

Concept note: EMG Dialogue on the environmental dimension of internal displacement:

June 2024

Introduction

In 2019, the UN Secretary-General established 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. On 29 September 2021, the Panel submitted its report, [*Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future*](#) to the SG.

As a follow-up, the Secretary-General developed an Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, which laid out his vision on the issue with the goal of mobilizing collective action and to step up efforts to address internal displacement, with an emphasis on solutions. Recognizing that the approach to internal displacement has mostly been a humanitarian one, the Action [Agenda](#) features concrete follow-up commitments by UN system entities, encouraging stronger engagement of development and peace actors, as well as calls on other key stakeholders, including Member States and International Financial Institutions. As part of this agenda a timebound position of Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement was established.

The Special Adviser is currently developing a UN-system-wide approach on internal displacement within the High Level Committee on Programmes, which should be adopted in its 48th Session in October 2024. The outcomes of this EMG nexus dialogue on the environmental dimension of internal displacement will feed into this drafting process.

The triple planetary crisis can put additional pressures on Internal displacement: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution can affect especially ecosystem-dependent livelihoods. Failing and decreasing harvests due to erratic rainfall patterns or soil degradation may affect the perspectives of young small holder farmers to continue traditional rural livelihoods. More frequent and intense hurricanes may produce waves of human mobility, in particular towards urban centres. Conversely, internal displacement may also exert an adverse influence on the environment in receiving areas. Additionally, the environmental dimension cuts across the prevention, response and solutions of internal displacement. All these environmental elements contributing to migration and the influence of human mobility on environment, as well as the interlinkages between internal displacement, the environment and other cross-cutting issues, will be further explored in the dialogue organized by the EMG-Secretariat.

Objectives

The Objectives of the nexus dialogue are:

- Bring further understanding of internal displacement among the EMG membership, including environmental factors driving displacement.



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- Exchange different perspectives and discuss comparative strengths of UN entities and beyond to address the environment dimensions of internal displacement and look at potential synergies between EMG-members and increased policy coherence
- Provide the space for a concrete conversation about the interlinkages between the environment and internal displacement (including the interlinkages with Peace & Security).
- Provide recommendations, analysis (including use of data and data analysis) and solutions that can contribute to a wider thinking on the topic of internal displacement.

The nexus dialogue will also be an excellent opportunity to answer the broader approach questions being considered in the context of the UN-system-wide approach on internal displacement from an environmental perspective:

- *How can the environmental drivers of internal displacement systematically tracked in order to be prevented?*
- *In what manner can the environmental aspect of internal displacement be systematically, sustainably, and promptly brought to the attention of the United Nations Country Teams?*
- *How can the UN system better collaborate with authorities and civil society on the prevention, responses and solutions of internal displacement from an environmental perspective?*
- *Which UN Entities are best placed to support the prevention of internal displacement from an environmental perspective, and which entities are best placed to provide responses and solutions related to this nexus?*
- *How do we promote the necessary speed and 'nimbleness' required of the responses? How do we ensure effective cross-pillar coordination at the global level to deliver concrete results in displacement settings at country level?*

Outcome

The Nexus Dialogue is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness and engagement of EMG-members in the development of the system-wide approach on internal displacement.
- Identification of recommendations, solutions and overall input for system-wide collaboration on internal displacement including on the topic of environmental dimension of internal displacement and how it is interconnected with other issues

Synergies HLCP-EMG

The participating EMG-focal points are strongly encouraged to consult internally with their colleagues representing their entity in the HCLP-working group on internal displacement to enhance the discussions in this dialogue.

Agenda

Title: EMG Nexus Dialogue on the environmental dimension of internal displacement

Date: Thursday 27 June 2024 (09h00-11h00 EDT)



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Location: New York City, NY, USA (DC2-811: United Nations 2 UN Plaza - 323 E 44th Street, New York, NY 10017)

Modality: Hybrid: [MS-Teams link](#)

09.00-09.10 (EDT)	<i>Welcoming Remarks</i> - Setting the scene and outlining the objectives and structure of the Nexus Dialogue Hossein Fadaei, Head of the Secretariat of the UN EMG Moderation – IOM
09.10-09.20	Opening Remarks by ASG Robert Piper, Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement
09.20-09.30	Environmental Drivers of Internal Displacement by UNEP
09.30-09.50	Pressures (environment and others) related to Internal Displacement – case studies/best practices from the field
09.50-10.00	Mapping Tools and analytics: example of Strata ¹ by FAO
10.00-10.50	<i>Moderated discussion on the environment dimension of internal displacement, its prevention, response and solutions</i> Moderator: IOM
10.50-11.00	Closing and Conclusions Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary General and Head of UNEP New York Office, Secretary of the UN EMG

Background Documents:

- [Towards a UN system-wide approach to internal displacement](#), excerpted from a proposal presented to the High-level Committee on Programmes at its 47th session in March 2024
- [Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), September 2021
- [Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement \(un.org\)](#), June 2022
- [Policy Brief: Integrating Displaced Populations into National Climate Change Policy and Planning](#), August 2023
- [Foresight Brief No. 32: The Role of Remote Sensing and Social Research in Monitoring the Environmental Impact of Refugee/Internally Displaced Persons Camps](#), February 2024
- [Human Migration and Natural Resources: Global Assessment of an adaptive complex system, 2023](#)
- [Ecological Threat Report 2023](#), 2024
- [Special Adviser's Office key messages on internal displacement and climate](#), 2023

¹ <https://unepstrata.org/>