy, as well as pointed to efforts at a review of protection within the IASC system. Follow-on efforts included the issuance of operational guidelines in February 2016, which reinforced cluster coordination with operational engagement, introducing a programmatic IDP Footprint and by strengthening country-level leadership with respect to the centrality of protection.

In 2016, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi commissioned an operational review which resulted in several detailed findings, including that senior managers continue to perceive that refugee programs need to be given priority and to deprioritize IDPs. In 2019, UNHCR issued an updated IDP policy, replacing the previous one in 2007, and which reaffirms UNHCR’s commitment to internal displacement, “as an integral aspect of operations worldwide.” The updated policy “requires UNHCR to mobilize and deploy resources and capacities in support of its pledge to work in partnership with others to strengthen protection and secure solutions for IDPs.” While marking a major shift in positioning, translating this 2019 policy into concrete operational and financial commitments will continue to be a critical factor for UNHCR to address its implementation gaps.

### ***Contemporary challenges for internal displacement***

At the end of 2019, global forced displacement had reached levels unprecedented in the modern era, and IDPs continued to represent the majority of this population. In recognition of the importance of the global challenge, the Secretary General established in late 2019 a High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement to identify concrete recommendations on how to

better prevent, respond and achieve solutions to the global internal displacement crisis. In addition to strengthening stakeholder capacities on preventing displacement and ensuring protection and assistance, as well as advancing collaboration across the nexus, the Panel's priorities include advancing participation and inclusion of IDPs, systematizing use of data and evidence, innovative financing and funding, including the private sector. Together, many of these contemporary challenges continue to grapple with age-old issues of protection and solutions, and highlight emerging challenges and opportunities on the horizon.

### ***Protection***

UNHCR, along with ICRC, are among the earliest organizations whose mandates are based on protection, each with regard to refugee law and humanitarian law, respectively. As is evident from conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur and Sri Lanka in the 2000s, to Syria, South Sudan and Yemen in the recent decade, applying these protection mandates in the context of internal displacement has arguably proven to be among the most challenging tasks, for reasons which go to the very definition of protection.

For UNHCR, its mandate has traditionally been defined based on refugees' need for international protection, triggered by the severing of state responsibility of the country of origin, underpinned by the standards outlined in the 1951 Convention, and put into action through a variety of means including advocacy for rights, lobbying states to become party to the 1951 Convention, legal intercessions with governments and local authorities, or providing relief assistance and other services as a means of protection.

While IDPs confront many of the same threats and problems as refugees, for legal and operational reasons, protection can often mean something different. Unlike refugees who cross borders and may benefit from a surrogate form of international protection in an asylum state, IDPs remain reliant on their own governments to uphold their rights, the same governments whose unwillingness or inability to uphold those rights may have led to their displacement. IDPs are also often close in proximity to ongoing conflicts, armed groups and combatants, making the practical provision of protection even more challenging. In many contexts, human rights violations are more widespread in situations of internal displacement. As such, protection for IDPs primarily emphasizes "practical protection interventions that safeguard the rights, security and welfare of the internally displaced."

Without a legally binding convention and often dependent on actors on the ground, early advocates for IDP protection pointed as early as 1991 to the integral relationship between protection and assistance, including the human rights ramifications of humanitarian assistance, a concept which could later be named protection mainstreaming, as well as calling for humanitarian organizations to shoulder a greater protection role to address human rights abuses and other protection issues, and also outlined measures to be taken by donor governments and the United Nations machinery. Later in 1999, the IASC would develop a Policy Paper on Protection of IDPs, which reaffirmed protection as essential to effective humanitarian responses and the responsibility of all humanitarian and development agencies. One of the main challenges to effective protection comes from the fact that it almost always requires collective efforts, as it is incredibly vast in scope. Another challenge comes from the fact that it can be closely wound up in notions of responsibility to protect. For good reasons, the common definition of protection, as spearheaded by ICRC and later adopted by the IASC, comprises “activities that aim to obtain full respect for the rights of all individuals in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.” However, without practical action, those principles will never be translated into effective protection on the ground” Over time, humanitarian protection has been an evolving practice of learning by doing, with early formulations such as protection by presence, learning from the experiences of agencies such as UNHCR and others in the former Yugoslavia. On the other hand, protection outcomes can be perceived as the domain of the protection of civilians agenda of the Security Council, bringing to light the conceptual differences between different humanitarian and peacekeeping actors, and the challenge of bringing them together.

For these reasons, the sphere of protection continues to be one of the most complex before the international community, unanimously endorsed as a priority, but still creating an imposing puzzle to bringing together mandates, responsibilities and practice. Evaluations in 2004 and 2012 both found serious shortcomings in the United Nations’ response on protection, reinforcing calls that it must be a system-wide response from the outset. The 2004 evaluation found that “ten years after Rwanda, the United Nations had still not adopted the protection of civilians and the prevention of displacement as a core part of its mandate” and recommended integrating protection from high-level political advocacy to programming on the ground and across political, peacekeeping, human rights, humanitarian and development.<sup>58</sup> The response in Sri Lanka in 2009 also triggered an internal review on advancing accountability, recommending in 2012 a renewed vision of the United Nations’ most fundamental

responsibilities, embedding of human rights into strategies and strengthening management of the whole- of-United Nations crisis response.

In response, the United Nations took several efforts to elevate the importance of protection across the system. In 2013, the Secretary-General launched a Human Rights Up Front Initiative aimed at helping the United Nations work more coherently on human rights across pillars, and in the same year the IASC Principals issued a statement committing to place protection at the center of humanitarian action. Based on this IASC statement, a 2016 implementing policy was issued and collective protection outcomes were also made one of four mandatory terms of reference for all Humanitarian Country Teams. In 2020, the Secretary-General put forward a common agenda, aiming to reinvigorate multilateralism around key current and future challenges, in which many of these issues of protection for the internally displaced appear as familiar and contemporary challenges, echoing calls from 1991 for the entire humanitarian system to translate protection principles into practical actions for the internally displaced.

## **6. Possible Solutions**

The concept of durable solutions in internal displacement settings finds its origins in refugee concepts – that is, of restoring or maintaining the relationship between an individual and the state, and typically through voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement draw from these concepts, while acknowledging that it is much harder to determine when internal displacement ends, as compared to when refugees stop being refugees. This is due in part to the fact that being an IDP, while having many implications, does not confer a special international legal status.

In order to achieve such solutions to displacement, efforts have long been made to promote a paradigm shift recognizing displacement as not only a humanitarian concern, but also development and peacebuilding. Historically, some of the earliest efforts to bridge the gaps between relief and development for IDPs began through their inclusion in the iterations of the refugee aid and development approach, applied in Africa and the Americas throughout the 1980s. Later in 1999, in what came to be known as the Brookings Process, UNHCR and the World Bank reviewed gaps between humanitarian assistance and long-term development in



post-conflict displacement, which later prompted task forces looking at peace, conflict and security in such situations under the OECD.

Since then, these early partnerships have continued under various frameworks, each time making steps toward bridging differences in terminology, concepts, structures and approaches. These include the 2003 Durable Solutions Framework, under which UNHCR and the World Bank continued their cooperation through models called development assistance for refugees (DAR), repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction (4Rs) and development through local integration (DLI). A later evolution was the Transitional Solutions Initiative with UNDP and in collaboration with the World Bank, aimed at ending aid dependency and creating sustainable livelihoods. In recent years, IDP profiling and solutions indicators, as recommended by the Expert Group on Refugee and IDPs Statistics, are also examples of partnerships which help bridge the humanitarian-development divide through their inclusion in national development plans.

Yet durable solutions are not as simple as development alone, being “linked to larger struggles for peace, security, territorial control, equal treatment and an equitable distribution of resources.” As seen in experiences in South Sudan, the Philippines and Kenya, there are strong linkages between internal displacement frameworks, durable solutions and peace-building and the Special Rapporteur on IDPs has made specific recommendations on the importance of including and mainstreaming internal displacement in peace processes. In 2011, the Secretary-General endorsed a framework on ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict, establishing priorities and responsibilities to support the delivery of durable solutions for IDPs. Meanwhile, the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) obliges states to endeavor to incorporate the relevant principles of internal displacement into peace negotiations and agreements for purposes of solutions.

In 2010, the IASC endorsed a Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs which recognizes that achieving durable solutions is a complex process. In the absence of legal thresholds and territorial boundaries, internal displacement ends when a durable solution occurs and their situation and conditions on the ground no longer have specific needs related to displacement. The Framework identifies the human-rights-based principles underlying solutions, and goes further to set out criteria measuring the extent to which durable solutions have been attained, while also providing examples of indicators that can be adapted to local contexts to monitor

progress. Complementary to efforts by the national authorities, the IASC Framework also notes that durable solutions must involve stakeholders addressing a host of human rights, humanitarian, development, reconstruction and peacebuilding challenges. Through ten years of application, the framework has been most successful in informing country-level strategies and national laws and policies, particularly for technical experts and ministries, but challenges remain in its wider dissemination and future success will continue to hinge on whether its rights-based framework serves as a foundation that bridges differences in terminology, concepts, structures and approaches among solutions actors.

### ***Emerging Opportunities and Challenges***

Within the span of a few decades, protection for IDPs has emerged into a globally accepted practice and norm, the rights and guarantees of which were consolidated in the Guiding Principles. Dissemination and incorporation of these Guiding Principles represents one of the most important opportunities today. These Guiding Principles, which while non-binding have been affirmed by the General Assembly and Human Rights Council, as well as regional bodies such as the Council of Europe, Organization of American States and African Union,<sup>71</sup> are a first step toward anchoring internal displacement in the legal and political sphere of states themselves. The enacting of such domestic laws, policies, and decrees can represent “the realization [by states] that internal displacement must be addressed at the national level, both as a matter of legal obligation and national interest.” In addition to some of the first laws and policies addressing internal displacement in Azerbaijan and Colombia in the early nineties, there have been more than 80 adopted by states since the Guiding Principles. Most notably, in 2006 in Africa, eleven states of the Great Lakes region adopted the Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs, legally binding them to enact national legislation domesticating the Guiding Principles and to provide a legal framework for their implementation within national legal systems. This served as the impetus for the Kampala Convention, which builds upon the Guiding Principles and now represents the cornerstone for addressing internal displacement in Africa.

Climate change represents another lesson learned and emerging opportunity, as displacement is expected to increase as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense and as the intersectionality between conflict and climate effects continues to be evident. In 2019, of the 50 countries and territories with new internal displacements associated with conflict and violence, 45 also recorded new internal displacement associated with climate related natural

hazards, and in some situations can involve displacement across borders. In terms of rights and standards, the Guiding Principles apply equally to sudden or slow-onset natural hazards and other effects of climate change, insofar as people are forcibly displaced inside their own country or because their place of origin has become uninhabitable or too dangerous for human habitation. Similarly, the Kampala Convention requires parties to protect and assist those internally displaced by natural or human made disasters, including those triggered by climate change. Following then-High Commissioner Antonio Guterres being among the first to mention environmental degradation and climate change as drivers of displacement, however, institutional commitments in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate remain uncertain. Significant gains have been made on preparedness and disaster risk reduction, while efforts to step up responses in natural disasters have been met with mixed reviews. At the same time, future opportunities may emerge, particularly as early engagement in recovery, mitigation and adaptation for IDPs can limit the potential for secondary, potentially cross-border, displacement and as internal displacement and disaster risk reduction frameworks find increasing synergies.

Absence of a legal status notwithstanding, an individual can be considered an IDP until s/he has achieved a durable solution, which occurs when her/his assistance and protection needs are no longer directly associated with her/his displacement and human rights are enjoyed by the individual without discrimination on account of her/his displacement. National authorities have the primary responsibility to provide durable solutions to IDPs, with international humanitarian and development actors playing a complementary role. A durable solution is furthermore achieved when an individual is sustainably (re)integrated in:

- an area where s/he has taken refuge (local settlement);
- another area of her/his country (settlement elsewhere in the country); or
- her/his place of origin (sustainable return).

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