

2024
AFRICA ROUNDTABLE
on
PRIVATE SECTOR SOLUTIONS TO
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Bridging Futures

28 - 29 November 2024
Lagos, Nigeria

CONCEPT NOTE



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CONVERGING FOR SOLUTIONS

Forced displacement is an ever-growing global crisis affecting 122 million people worldwide and driven by persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, natural disasters, and, more recently, climate emergency. Internally displaced populations¹ (IDPs) are outnumbering refugees in most situations - with approximately 63.3 million IDPs worldwide, including an estimated 50% residing in Africa.

Many forcibly displaced people and host communities reside in areas with limited facilities and services, but with immense untapped opportunities. By making the right investments and forming strategic partnerships, the private sector can contribute to building strong economies and markets, supporting forcibly displaced persons to live with greater dignity and hopefully, find solutions for their plight.

This is in the interest of all. To achieve these goals, there is a need to unleash the private sector's power to invest in communities affected by forced displacement, generate jobs, and drive economic transformation. The private sector can play a significant role in empowering forcibly displaced people and host communities as economic agents, by fostering entrepreneurship, investments, employment as well as the provision of services and products. In particular, the private sector can: (i) share capabilities – such as technology or technical expertise; (ii) provide better and affordable goods and services, including financial services; and (iv) create jobs.

¹An IDP is a person who has been forced or obliged to flee from their home or place of **habitual residence**, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of **armed conflicts**, situations of generalized violence, violations of **human rights** or natural or human-made **disasters**, and who has not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

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In line with the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), and the [UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), efforts are being made by government, humanitarian and development partners, and the private sector to create jobs, build market-responsive skills, scale up successful businesses, and innovate solutions to support communities to access public services. These efforts have yielded important advancements in recent years demonstrating the power of collaboration, and the potential for greater investments and gains.

However, to scale up and replicate the existing nascent efforts, especially in internally displaced contexts, policies need to be strengthened to create an enabling environment for inclusive businesses. Data, market analysis and other research is also essential to help the private sector understand the market potential and the contexts in which they operate. Considering the challenges related to some of the contexts where forcibly displaced people live, private sector partners that can create sustainable jobs and value chains may need access to blended finance/derisking facilities, innovative financing, and other support in reaching out to forcibly displaced and host communities. In short, a more effective and predictable framework for engagement by the private sector is critical to stabilize and find solutions for displaced communities, especially in protracted situations. While several private sector initiatives supporting refugee contexts are often highlighted, private sector solutions in internally displaced contexts, especially in Africa, need to be more actively showcased.

OBJECTIVES

The Africa roundtable on Private Sector Solutions to Internal Displacement aims to strengthen the growing efforts to create markets in forced displacement-affected areas in Africa. The roundtable will bring together governments, humanitarian and development partners, private sector, and civil society in support of internally displaced communities. In particular, the roundtable will:

- i) Identify scalable solutions and exchange insights and good practices that can enhance the effectiveness of inclusive market creation efforts in IDP contexts.
- ii) Highlight business opportunities, but also hindrances, for private sector engagement in forced displacement contexts, including policy, financing, skills and knowledge gaps.
- iii) Exchange on ways to address the gaps in order to promote private sector development in internal displacement contexts.
- iv) The RoundTable will serve to advance engagement with private sector and relevant stakeholders ahead of other gatherings in Africa and globally, including the Africa Forum on Displacement (April 2025).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Knowledge sharing and awareness raising:** Enhanced understanding of internal displacement and market opportunities in areas where they reside and how displaced and host communities can participate in and contribute to the labour market.
- **Bridging the gap:** A deeper understanding of the roles each stakeholder plays in addressing challenges related to private sector solutions for internally displaced people and their hosts.
- **Networking:** Strengthened networks and partnerships among stakeholders.
- **Roadmap design:** Building blocks identified to inform the development of an actionable plan to support displaced communities. This action plan will be further refined and implemented through future private sector focused events, including the Africa Forum on Displacement and GRF.

INVITEES

- Government officials and policymakers from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade, or any other relevant ministries engaged in economic planning, development, or private sector partnerships in countries with internally displaced populations.
- Civil society, including IDP leaders and advocates.
- Private sector: Corporate businesses, corporate foundations, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, IDP, host community entrepreneurs, multi-stakeholder platforms, and business networks.
- Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), including the World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and others.
- Bilateral Development partners.
- UN agencies.
- Other international organizations.

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COUNTRY & THEMATIC AREAS

This roundtable will delve into a variety of themes, covering industry topics such as agribusiness, the financial sector, climate insurance, innovation and entrepreneurship, connectivity, infrastructure, housing, and more. It also seeks to explore these critical areas and discover new insights and opportunities with a focus on Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of the Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of the Sudan.

ORGANIZATION & PLANNING

The 2024 Africa Roundtable on Private Sector Solutions to Internal Displacement is organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria, the Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement and co-hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Participants are invited to engage actively in various aspects of the two-day event.

Facilities will include a plenary session room, as well as break-away rooms for panel and roundtable. The Atrium will provide space for exhibitions and networking. The Atrium will provide space for exhibitions and networking.

Why Nigeria?

One of Africa's largest economies, Nigeria is positioned as a gateway to West Africa and home to some of the most vibrant private sector actors across Africa. The country offers a dynamic market with a rapidly expanding private sector, significant investment opportunities across various sectors, and access to a market of over 200 million people.

Conversely, around 3% of the world's 122 million forcibly displaced persons are Nigerian refugees or IDPs. Nigeria is also host to over 100,000 refugees. Several companies are actively involved in addressing humanitarian needs and providing solutions to the internally displaced communities. Companies are collaborating with humanitarian organizations, the United Nations and development partners by providing resources, technical expertise, and innovations to enhance local capacity responses. Communities are benefitting through investments in infrastructure, creation of business opportunities and jobs which help stabilize the economy in the long term and prevent onward movements.

Lagos has an international airport accessible to airlines from across the world. Special facilities will be established to support conference participants.