

87th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Sumbul Rizvi, UNHCR Principal Advisor on Internal Displacement

Geneva, 15 June 2023

Vice Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocol observed.

It is a pleasure for me to be here today, and to share an update on UNHCR's stepped-up engagement with internally displaced persons.

Indeed, much has changed since our last standing committee presentation one year ago.

Regretfully, there is a sharp increase in the number of persons internally displaced due to conflict, violence, and disaster. More **than 57 million persons** were internally displaced as of the end of 2022, the highest number recorded.

The internally displaced are the largest displaced population served by UNHCR, with operations currently underway in 34 countries and across all regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tackling the challenge of internal displacement requires reinforcing the primary responsibility of States to assist and protect those who have been displaced within national borders and supporting States and other actors in their efforts to do so.

In a major advance, I am pleased to report that in 2022 UNHCR released its **Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility**.

This flagship report analyses key benchmarks of national responsibility, such as the presence of effective national legislation as well as global and regional trends. It also looks at learning opportunities related to **developing national instruments** to protect internally displaced persons and support durable solutions for them.

UNHCR also continues to support the efforts of the **internally displaced persons protection expert group**, a senior level-contact team that held consultations with national leadership on ways to strengthen solutions responses, including during the year in Honduras and South Sudan.

Protection analysis is a key advocacy tool for UNHCR. During the year, 39 protection analysis updates were prepared by the UNHCR led Global Protection Cluster was shared with affected States, UN Resident Coordinators and country teams, as well as with internally displaced persons themselves, as a way to promote that protection is placed at the centre of stakeholder response.

Further to the decision of several States to advance new legislation and policies to internally displacement, **UNHCR has provided expert** advice and assistance in Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, Mozambique and the Philippines. Those ongoing are in Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger, and Somalia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On Coordination, the global protection cluster strengthens coordination capacities at the country level and supports timely and evidence-based protection analysis to reinforce decision-making and

87th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Sumbul Rizvi, UNHCR Principal Advisor on Internal Displacement

Geneva, 15 June 2023

galvanize protection efforts. In 2022, the global protection cluster launched a campaign, “Access that protects” resulting in the publication of an agenda for change in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which reflects learning on humanitarian access and protection. I am pleased to report that UNHCR leads 29 out of 32 protection clusters and cluster-like mechanisms globally.

On Shelter, during the year, the global shelter cluster mobilized efforts towards greener and climate-smart humanitarian shelter and settlement responses. The cluster published “Pathways Home – Guidance for Supporting Self Recovery” to explore the concept of supporting shelter self-recovery and provide practical guidance on how to accompany the process in post-disaster and post-conflict contexts. The 2018-2022 cluster strategy and information management processes were revised in 2022, resulting in updated strategic priorities and strengthened staffing capacity. Regional shelter forums were organized in Africa and Asia to assist national actors with locally defined approaches. UNHCR leads 20 out of 32 shelter clusters and cluster-like mechanisms.

On Camp Coordination and Camp Management, the focus of the global camp coordination and camp management cluster in 2022 centred on building capacity of humanitarian actors and national authorities, promoting localization, solutions, climate action, protection mainstreaming and inclusion. Establishing direct communication with internally displaced persons and their communities was the main approach adopted by the cluster to enhance accountability to the affected population. Developing the capacity of humanitarian actors and authorities to deliver on these priorities continued throughout the year. In partnership with the humanitarian advisory group, a round of multi-stakeholder consultations was initiated on advancing localization as part of the cluster’s portfolio. UNHCR leads or co-leads 19 out of 22 active camp coordination and camp management clusters and cluster-like mechanisms.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On IDP Solutions.

The UNHCR policy on emergency preparedness and response, released in January 2023, emphasises our speed and agility of humanitarian response in IDP emergencies. Moreover, it anchors “**Durable Solutions from the Start**” as a key principle within our operational approach. To define, in practice for UNHCR the concept of Durable Solutions from the start includes programmatic interventions which enable decision making by communities and catalyse and facilitate durable solutions for internally displaced persons, as a part of emergency response.

It also includes leveraging the cluster coordination roles of UNHCR to instil a durable lens early on across other sectors and the community, the country team for a humanitarian system-wide approach, to involve development and peace actors from the onset to identify early opportunities for joint action.

The Solutions from the Start approach features strongly in our emergency response in many operations, in such as **Ethiopia** and **Ukraine**, where UNHCR is engaging early with communities to enable informed choice on solutions.

87th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Sumbul Rizvi, UNHCR Principal Advisor on Internal Displacement

Geneva, 15 June 2023

With the transition from humanitarian response to development underway in several countries in 2022, UNHCR adapted its engagement with the humanitarian, peace and development nexus accordingly.

In Iraq, UNHCR commenced the transition from emergency response to a longer-term development approach in anticipation of the deactivation of the cluster system and the discontinuation of the humanitarian response plan. This was in line with the humanitarian country team's decision to phase out the humanitarian response for internally displaced persons and to focus on durable solutions. UNHCR and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will co-lead the newly formed protection platform, which informs partners and provides them with strategic guidance and technical support in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

In the Philippines, UNHCR continued its support to the development of draft legislation on the rights of internally displaced persons at both the national level and in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Both bills are expected to pass in 2023. In the context of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, UNHCR, together with the United Nations Country Team and civil society partners, collaborated with the Resident Coordinator to provide technical and capacity building support to national and local authorities on durable solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The nexus space remains a confounding issue for most, in this case UNHCR has become more "extroverted" in its approach to internal displacement, redoubling efforts to work with others, both on humanitarian aspects and in our solutions advancement. Over the past 12 months important new frameworks for cooperation or other agreements have been signed or renewed between UNHCR and **UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, IOM, UNICEF, the IMF, the World Bank** among others, with a view towards enhancing cooperation and collaboration, and addressing comprehensively and together such issues as IDP housing land and property, strengthening national capacity, and complementary humanitarian and development programming.

In an important new development, I am pleased to also report on the launch of a **new community-based advisory board** in December 2022, to enhance engagement and partnerships with organizations led by displaced and stateless persons to advise UNHCR on the global level.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNHCR engagement with the **Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement**, has been active and will continue to be so.. UNHCR **has seconded two staff members** to support the work of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement. RC support is being provided at country levels and including through missions by myself and my team to **Afghanistan and to Yemen** to develop a solutions framework for the UNCT.

On Reporting - an overarching **report on UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement 2019 – 2021** was released in September 2022. Furthermore an independent evaluation of UNHCR engagement by UNHCR in situations of internal displacement is currently underway, and will be issued by the end of this year.

87th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Sumbul Rizvi, UNHCR Principal Advisor on Internal Displacement

Geneva, 15 June 2023

On budgetary matters, I stress that current funding is insufficient to keep pace with emerging needs. Country operations **in Sub-Saharan Africa** have been particularly underfunded, with a human cost as have several other operations in critical need of your support. I thank you.