UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP EMG

Conclusions of Nexus Dialogue on the Environment Dimension of Internal Displacement

June 27th 2024

The EMG Nexus dialogue sought to enhance EMG members' understanding of environmental factors driving displacement as well as to provide ideas, recommendations, and solutions for the UN-System-Wide Strategy on internal displacement that is currently being developed in the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). This initiative emphasizes the need for collective action, involving development and peace actors alongside humanitarian efforts. The dialogue focused on understanding how climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, separately and together, exacerbate internal displacement and how displacement impacts the environment in receiving areas.

Conclusions

The EMG Nexus Dialogue moderated by IOM, comprised presentations and views from the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement ASG Robert Piper, from local governments in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Mozambique, from UNEP, FAO and the Global Platform for Action. The dialogue enabled a rich understanding of the environmental dimensions of internal displacement, emphasizing the necessity for collective action among development, peace, and humanitarian sectors and actors.

Important take-aways of the nexus dialogues include:

- **Non-linear and cascading effects of environmental drivers**: Environmental drivers, development, and conflict interconnect non-linearly, leading to cascading impacts and increasing internal displacement. Displaced individuals often experience recurrent displacements due to repeated disasters. There is a need of recognition of the co-related impacts and the social and familial burden of the recurrence of such impacts.
- **Understanding environmental drivers**: Different environmental drivers such as climate change, biodiversity degradation, and pollution impact livelihoods, food availability and health, influence displacement. Understanding these drivers is crucial for planning effective interventions.
- **Prevention and Strategic Planning**: Emphasizing prevention through strategic foresight, geospatial data platforms, and early warning systems is necessary. Integrating human rights perspectives in prevention efforts and ensuring financial connectivity for responses are crucial for long-term planning and resilience. Time is a key element in planning for slow onset impacts and disaster reduction

The solutions discussed can be summarized in the following 4 clusters within an ecosystem of responses that links the normative with the operational:

1. **Awareness and Knowledge of the interconnections of degrading environments and internal displacement**: There is a critical need to enhance awareness and knowledge about degrading environments and its impact on mobility and displacement Tools such as the STRATA hotspot analysis, early warning systems for all (EW4ALL), and environmental monitoring and warning of slow onset impacts such as salinization of water systems, sea level rise and drying land are essential for proactively putting in place preventive measures. Institutional pathways need to be established to ensure the dissemination and utilization of this information for prevention.
2. **Implementation capacity:** to implement, there is need of finance, capacity, trade, and partnership for resilience building. Addressing capacity needs at national and local levels is vital. This includes investing in the UN's own institutional and response capacities, such as disaster risk management and camp management centers.
3. **Infrastructure needs**: Effective responses and solutions require robust and resilient infrastructure for prevention and resettlement, including ecological infrastructure and pollution control in displacement camps/centers.
4. **Leadership and Engagement in multilateral and national environmental processes**: Leadership in engaging the issue of climate, biodiversity loss, and pollution driven IDPs with multilateral funding processes such as GCF and GEF and including them in international and national processes on climate policy, renewable energy, and climate adaptation (including Loss and Damage funds) and biodiversity finance. The power of trade to enhance resilience to climate impacts and disaster preparedness is important to be recognized and in this context trade facilitation mechanisms can be vital for countries facing climate impacts. Establishing trade facilitation in disaster-prone areas can improve resilience and enhancing trade in technologies that include renewable energy technologies and Early Warning systems can help strengthen economic and environmental resilience.

Overall, the dialogue underscored the importance of a multi-faceted approach, involving various stakeholders and sectors, to effectively address the environmental dimensions of internal displacement. Linking the UN with regional development banks, local banks, and civil society partnerships will build a comprehensive ecosystem of responses.