



We must reinforce the principle that national government authorities have a primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs within their jurisdiction. IDPs have the right to request and to receive protection and humanitarian assistance from their governments. In this regard, they shall not be persecuted or punished for making such a request.

Governments – both national and regional - must guarantee IDPs the right to seek safety in another parts of the country, the right to leave their country, the right to seek asylum in another country, the right to be protected against forcible return to or resettlement in any place where their life, safety, liberty or health would be at risk.

Governments should establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow IDPs to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. They must facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled IDPs, ensuring their full participation in the planning and management of their return or resettlement and reintegration.

Examples include:

- To promote the protection of displaced persons in Africa, especially vulnerable populations, we recommend that all AU Member States sign, speedily ratify, and implement the Kampala Convention. We also recommend that Convention signatories fully integrate the monitoring and review of displaced women's housing, land and property rights into the plan, and eliminate discriminatory and harmful practices, as defined in the Convention, that displace women and prevent their return.
- The National Policy on IDPs in Afghanistan and the Presidential Decree 305 (Identification and Allocation of Suitable Land for the Re-integration and Construction of Affordable Housing for Returnees, Internally Displaced Persons) must be fully implemented.



Access to sufficient data regarding the needs of IDPs is critical in ensuring that their needs are adequately identified and addressed. For example, the negative social stigma experienced by persons with disabilities makes it difficult to provide accurate, effective data regarding their needs. Enhanced data collection would allow for better promotion of their needs and provision of protective services. Often times, family members are unable to participate in the social-economic sector due to fear of exposure of children living with disabilities. By collecting and effectively disseminating data to IDPs and organizations assisting IDPs, new activities for the protection of internally displaced persons can be generated.

Notable attention should be given to protect IDPs against murder, genocide, or arbitrary executions and forced disappearances. Provisions must be made to meet the needs of members of vulnerable groups as well as protecting them against various forms of exploitation.

Access to populations by humanitarian workers must be facilitated. All authorities must grant and facilitate the free and safe passage of humanitarian assistance and grant persons engaged in the provision of such assistance rapid and unimpeded access to IDPs. Humanitarian assistance to IDPs must not be diverted for political or military reasons. Actors in the area of international peace work should collaborate in holding states accountable for protecting and assisting IDPs. They should also improve the Cluster Leadership Approach, which is a joint effort by humanitarian agencies to reach more IDPs in need of assistance and protection in a reliable and timely way; and should work towards strengthening inter-agency coordination within government departments when protecting and assisting IDPs.

We encourage UNHCR and OCHA to closely monitor states' development of, and compliance with, such laws, and to continue to develop its mandate related to IDP issues, by strengthening its expertise and staffing levels at headquarters and at the country level. UN agencies must prioritize coordination with national and international NGOs working with IDPs, allowing them to express clearly their voice and concerns.