



DELIVERING ON THE UPCOMING
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
ACTION AGENDA ON
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT:

Making the Key Shifts a Reality for Data

*Virtual high-level event co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN in Geneva
and the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS), on 14 June 2022*

EVENT SUMMARY NOTE

Introduction

This note provides a **summary of the discussion and main takeaways** from the high-level donor-partner event, co-hosted by Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN in Geneva and JIPS – the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service –, on Tuesday, 14 June 2022. The insights aim to feed into the follow up to the [UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), to be launched on 24 June 2022, by showcasing how collaborative data processes are central to achieving the key shifts called for in the Agenda – specifically linked to **i)** political will and national ownership of data on Forced Displacement; **ii)** whole-of-society approaches that engage communities as equal partners in the data design, collection, analysis and use; and **iii)** pathways in data processes that enable collective humanitarian, development and peace results.

Six key messages emerged from the discussion, which are shared below. Across the board, the high-level speakers underlined the positive changes that are already in motion, **demonstrating the transformative value of data and analysis when generated through collaborative processes and a whole-of-society approach, and emphasised the important role JIPS has been playing** in this regard.

Strong support was expressed specifically by DRC, UNDP, UNHCR as well as Norway, the European Commission and Denmark for collaborative and inclusive data processes, and in particular JIPS' work. "We highly value JIPS collaborative profiling services and see this as **essential to enable nationally owned evidence on internal displacement.**"

– George Conway, UNDP



“At the global level, JIPS has played a leading role in developing the international framework on IDP statistics, in collaboration with Statistics Norway and other national statistical offices. JIPS has also helped advance IDP data practice. Both in the field and by sharing lessons learned.”

– HE Amb. Tine Mørch Smith, Norway

① Systemic changes are needed – and they require Collaborative Leadership.

Many of the 59.1 million internally displaced people at the end of 2021¹ have been in displacement for years and some even for decades, resulting in an economic cost of over \$21 billion in 2021 alone.² Protracted displacement situations become a “**new normal**”. This illustrates that preventing, responding, and finding solutions to internal displacement **must be addressed collaboratively, systematically and at scale – not just as a crisis, but importantly with a longer-term operational perspective and at the structural and systemic level.**

These changes require **collaborative leadership**. Speakers particularly welcomed JIPS’ upcoming **Collaborative Leadership Training Programme** that will seek to build capacity combining technical and collaboration skills, building upon both JIPS’ experience in facilitating collaborative profiling exercises as well as delivering its flagship Profiling Coordination Training.

② Collaborative data processes can support communities’ agency and ensure Accountability to Affected People (AAP).

“[In the whole issue of data collection], I would like to talk to you about the great power the people can have when they are informed and all the transformative action they can have when they design evidence-based strategies.”

– Santiago Avila, Youth Against Violence

A consistent and solid evidence base, produced through a collaborative process such as profiling that includes the national government alongside other actors, can **empower communities and civil society organisations to design more impactful advocacy strategies and campaigns**. It can help effectively raise awareness among communities on the phenomenon of internal displacement, change the mindset of decision makers, and enable policies that consider protection needs and risks of affected communities.

By engaging IDPs and affected communities as their own agents, alongside local organisations and civil society, to achieve locally led Solutions, “data processes contribute critically not only to IDPs’ ability to claim their rights and to participate in and influence political processes, but also to elevate our accountability. They can thus **pave the way towards more equitable systems, creating environments that are conducive to Solutions.**”

– Charlotte Slente, Danish Refugee Council

¹ IDMC, 2022. Global Report on Internal Displacement. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2022/>

² IDMC, 2022. Global Report on Internal Displacement. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2022/>



Importantly, however, the process does not stop with the inclusion of communities in policies, strategies, and programmes. “The commitment needs to span implementation and monitoring of those instruments, measuring progress towards solutions for IDPs and beyond.”

– *Wilhelmina Welsch, JIPS*

③ **‘More and better data’ starts with enhanced collective intelligence approaches that strengthen nationally owned solutions and the social contract between governments and their citizens.**

“Data is hard currency, it is tangible, it is a real asset as part of a country’s infrastructure. [And like with any other part], it needs to be maintained to function. The process of generating evidence on displacement therefore is a vital aspect of sustaining accountability and ownership, and therefore how we build this evidence really matters.”

– *Wilhelmina Welsch, JIPS*

“Through constant engagement with government, stakeholders can strengthen the political will of leaders and facilitate national ownership on strategic measures for response, prevention, and solution as part of the comprehensive approach to displacement. [... The] government is **emboldened and inspired** to do more and to shift its approach towards a renewed social contract with IDPs.”

– *Attny. Raissa Jajurie, MSSD, Philippines*

Improved collective intelligence and understanding on what it takes to resolve internal displacement, when founded in nationally owned solutions that contribute to restoring the social contract between citizens and their State, can help

reduce inequalities and gender-based discrimination, increase prevention and minimize the risks of future displacements.

④ **Addressing Internal Displacement is crucial to attaining the SDGs.**

To create development pathways to solutions for displaced populations and the communities that host them, in partnership with humanitarian, other development and peace partners, we need to **integrate IDPs into ongoing ‘ordinary’ development processes, such as the Sustainable Development Goals** as “no country can afford to walk away from the SDGs.”

– *George Conway, UNDP*

This requires fostering a better understanding, through a common evidence base and analysis, of the political economy of solutions, as it forms the basis for leveraging political will and promoting the restoration of IDPs’ rights as citizens. As highlighted in an external evaluation of JIPS’ 2018-2020 Strategy, as an impartial actor and honest broker JIPS’ plays a key role “not only in the political economy of solutions, but also in the political reality of data [...] to achieve consensus around issues of displacement data.”

– *Wilhelmina Welsch, JIPS*

It furthermore requires a more nuanced consideration of Solutions. **Hybrid and flexible approaches are needed to inform Solutions**, while also supporting IDPs in the places they currently live in.



⑤ **We cannot stop funding during times of crises. Importantly, increased investment is needed in sustained data use.**

In times of crises, development funding and funding directed towards resilience are needed more than ever, to strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding and to support decent livelihoods. “We cannot pause development in crisis because **development is an essential condition for emerging from crisis in any sustainable way.**”

– George Conway, UNDP

“Unless we maintain these efforts, **we may have nice strategies but that don’t change much in the lives of IDPs.** This is not just a moral issue because we are not talking about foreigners, but about citizens affected by conflict or other circumstances that prevent them from enjoying a decent life.”

– Khardiata Lo N’diaye, DSRSG/RC/HC Sudan

Donors and multilateral organisations can significantly enhance the medium- and long-term impact of development projects by investing in sustainable data production methods, building on existing systems, aligning funding with local priorities, and making development financing more accessible to countries facing displacement, rather than funding parallel structures or using piecemeal approaches.

Additionally, while more and better data is a precondition for more effective policy making and service delivery, the relationship between data availability and data use is not linear. To unlock the full value of Agency in Data, Accountability in Data, and Data in Action, we need to “**rethink the way in which projects are conceived and funded,** and focus on building long-term capacity and trust through

technical support – without replacing local and national public authorities as data and statistical producers”

– Davis Adieno,
Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

As a matter of fact, JIPS’ fourth strategic goal is entirely dedicated to supporting country partners and enhancing data use. However, despite its globally recognized importance, it is **currently its least funded goal.** Moving forward, **JIPS will explore and propose a measurement of the return on investment of collaborative data processes** to ensure sustainable use of available data and to encourage the establishment as well as funding for collaborative data processes

⑥ **Collaborative data processes can support Resident Coordinators in their Collaborative Leadership role.**

Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators are uniquely placed to act as critical political and strategic conveners. **They can foster and sustain collaboration and coordination,** both across the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus, as well as beyond UN actors to also include government entities, INGOs and civil society, as well as affected communities.

They can **raise the visibility of Durable Solutions as well as elevate evidence-based, nationally led and owned solutions policy and strategy processes** that can guide programming towards better responses to Forced Displacement. This, however, requires that RCs are supported with expert capacity, such as Durable Solutions / Nexus Advisors and technical expert entities such as JIPS.

“[My office] benefited from the **extraordinary support from JIPS alongside Switzerland,** [as well



as] Walter Kaelin’s expert advice to myself and the Durable Solutions Working Group.”

- Khardiata Lo N'diaye, DSRSG/RC/HC Sudan

The embedding of a Durable Solutions Unit in the RC Office can **further formalise the political and strategic leverage for Solutions** to displacement. Similarly, including a Durable Solutions Marker in the Humanitarian Response Plan brings not only visibility into humanitarian actors’ efforts in-country to support Solutions, but makes also transparent where the gaps are and how funding streams can enhance shared results, especially when combined with similar Development and Peacebuilding Markers.

“Working in a HDP nexus approach means delivering at the operational level, on the ground, in a way which is adapted to the local context and ensures sustainability and conflict sensitivity, involving the beneficiaries and communities themselves, i.e. **ensuring ownership**.”

- Chiara Adamo, European Commission

Conclusion

“Data can – and we should make sure it does – depoliticise issues around conflict, which can be highly emotional and antagonistic. **The trust-building that can come out of data processes is something we should not discount.**”

- Elizabeth Tan, UNHCR

It is not just merely about the data and having evidence-based programming, but really about a process that brings key actors across the nexus and across government entities together. Similarly, to unlock the full transformative potential of collaborative data processes in support of the key shifts the UNSG is calling for in

his Action Agenda, they need to be brought to the political Solutions-Peace processes that are taking place at all levels. “It is a long-term endeavour [that requires] a consistent approach and sustained efforts, and despite setbacks we need to persist and build upon the experiences we have had together. [...] **This agility to adapt to different operational contexts, keeping delivering on tested collaborative methods, will be key moving forward.**”

- Elizabeth Tan, UNHCR

Similarly, political will and national ownership of responses to internal displacement can only be sustainable when the process involves not only horizontal collaboration, but **also vertical collaboration i.e. between line ministries and national and subnational entities**. It furthermore requires investment in capacity development and a whole-of-government approach, specifically when it comes to implementing international standards such as the [International Recommendations on IDP Statistics](#).

ABOUT

[JIPS](#) is an interagency service established in 2009 to bring governments, communities, humanitarian, and development actors together to collaborate towards collective outcomes and durable solutions to displacement situations. It does so by supporting collaborative and responsible data processes including profiling, developing the capacities of governments and key stakeholders, and advancing global discourse towards sound global standards. Field-focused and committed to enhancing local ownership and capacity, JIPS is a globally recognised neutral broker that draws on extensive field experience in diverse displacement contexts and a unique combination of technical, soft and political skills to drive change in the contexts it supports and the global discussions it informs.