

'Internal Displacement and Solutions'

Conference

Refugee Law Initiative
University of London

14 - 15 March 2024

'Internal Displacement and Solutions'

This online conference marks the culmination of five years of increasing international engagement with the pressing challenge of 'solutions' to internal displacement.

Solutions Theme

In 2024, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement will wrap up the work on this issue begun by his High-Level Panel in 2020 and continued under his Action Agenda. These processes reflect a longstanding preoccupation that, despite decades of efforts including the 1998 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and humanitarian reform, the acute needs of many internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain unmet and, globally, long-term solutions to their situation appear elusive.

This conference provides a forum for researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and students from all disciplines to come together to present, debate and reflect on 'solutions' to internal displacement and their future. It offers the chance to develop new research agendas and collaborations around questions relating to solutions and internal displacement, such as:

- How do we conceive 'solutions' to internal displacement? Is it a useful concept? Are 'solutions' to internal displacement identical in all contexts? What do newer ideas such as 'durable solutions', 'transitional solutions' or 'development solutions' add?
- On the location of solutions, is return always the 'preferred solution' to internal displacement? How does integration in a new host community work in IDP contexts? Where is the relocation of IDPs justified as a solution to their displacement?
- How to move from short-term humanitarian assistance to IDPs to long-term solutions to their displacement? How to connect with wider approaches, such as development, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and mitigation?
- What are roles of different institutions and sectors play in IDP solutions, including the IDPs themselves, the host community, wider society, returning refugees, local and national authorities, international agencies, clusters, civil society etc.?
- How do law and policy frame and shape solutions for IDPs? Do certain kinds of sectoral interventions make an outsize contribution to solutions, e.g. housing, land and property; civil documentation; family reunification etc.?
- How to measure achievement of solutions? How good is current data on solutions? What opportunities are there to improve data on solutions? What challenges arise? Are there specific methodological issues in researching solutions in IDP settings?
- What is the impact of the recent UN work on solutions? Have the High-Level Panel report and the Action Agenda effected change? What is the legacy of the activities carried out by the Special Adviser? What next steps are needed?

Panel Sessions

Across the conference, research will be presented across 12 panel sessions. Thematic panels address topics relevant specifically to the theme of solutions, whilst Open panels address other topics relating to protection and assistance to refugees and other internally displaced persons.

Keynote Speakers

“Academic Research on IDPs: Trends, Gaps, Possibilities”

Professor Elizabeth Ferris, Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration
Georgetown University, USA

“From Displacement to Solutions: Pathways to Break Patterns of Protracted Internal Displacement”

Robert Piper, Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement Office of the United Nations Secretary General

Hosts

The **Internal Displacement Research Programme** is based at the Refugee Law Initiative, a unique academic centre promoting interdisciplinary research, teaching and exchange on law, policy and practice in displacement contexts. As a national focal point for leading and promoting research in this field, the RLI works to integrate the shared interests of scholars and practitioners, stimulate collaboration between these fields, and achieve policy impact at the national and international level.

As part of the UN Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, he created a time-bound position of **Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement**. The Office of the Special Adviser, established in June 2022, serves as the UN’s prime advocate on solutions and is tasked with helping drive a change in the approach to solutions within and outside the UN system. The Secretary-General appointed Robert Piper to serve as the Special Adviser in May 2022.

Spread the word

You can share reflections and ideas on social media using the hashtag **#IDPConf24**. Follow us on Twitter/X at **@RLI_News** and **@RID_networks**

Technical Support

If you have technical problems during the conference, please contact our RLI staff directly via the Q&A box in Zoom. You can also consult the Zoom Support website at:

https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/category?id=kb_category&kb_category=8ee3fa928720391089a37408dabb35a6

Zoom links will not be open until the scheduled time in the conference programme. **Please ask questions for the panel via the Q&A Box.**

The chat box function will not be enabled during the webinar conference sessions.

DAY 1– Thursday 14 March 2024

09.00 - 09.10 Plenary - Opening Welcome

Professor David Cantor

Director of the Internal Displacement Research Programme / Refugee Law Initiative

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87815314289?pwd=QR0Z6wjAz1bZSUFywm8PXE2mDnieWg.2zNGlQ1UxbKVW45T>

Webinar ID: 878 1531 4289

Passcode: 894066

09.15 - 11.00 Panel Session 1

Session 1A Not All IDPs Are The Same: Working towards Different ‘Solutions’ for Different IDPs (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Dr Lidia Kuzemska* (Forum Transregionale Studien, Germany)

- “Not All Myanmar IDPs (2011-) Are The Same” – *Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw* (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)
- “Seeking Solutions to Unprecedented Internal Displacement in Ethiopia” – *Dr Abebaw Minaye* (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
- “IDPs in Northwest Syria- How to Address Need in Non-State Entity” – *Dr Fouad M Fouad* (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)
- “Impact of the 2022 Russian Invasion on Ukrainian IDP Women” – *Dr Daryna Dvornichenko* (University of Oxford, UK)

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Webinar ID: 838 9742 4813

Passcode: 827011

Session 1B New Solutions Concepts in Policy and Practice (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Dr Nick Maple* (Refugee Law Initiative, UK)

- Evaluating ‘Transitional Solutions’ through its Use in the Myanmar Context” - *Paul Vernon* (Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, Bangladesh)
- “From Return to Local Integration: Lessons Learned from the Libyan Experience” – *Dr Sebastien Moretti* (Office of the Resident Coordinator, Libya)
- “Development Solutions” - *Peter de Clercq* (independent consultant, Saudi Arabia)
- “Delivering against the Durable Solutions Framework through Inclusion of Duty-bearers – Evidence from the Middle East” – *Amy Rodgers* (Durable Solutions Platform, Jordan); with *Matthew Hemsley* (Danish Refugee Council, Jordan)

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Webinar ID: 832 2040 4435

Passcode: 935239

11.00 - 11.15 Break

11.15 - 13.00 Panel Session 2

Session 2A The Need to Contextualise Solutions Concepts: Evidence from Iraq and Somalia (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Jo Nickolls* (Resident Coordinator's Office, Somalia)

- Displacement and Integration from a Government Standpoint" - *Zahra Abdi* (Federal Government of Somalia, Somalia)
- "Solutions by Any Other Name': Do New Ideas of Durable Solutions Differ from the Old in Changing Contexts like Iraq?" - *Precillar Moyo* (IOM, Iraq)
- "Approach to Urban Displacement – Achieving Inclusive Urbanization in Somalia" - *Makiko Watanabe* (World Bank, Tanzania)
- "Scaling Context-based Solutions to Urban Displacement in Somalia: Challenges and Opportunities" - *Laura Bennison* (IOM, Somalia)
- Displacement and integration from a personal standpoint – *Halimo* (resident of Barwaaqo, Somalia)

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Webinar ID: 820 1812 1861

Passcode: 237659

Session 2B Internal Displacement in Buddhist Theory and Practice (OPEN)

Moderator: *Dr Bríd Ní Ghráinne* (Maynooth University, Ireland)

- "Engaging Buddhist Networks in Addressing Internal Displacement through International Humanitarian Law" – *Dr Christina Kilby* (James Madison University, USA)
- "Internal Displacement in Buddhist Theory and Practice: A Modern Sri Lankan Case" - *Professor Mahinda Deegalle* (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)
- "An Old Buddhist Prophecy and Its Potential Insight into Solutions to Internal Displacement" - *Professor Diane Denis* (Kathmandu University, Nepal)
- "Applying the Sāmaḡāma Sutta as a Tool in Reducing Conflict between Host Communities and IDPs" - *Professor Keith Leitich* (University of Vienna, Austria)

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Webinar ID: 852 4396 2247

Passcode: 324423

13.00 - 13.45 Lunch Break

13.45 - 15.30 Panel Session 3

Session 3A A Question with Many Answers: How to Measure Progress Towards Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement? (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Natalia Baal* (EGRISS Secretariat, Denmark)
Discussant: *Mona Folkesson* (Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions)

- “Creating a Common Baseline to Assess Progress towards Durable Solutions” - *Margharita Lundkvist-Houndoumadi* (Joint IDP Profiling Service, Switzerland)
- “Identifying Priority Areas for Development Investments and Tracking Progress over Time” - *Catherine Osborn* (UN Development Programme, Switzerland)
- “Using Data to Assess the Vulnerabilities of IDPs to Target National Assistance Programs and Identify Those who no longer Require Humanitarian Assistance” - *Nathalia Romero Figueroa* (Unit for the Comprehensive Attention & Reparations of Victims, Colombia)
- “The (Statistical) End of Displacement – When Can We Take People Out of the IDP Stock?” - *Felix Schmieding* (World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, Denmark), presenting on behalf of EGRISS

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Webinar ID: 847 7696 6490

Passcode: 527324

Session 3B Conceptualising Solutions – New Academic Perspectives (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Martina Caterina* (UNHCR, Switzerland)

- “Ending Internal Displacement: Normative Standards, Ethical Challenges” – *Professor Megan Bradley* (McGill University, Canada)
- “Rethinking Durable Solutions as Risk-informed Solutions” – *Erica Bower* (Stanford University, USA)
- “Understanding Mobility in Internal Displacements: Searching for Solutions beyond a Sedentary Frame” – *Dr Benjamin Etzold* (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies, Germany); and *Dr Carolien Jacobs* (Leiden Law School, Netherlands)
- “The Multilevel Governance of Internal Displacement” - *Melissa Weihmayer* (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

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Webinar ID: 859 3109 4640

Passcode: 557666

15.30 - 15.45 **Break**

15.45 - 16.30 **Plenary – Distinguished Keynote**

“Academic Research on IDPs: Trends, Gaps, Possibilities”

Professor Elizabeth Ferris

Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration Georgetown University, USA

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Webinar ID: 863 2705 8648

Passcode: 382988

16.30 **Day 1 Conference Ends**

DAY 2– Friday 15 March 2024

09.00 - 09.10 Plenary - Welcome Back

Rekha Menon

Office of the UNSG Special Advisor on Solutions

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Webinar ID: 827 5008 3235

Passcode: 240690

09.15 - 11.00 Panel Session 4

Session 4A Accountability for Arbitrary Displacement (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Professor David Cantor* (Internal Displacement Research Programme, UK)

- “Seeking Accountability for the Crime of Forced Displacement: Universal Jurisdiction as a National Response Mechanism” - *Mareen Brosinsky* (University of Wollongong, Australia)
- “Regional Human Rights Courts and Commissions: Reinforcing Durable Solutions through Reparation” – *Dr Deborah Casalin* (University of Antwerp, Belgium)
- “Development Finance Institutions and Development Induced Displacements: Independent Accountability Mechanisms and Human Rights of the Displaced Populations” - *Janet Jebichii Sego* (University of Antwerp, Belgium)
- “Enforcing Accountability for Forced Displacement Crimes” - *Professor Phil Orchard* (University of Wollongong, Australia)

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Webinar ID: 840 6797 7429

Passcode: 845144

Session 4B Understanding Solutions Dynamics in Communities (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Dr Ana Mosneaga* (DanChurchAid, Denmark)

- Point of No Return? Perceptions of Integration and Belonging in Communities Experiencing Internal Displacement in Colombia, Iraq, and Nigeria” – *Beatrice Riva* (IDMC, Switzerland), *Alesia O’Connor* (IDMC, Switzerland) and *Dr Lena von Naso* (Norwegian Refugee Council, Germany)
- “Forced Displacement: Understanding Preferences for Host Communities in the Kasai, Congo” – *Dr Peter van der Windt* (New York University, Abu Dhabi)
- “Restoring the Social Contract to Realize Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons: Theoretical and Practical Reflections on a Promising Notion” - *Dr. Jerome Elie* (Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, Bangladesh)

- “Riverbank Erosion: Sustainable Solutions for Protecting the Livelihoods of Displaced People in Bangladesh” - *Shahadat Hossain* (South Asian University, India)

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Webinar ID: 842 6051 5100

Passcode: 960254

11.00 - 11.15 Break

11.15 - 13.00 Panel Session 5

Session 5A Including IDP Children in Defining Solutions: Lessons from Ethiopia (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Tory Clawson* (Save the Children International, Canada)

- “The Human Rights Situation of Children in the Context of Displacement” - *Enguday Meskele Ashine* (Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ethiopia)
- “Voices Unheard - Why the Participation of Children in Solutions is Not Optional” - *Laura Kivelä* (Danish Refugee Council, Ethiopia)
- “Exploring Protracted Displacement and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Children and Families in Ethiopia: Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities” - *Tsion Teferra* (Save the Children, Ethiopia)
- • Presentation from member of children’s parliament, Ethiopia

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Webinar ID: 824 9479 9397

Passcode: 193488

Session 5B Local Responses to Internal Displacement (OPEN)

Moderator: *Dr Carolien Jacobs* (Leiden Law School, Netherlands)

- “Networks of Persistence: A New Framework for Protracted Displacement (Georgia)” - *Dr Jared R. Dmello* (University of Adelaide, Australia); and *Dr Beth Mitchneck* (University of Arizona, USA)
- “Loopholes in Humanitarian Policy Response to Urban IDPs in Nigeria” - *Rebecca Enobong Roberts* (Technical University of Berlin, Germany)
- “Moving Beyond Humanitarian Hand-outs: A Study of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Farmers Beans Market, Auta Balefi, Nasarawa State- Nigeria” - *Cosmas Ba-Ana-Itenebe* (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)

- “Decolonizing Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Indigenous Peoples in Mindanao” - *Dyan Mabunga Rodriguez* (University of the Philippines Baguio, Philippines)

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Webinar ID: 823 0818 8004

Passcode: 599394

13.00 - 13.45 Lunch Break

13.45 - 15.30 Panel Session 6

Session 6A Rethinking the ‘Integration’ Aspect of ‘Local Integration’ (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Dr Sarah Deardorff Miller* (Refugees International, USA)

- “Rethinking the ‘Integration’ Aspect of ‘Local Integration’” – *Dr Clayton Boeyink* (University of Edinburgh, UK)
- “Local Integration as an ‘Endurable’ Solution for IDPs in South Kivu, DRC” - *Leonard Muzee Kazamwali* (Centre d’Excellence Denis Mukwege, Democratic Republic of Congo)
- “Social Connections and Access to Health-care among Displaced People in the DRC, Somalia, and Kenya” – *Dr Jean-Benoît Falisse* (University of Edinburgh, UK)
- “Domains of (Local) Integration and their Durability in Kismayo and Garowe, Somalia” - *Ahmed S. Bile* and *Mohamed A. Ali-Salad* (Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis, Somalia)

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Webinar ID: 879 7322 3867

Passcode: 200478

Session 6B How Can Protection Be Integrated into Solutions (THEMATIC)

Moderator: *Samuel David Cheung* (Global Protection Cluster, Switzerland)

- “When Implementing Solutions Creates Protection Risks” - *Hao Cai* (Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland)
- “Solutions and Protection Response in North-East Nigeria” - *Ramsey Bryant* (UNHCR, Nigeria)
- “Forced Returns and Protection Risks in Niger” - *Aliou Salihou Maiga* (UNHCR, Niger)

- “The Human Rights Based Approach to IDP Solutions” - *Paula Gaviria Betancur* (UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Colombia)

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Webinar ID: 862 2660 4156

Passcode: 172922

15.30 - 15.45 Break

15.45 - 16.30 Plenary – Distinguished Keynote

“From Displacement to Solutions: Pathways to Break Patterns of Protracted Internal Displacement”

Robert Piper

Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement Office of the United Nations Secretary General

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Webinar ID: 839 9047 3483

Passcode: 123534

16.30 Day 2 Conference Ends

Abstracts

Session 1A - Not All IDPs Are The Same: Working towards Different 'Solutions' for Different IDPs (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Dr Lidia Kuzemska** (Forum Transregionale Studien, Germany)

The trinity of solutions to international refugee situations — repatriation to country of origin, local integration in host country, and resettlement in third country — has also been offered as a triplet of domestic solutions to internal displacement situations. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) within a country may return to whether they come from, integrate themselves where they are now, or resettle in another place in the same country. But these solutions may not cover all situations of internal displacement, especially when they are conflict-induced. Different types of conflict, ethnic, religious, political, etc., that lead to different internal displacement situations, and different solutions have to be tailored for different IDPs.

“Not All Myanmar IDPs (2011-) Are The Same”

Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)

This paper will discuss three different waves of internal displacement of more than 2 million in Myanmar from 2011 until late 2023 and highlight that ethnic conflict, religious conflict, and political conflict have resulted in those waves. It will then argue that different solutions are required and must be tailored to help solve the three waves.

“Seeking Solutions to Unprecedented Internal Displacement in Ethiopia”

Dr Abebaw Minaye (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)

The multidimensional plights of close to 4 million IDPs in Ethiopia have taken a back seat in the policy debates in the country. Ethiopia has not adopted adequate legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of IDPs (Djigisa, 2019). Neither does the international community pay sufficient attention to the problem. Ethiopia lacks a comprehensive dedicated framework to ameliorate the plight of IDPs. One of the most relevant provisions was the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policy of 2013 with its associated Strategic Programme (Habte & Kweon, 2018). Though Ethiopia has ratified the Kampala Convention, there is neither a legal nor policy framework that gives domestic effect to the Convention. Though Ethiopia has recently joined the UN's Durable Solutions Initiative (2019), existing normative frameworks do not comprehensively respond to the specific needs of IDPs (Dagne, 2021), and transitional, developmental and durable solutions are not being implemented properly. Sometimes pushes by the government for IDPs' return to their original environments that remain violent do more harm than help. In some cases, IDPs are experiencing emotional statelessness. Focus is often much more on charity, where the private sector is required to give alms, than on creation of business and entrepreneurial activities that benefit and empower IDPs.

I want to discuss the following possible solutions. First, engagement and representation of IDPs in community-based organizations to help them articulate their concerns and possible mitigation strategies. Second, government should better cooperate with host communities by aligning support to IDPs with local development endeavours than pressuring IDPs to return. Third, addressing systemic threats for example by respecting the rights of ethnic minorities in ethnic majority regions and revising federal and regional constitutions. Fourth, embracing a whole-of-government approach that engages various sectoral government offices with better coordination mechanism so that no one will be left behind.

“IDPs in Northwest Syria- How to Address Need in Non-State Entity”

Dr Fouad M Fouad (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)

Syria has the highest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world, with 6.7 million people being forced from their homes since the uprising began in 2011. Women and children constitute at least two-thirds of those who are displaced. The IDPs are unevenly distributed across the four primary territories controlled by various conflict parties, with only one being under government control. Each of these territories has evolved differently, with different leadership and governance structures, financing, and priorities.

I will argue that the 2.5 million IDPs who crossed the power borders (but not the international borders) to northwest Syria, which is governed by non-state groups, require a different solution to address their needs when compared to IDPs who moved within territories controlled by the government.

“Impact of the 2022 Russian Invasion on Ukrainian IDP Women”

Dr Daryna Dvornichenko (University of Oxford, UK)

The paper will investigate the impact of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine on internally displaced Ukrainian women. The particular focus will be on uncovering the particular challenges they have faced and continue to face and the support (from government, international humanitarian organisations, local non-governmental actors, etc.) they view as most important at this time. The methodology of the study combines both qualitative and quantitative methods to holistically examine the experiences of women internally displaced in different regions of Ukraine since 24 February 2022. The paper will present the findings of a quantitative survey with 1000 respondents and 50 in-depth interviews with women displaced from Ukraine’s East, South, and North (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkov, Kherson, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Odesa, Dnipro regions), and who are now currently living in the regions of Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Odesa, Dnipro and Kyiv. Both the survey and the interviews were conducted by the author in July-September 2023. The impact of this paper accordingly lies in the fact that it can help both academics and policymakers globally better understand the experience of internally displaced women in the

second-largest country in the world in terms of IDPs.

Session 1B – New Solutions Concepts in Policy and Practice (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Dr Nick Maple** (Refugee Law Initiative, UK)

“Evaluating ‘Transitional Solutions’ through its Use in the Myanmar Context”

Paul Vernon (Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, Bangladesh)

Drawing on a forthcoming research initiative that will be led by ADSP in Myanmar from January - June 2024, this paper will explore how the concept of ‘transitional solutions’ has been used by humanitarian actors to describe ‘solutions initiatives’ by IDPs in Myanmar and examine how the concept has influenced protection and programmatic interventions. The paper will describe how humanitarian actors in Myanmar have invoked the ‘transitional solutions’ concept to characterise IDP return, resettlement, and local integration efforts in Myanmar and discuss the implications of using this concept to describe these initiatives. In particular, the significance of using the term ‘transitional solutions’ rather than the more familiar ‘durable solutions’ will be examined. The development and application of the ‘transitional solutions’ concept in Myanmar will also be contrasted and compared with prior and previous uses of the term in other contexts and institutions, which have mobilised the ‘transitional solutions’ concept for divergent purposes. The paper will also assess the broader applicability of the ‘transitional solutions’ concept for solutions advocacy and programming in the Asia region.

“From Return to Local Integration: Lessons Learned from the Libyan Experience”

Dr Sebastien Moretti (Office of the Resident Coordinator, Libya)

In Libya, armed conflict and insecurity have been the primary causes of internal displacement over the past decade. The country has witnessed several waves of conflict since the overthrow of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi’s government in 2011. However, significant progress has been made in the last three years toward resolving internal displacement, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of people identified as internally displaced persons (IDPs). The number of IDPs as reported by IOM has indeed decreased from 316,000 when the Ceasefire Agreement was signed in October 2020 to an estimated 50,000 people in December 2022. Most IDPs are concentrated in urban areas such as Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata and Sirte.

While many of the people displaced by armed conflict in Libya have returned to their areas of origin, others have chosen to rebuild their lives in different locations within the country and are not inclined to return. In some cases, however, certain IDPs who hoped to return home have been unable or unwilling to do so due to extensive damage to public infrastructures and housing. In response, the Libyan government has implemented a series of measures to ensure IDPs have access to their rights and entitlements in the areas of displacement, thereby facilitating the de facto local

integration of IDPs. Available evidence indicates that many IDPs have indeed locally integrated or are in the process of integrating into the main urban centres where they have better access to services and economic opportunities, among other benefits. While initially prioritizing the return of displaced persons, the Libyan government has increasingly recognized local integration as a reality for many IDPs.

Libya is one of the 15 countries selected to pilot new approaches to displacement solutions under the SG's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, and arguably one of the most advanced toward the resolution of internal displacement in the country. In this context, this paper aims to draw lessons and good practices from the Libyan experience concerning the shift from return to local integration as a key durable solution for IDPs while highlighting some critical questions that have emerged during this process.

“Development Solutions”

Peter de Clercq (independent consultant, Saudi Arabia)

This presentation will discuss and reflect on the concept of “development solutions” and its practical implementation. Advanced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its 2023 institutional strategy, development solutions to internal displacement are intended to assist countries in their efforts to effectively address internal displacement through nationally owned development solutions, recognize that internally displaced persons are citizens with rights rather than just people in need; and to repair the social contract between an affected population and its government. UNDP's approach envisages people-centred interventions that increase displacement affected communities' agency and opportunities, strengthen resilience and capacities and help to lay the foundations for sustainable recovery, and towards transformative – greener, more inclusive and equitable – sustainable development pathways.

“Delivering against the Durable Solutions Framework through Inclusion of Duty-bearers – Evidence from the Middle East”

Amy Rodgers (Durable Solutions Platform, Jordan); with **Matthew Hemsley** (Danish Refugee Council, Jordan)

Protracted crises across the Middle East have resulted in lengthy internal displacements, with inclusion of IDPs reduced over time due to a steady decrease in funding coupled with an increase in social tensions. These dynamics prompt questions around the utility of the durable solutions framework outlined in the IASC Guiding Principles and whether the aid community needs ‘new solutions’.

In this paper, DSP and DRC will argue that the aid community rather needs a new approach to deliver against the current framework. The paper will outline how national and local authorities, the primary duty-bearers, are brought into planning and programming by Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and Humanitarian Country

Teams (HCTs), considering that local leadership is imperative for success after the acute emergency phase is over. In exploring Middle East aid responses it will seek to demonstrate that HCs and HCTs have not sought to engage authorities on durable solutions concepts at the onset of crises, nor reminded them of their obligations under international law.

The paper will also build on the premise that return as the 'preferred' solution denies the reality that internal displacement tends to last several decades and that a fulfilment of rights in displacement depends on successful local integration, and argue that the aid community needs to agree on a set of minimum priorities for integration of displaced persons that is relevant for all sectors but that focuses the accountability framework on sine que non for HCs and HCTs to deliver against. This is politically challenging but, utilising evidence from DRC's work in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and earthquake-affected Türkiye, necessary to ensure focused and accountable aid responses. The paper will conclude that more effective aid responses with consideration of durable solutions at an early stage are critical to ensuring the relevance and achievement of durable solutions for IDPs.

SESSION 2A - The Need to Contextualise Solutions Concepts: Evidence from Iraq and Somalia (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Jo Nickolls** (Resident Coordinator's Office, Somalia)

This panel will draw on examples from Iraq and Somalia to demonstrate the need to further contextualize solutions concepts. While shared terminology is helpful for guiding policy frameworks, it can limit the focus on the necessary adaptations that are required to create feasible solutions pathways given the complex environments in which displacement occurs.

Addressing internal displacement is a complex challenge that requires a multi-dimensional systems approach, including humanitarian support, legal frameworks, and longer-term resilience and development strategies. The concept of 'solutions' is useful in guiding policies and protecting displacement-affected communities, but it is often not contextualized thoroughly and thus remains theoretical and poorly understood.

To make tangible progress, government leadership and commitment in convening local authorities, international organizations, donor partners, and displacement-affected communities is essential. Joint analysis of the practical reality as well as normative and legal frameworks is essential.

The Federal Government of Somalia has led by example through the development of Somalia's first National Durable Solutions Strategy, which guides the prioritization and design of tailored programming and investments at the national, state, and district levels. This strategy, along with initiatives like the IOM-led Danwadaag Consortium and Saameynta Joint Programme, emphasizes the requirement for context-specific

solutions.

Data in Somalia shows that displaced people have different vulnerabilities depending on their location and other variables. This highlights the need for a nuanced approach that facilitates bottom-up solutions while working within national systems and safety nets. Transitional solutions aim to bridge the gap between humanitarian response and more stable solutions pathways, particularly in contexts like Somalia where the distinction between migration and conflict and climate-induced displacement is blurred. To address internal displacement effectively, the linkage of rural-focused stabilization programming with an inclusive displacement sensitive approach to building urban resilience is critical.

“Displacement and Integration from a Government Standpoint”

Zahra Abdi (Federal Government of Somalia, Somalia)

“‘Solutions by Any Other Name’: Do New Ideas of Durable Solutions Differ from the Old in Changing Contexts like Iraq?”

Precillar Moyo (IOM, Iraq)

The concept of ‘solutions’ to internal displacement is as old as the concept of displacement, with some genesis in the aftermath of WW2 until the work done to develop the Guiding Principles to Internal Displacement in 2004 and then the 2010 IASC Framework. Different countries have embraced the concept to fit their specific contexts. In practice, the concept has taken on a new momentum since the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

In Iraq, a country which has grappled with conflict after conflict between 1988-2014 solutions to internal displacement has varied with each conflict and in different governorates. Policy and practice often reflects some of the challenges inherent in the use of the concept between government, displacement affected communities and the aid community operating in a protracted displacement context.

The momentum brought about by initiatives under the Action Agenda has indeed challenged traditional approaches to durable solutions with newer concepts around transitional solutions and development solutions. The questions then arise on what the distinction is between the traditional concept and the newer ideas in practice. Do these concepts make a difference to government as they make policies and implement government programs or practitioners or to beneficiaries.

“Approach to Urban Displacement – Achieving Inclusive Urbanization in Somalia”

Makiko Watanabe (World Bank, Tanzania)

Makiko will speak to the need to re-frame solutions to displacement in Somalia towards more inclusively addressing urban resilience capacity for all urban dwellers. While the solutions concept is useful to a point, it can also narrow focus and limit our ability to work on a more systems level approach.

“Scaling Context-based Solutions to Urban Displacement in Somalia: Challenges and Opportunities”

Laura Bennison (IOM, Somalia)

Laura will speak to the need for bottom-up solutions pathway design that is coherent to city, regional and national development strategies. Identifying and providing solutions to internal displacement is the core purpose of the Danwadaag consortium, we believe that transitioning internally displaced people away from humanitarian caseload is both beneficial to the displacement affected communities and cost-saving. Five years of Danwadaag programming also demonstrates that ‘durable solutions’ is feasible in the Somali context.

These solutions look very different depending on the specific displacement status and risks faced by people from different communities. At Danwadaag we conceive durable solutions under two main pathways: providing durable solutions to internally displaced people ‘in situ’ and safe and voluntary relocation:

1. Solutions in situ: supporting the integration of protracted IDP settlements into the urban fabric of cities and towns. Targets: people in urban towns like Mogadishu who have been displaced for years and up to decades, newly displaced IDPs that have a slim chance of returning or getting relocation support. Interventions include rental subsidy, land tenure support & livelihoods support.
2. Relocation opportunities: building off the successful implementation of the Barwaaqo relocation project in Baidoa, Danwadaag will maintain the flexibility to strategically engage in high potential opportunities for other relocations as city extensions. Targets: IDPs in urban towns who faces high risks of eviction and are willing to move to the new settlements. Examples include Barwaaqo (Phase 1-3) in Baidoa, Hoodale in Garowe.

Displacement and integration from a personal standpoint

Halimo (resident of Barwaaqo, Somalia)

SESSION 2B - Internal Displacement in Buddhist Theory and Practice (OPEN)

Moderator: **Dr Bríd Ní Ghráinne** (Maynooth University, Ireland)

This panel highlights the critical significance of religious groups for solutions to internal displacement, particularly in the global South. This panel grows out of a five-year engagement between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Buddhist circles (primarily in Southeast Asia) and explores how Buddhist practices and conceptual frameworks can contribute toward solutions to internal displacement.

“Engaging Buddhist Networks in Addressing Internal Displacement through International Humanitarian Law”

Dr Christina Kilby (James Madison University, USA)

This paper argues that international humanitarian law (IHL) has a uniquely impactful position to influence internal displacement, since conflict continues to be the largest driver of internal displacement globally. I also argue that religious networks are integral to the implementation of IHL, especially in the global South. Finally, I introduce the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)'s five-year project engaging Buddhist Circles, from which the following panel presentations emerge. Recognizing that international humanitarian principles are deeply rooted in the world's religious traditions, and that “religious communities have been carrying out humanitarian action for far longer than other humanitarian actors” have, the ICRC has been engaged in collaborations with Buddhist scholars, monastics, armed groups, and civil society leaders to explore the intersections between IHL and Buddhist ethics, including on the problem of protection for IDPs.

The United Nations Secretary-General panel's recommendations for addressing internal displacement include several items that can justify including Buddhism in IDP protection efforts. One recommendation from the panel is to “make solutions a nationally owned” priority. In many states in Asia, Buddhist traditions and values are integral to national identity and wield hefty influence in the political arena. The contributions that Buddhism offers to the ethical challenges of internal displacement have the potential to impact governance and to improve the lives of IDPs and of host communities in Buddhist-majority regions. Furthermore, the panel report emphasizes that “the whole of society” must be invested in solutions to internal displacement; this “whole of society” extends beyond the state to include civil society actors, such as religious leaders and religious organizations, who are sometimes overlooked in the secular humanitarian regime.

“Internal Displacement in Buddhist Theory and Practice: A Modern Sri Lankan Case”

Professor Mahinda Deegalle (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)

Internal displacement is historically closely connected with conquest, war, and terrorism. Sri Lanka has been the home of Theravāda Buddhism for over two millennia. During that long history, Sri Lanka has experienced many kinds of displacements due to ethnic cleansing, foreign invasions, colonial occupations, religious differentiation, and terrorism. In Sri Lanka’s long history, the first community to be displaced from their sovereign lands in ancient Laṅkā was the people of Kuvēṇi (the indigenous tribe that inhabited the island when Prince Vijaya arrived and conquered the island). Since that historical narrative of conquest, occupation, and displacement, we have many records of internal displacement in the Pāli chronicles and other historical narratives. In that historical backdrop, this paper aims to examine the place of ‘internal displacement’ in Buddhist theory and practice in modern times concentrating on the twenty-six-year-old civil war (1983–2009) in Sri Lanka. To understand Buddhist theoretical positions on displacement, I will also use the Jātaka narratives found in the Pāli canon.

“An Old Buddhist Prophecy and Its Potential Insight into Solutions to Internal Displacement”

Professor Diane Denis (Kathmandu University, Nepal)

This paper will look at how we conceive ‘problems of and ‘solutions’ to internal displacement and at some newer terms such as ‘durable solutions’, ‘transitional solutions’ or ‘development solutions’. To do this, I will examine a twelve-centuries-old Tibetan prophecy, that of the Shambala warrior. Drawing from the interpretation of it by Joanna Macy and her notion of deep ecology, this paper touches on the insight into the radical interconnectivity at the heart of existence. I am here particularly interested in highlighting the necessity, for any solution to be effective, to bring in an understanding of the human mind. As the prophecy would probably say, the problems of internal displacement arise out of relationships and habits, out of priorities. So then how are these three aspects incorporated in the ‘solutions’? How can terms reflect them. Are they of any use? Again, the prophecy indicates that if difficulties are created by the human mind, they can be unmade by the human mind. Therein the idea of warriorship/courage is presented as a quality of the heart. In short, with this paper on the increasing international engagement with the pressing challenge of ‘solutions’ to internal displacement, I am advocating for a resilience-oriented language with its landscape of dignity (as proposed by Sara Lewis) to counteract the potential problems with the trauma-victim narrative (as addressed by Fassin). I also insist on the Buddhist idea of fundamental intelligence, as a justification for the universal principles underlying IHL. At stake are the roles that different institutions and sectors play in the effectiveness of solutions for humans facing internal displacement.

“Applying the Sāmagāma Sutta as a Tool in Reducing Conflict between Host Communities and IDPs”

Professor Keith Leitich (University of Vienna, Austria)

The problem of protection is endemic to the plight of internally if internally displaced persons (IDPs). Unfortunately, the term is a descriptive, rather than a legal term. While IDPs are often displaced for the same reasons (e.g., armed conflict, human rights violations, repression of minorities) as refugees and require similar protection. IDPs do not share the same rights or legal status as refugees under international law. Instead, responsibility for protection resides with national authorities, as IDPs reside within the borders of their own countries and are subject to the jurisdiction of their government.

Communities that host IDPs are often underprivileged and living in a precarious situation themselves. They often do not have the resources or infrastructure necessary to host IDPs. The lack of [local] resources create conflicts between host communities and IDPs. The Mahānidāna Sutta elaborates on the sources of the conflict. While the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement established the fundamental principle of compassion into the protection of IDPs, he Buddhist principles of non-violence and compassion provide a framework for the provision of empathy and culturally competent compassion. The Sāmagāma Sutta is considered to be a model to address the roots of disputes by examining the Six Roots of Conflict, the Six Principles of Cordiality, and the Seven Methos of Conflict Resolution.

Applying this model of conflict resolution between host communities and IDPs to address the underlying root cause(s) would significantly impact those who work on solutions. Furthermore, the implantation of Sāmagāma Sutta into the conflict resolution toolkit could provide an effective methodological tool to understand the roots and intensity of conflict and resolve them.

SESSION 3A - A Question with Many Answers: How to Measure Progress Towards Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement? (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Natalia Baal** (EGRIS Secretariat, Denmark)

Discussant: **Mona Folkesson** (Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions)

As work on solutions to internal displacement continues to gain momentum following the UN Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Internal Displacement and the subsequent Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, questions around the measurement of solutions have become increasingly urgent. Practitioners, researchers and policymakers are seeking concrete answers to this pressing question that can be applied (i.e. are both politically and technically feasible) in practice. Taking a closer look, however, reveals that these disparate efforts are not attempting to answer a single question but are instead tackling several distinct but related questions on the same theme and therefore providing different answers.

With the aim of benefitting from the expertise of conference participants, this panel will bring together 4 different presentations from researchers and practitioners tackling the issue in distinct institutional/national contexts (see details below). The approaches outlined have both commonalities and differences. For example, some are based upon the same foundation – the definition and scope of durable solutions from the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs – whilst others have a different conceptual basis routed in development or national policy frameworks. All four aim to identify the best possible set of indicators against their chosen frameworks, whilst the statistical measure pursued by EGRISS adds methodological elements to construct a composite measure. Some aim at producing analytical products at one moment in time and concern aggregate or population-level analysis, whilst others provide longitudinal/monitoring tools, and some focus on informing individual-level assistance provision mechanisms.

By presenting these diverse approaches alongside each other, this panel seeks to draw attention to their complementarity and, through the appointment of a discussant from the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement probe their policy-relevant nature. Through an exploration of these questions in the context of the RLI conference, the panel expects to generate interest, foster discussion and even inspire collaboration - thereby contributing to the topical question of measuring solutions to internal displacement.

“Creating a Common Baseline to Assess Progress towards Durable Solutions”
Margarita Lundkvist-Houndoumadi (Joint IDP Profiling Service, Switzerland)

The first presentation will discuss analytical approaches to create a common baseline and assess progress made toward durable solutions at a particular point in time. Well-tested in many displacement contexts (e.g. Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Mexico, Kosovo, Ukraine), the approach integrates both qualitative and quantitative data and often apply an area-based focus, in the context of evidence-building to inform policy development and programming priorities at the national and sub-national levels.

JIPS will share key lessons from this analysis approach, including from applying the Interagency Durable Solutions Indicator Library, developed between 2015- 2018 with the initiative of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs. The Interagency Library operationalises the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs and has aimed to provide a common and agreed upon reference to guide contextualised analysis of durable solutions. The lessons discussed will touch upon nuances required in the analysis of future intentions, needed distinctions between socio-economic profiles and solutions analysis; benchmarking and lessons around contextualising a standard approach.

“Identifying Priority Areas for Development Investments and Tracking Progress over Time”

Catherine Osborn (UN Development Programme, Switzerland)

The second panellist will showcase ongoing work to develop a solutions monitoring framework that encompasses both the institutional environment and the situation of displacement-affected communities. This work aims to develop a more standardised monitoring system that can support national-level efforts to identify priority areas for engagement and development investments and track progress towards solutions over time in terms of implementing laws, policies, and initiatives to create pathways to solutions.

It assumes a “development-oriented approach” to durable solutions that reiterates the rights of IDPs as citizens of the country where they have been displaced and highlights the need to include IDPs in national and local governance, development plans, and policies as well as in UN development strategies, to ensure those rights are respected. It recognises that, whilst states have made encouraging progress in law and policy on internal displacement and efforts to mainstream IDPs into specific policy areas and development planning instruments, gaps remain in the systematic monitoring of their implementation, including their impact on IDPs’ ability to find solutions and the mitigation of impacts of internal displacement on the wider displacement-affected communities.

This will be presented by UNDP, who is leading the work alongside JIPS. Through research and a series of workshops, in coordination with the Office of the Special Advisor on Internal Displacement, this approach builds on existing frameworks and identifies how a more holistic system to measure progress relates to and fills gaps within the existing data landscape on internal displacement.

“Using Data to Assess the Vulnerabilities of IDPs to Target National Assistance Programs and Identify Those who no longer Require Humanitarian Assistance”

Nathalia Romero Figueroa (Unit for the Comprehensive Attention & Reparations of Victims, Colombia)

The third panellist will offer a national perspective from the Government of Colombia, presenting their methodology for determining when internally displaced persons (IDPs) no longer require humanitarian assistance under existing national legislation. This approach combines data sources—administrative registers and survey data—to assess the vulnerability situation of registered victims of the armed conflict, against an indicator framework endorsed by the country’s Constitutional Court. Results directly inform the targeting of humanitarian assistance and community reparations programmes provided under the Victim’s Law.

This approach aims to assess the vulnerabilities of IDPs to target national assistance programs while simultaneously identifying those who no longer require humanitarian assistance. Lessons learned from this national experience will also contribute to the ongoing discussion. As Colombia approaches the 20th anniversary of its first IDP law in 2024, this work will be further contextualised by insights into the analytical questions posed by current national debates on responsible disengagement from humanitarian assistance without undermining the rights of affected communities. The presentation will outline recent developments and ongoing efforts to develop the necessary underlying data and evidence.

“The (Statistical) End of Displacement – When Can We Take People Out of the IDP Stock?”

Felix Schmieding (World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, Denmark), presenting on behalf of EGRISS

Finally, a fourth presentation will outline related work undertaken in the context of the Expert Group on Refugees, IDPs and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) . This will include an overview of the recommended approach of how countries should statistically measure “solutions” as outlined by the internationally endorsed statistical recommendations from 2020. This includes both considerations for how to measure progress towards durable solutions at the population level as well as a more definitive measure to identify outflows from the IDP stock (i.e. when households should no longer be included in IDP statistics) by assessing when they have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities. Both measures are based upon the definition of internal displacement and durable solutions found in the UN Guiding Principles and Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs.

Building upon this foundation, the presentation will showcase ongoing methodological work to transform this guidance into workable statistical measures. It will share key takeaways from recent empirical work undertaken within EGRISS, with datasets from four displacement contexts: Colombia, Sudan, Nigeria and Somalia. Overall, although a work in progress, this approach aims to propose guidance for when IDPs should no longer be included in national IDP statistics. The work is presented with the intention of seeking input from conference participants.

SESSION 3B - Conceptualising Solutions – New Academic Perspectives (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Martina Caterina** (UNHCR, Switzerland)

“Ending Internal Displacement: Normative Standards, Ethical Challenges”

Professor Megan Bradley (McGill University, Canada)

When does internal displacement end? This question is central to global governance efforts related to internally displaced persons (IDPs), and its significance has only grown

in recent years as the number of IDPs worldwide continues to rise. On the face of it, ending internal displacement is an unquestionably laudable goal. In practice, however, efforts to resolve internal displacement are often highly coercive and raise a host of under-examined normative questions pertaining to the rights and obligations of IDPs, states, international organizations, and other actors involved in displacement situations. The 2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IASC Framework) is the main international standard on this issue, and identifies three so-called “durable solutions” for those uprooted within their own countries: IDPs may voluntarily return to their prior homes, integrate in the communities where they have sought shelter, or resettle elsewhere in their country. Using the IASC Framework as a springboard for a political theory analysis, this paper offers a normative account of what durable solutions for IDPs entail. I contend that the resolution of internal displacement cannot be reduced to a focus on IDPs’ physical location, occupancy or territorial rights. Rather, I argue for a rights-based approach centring respect for IDPs’ agency and their interest in developing and pursuing their life-plans, whether as individuals or members of particular communities. Following the development of this account, the chapter considers some related moral questions pertaining to the exercise of choice in the resolution of displacement, and whether the search for solutions for IDPs may legitimately be limited to the boundaries of their own countries.

“Rethinking Durable Solutions as Risk-informed Solutions”

Erica Bower (Stanford University, USA)

For millions of people caught in repeated cycles of internal displacement or displaced for long periods of time, reducing the risk of displacement and finding solutions to it are part and parcel of the same problem. This is the case for people whose homes become uninhabitable in the context of sea level rise or desertification, for example, and for whom returning home after displacement does not represent a durable solution, but rather the continuation of their exposure and vulnerability. For people in these chronic yet dynamic displacement situations, an integrated and risk-informed approach is necessary for progress towards a durable solution. A durable solution is not a fixed state or an endpoint, but a resilient state and a process. It may be measured by the extent to which individuals, households and communities are able to anticipate and adapt to new and current challenges and, when needed, receive protection and assistance to address the displacement-related risks that they face. A solution understood in this way requires that the risk of further onward or repeated displacement and its impacts are anticipated and minimised before, during and after people are displaced. A risk-informed solution also requires going well beyond the protection of individuals to also consider household and community-level strategies, such as labor migration and planned relocation. As displacement risk in the context of natural hazards and the impacts of climate change is set to rise, risk-informed approaches to solutions for internal displacement are needed more than ever to protect vulnerable people and communities. A durable solution must be a risk-informed solution; this provides new

meaning and relevance to the Guiding Principles, in 2023 and beyond.

“Understanding Mobility in Internal Displacements: Searching for Solutions beyond a Sedentary Frame”

Dr Benjamin Etzold (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies, Germany); and
Dr Carolien Jacobs (Leiden Law School, Netherlands)

Return, relocation, and local integration are widely seen as the three main solutions for internal displacement. Drawing inspiration from the ‘new mobilities framework’ and own empirical research in DR Congo, Mozambique and Kenya, we would like to challenge this – in our understanding too linear and too simplistic – reading of internal displacement and related solutions as it fails to capture the multiple mobilities before, during and after displacement. Firstly, internal displacement is not necessarily a forced move from a single and stable place of origin to a safe refuge. People may lead mobile lives prior to displacement and their enforced moves can then be a redirection of continuous and regular mobility patterns. Secondly, displacement itself can consist of various movements: IDPs may not have a clear ‘final’ destination in mind when they move, and their journeys may be fragmented. What leads them to ‘a solution’ on their journey, is little understood. Thirdly, the search for a ‘durable solution’ at a single place tends to oversee the multiple human movements and flows of resources, capital and ideas between a multitude of places. Being able to maintain translocal connections and resources at various locations, may in fact be a key to overcoming protracted displacement, and to rebuild lives and livelihoods. This may require certain levels of mobility.

By carefully looking at IDPs’ mobility trajectories, by embracing a translocal lens, and by exploring the meaning that (im)mobility now plays in IDPs’ lives, our contribution aims to ‘unlock’ research on internal displacement from its territorial frames and to contribute to finding unconventional answers to the ever more important search for ‘durable’ solutions to internal displacement situations.

“The Multilevel Governance of Internal Displacement”

Melissa Weihmayer (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

This paper proposes Colombia as a useful case for examining the evolving coordination between national and local governments. In this paper, I conduct a thematic analysis of its 2015 Strategy of Co-responsibility regulating the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance. I argue that the Strategy represents a delicate compromise between enforcing minimum standards and respecting local autonomy. This means the System largely reaffirms existing vertical power relations, while also creating incentives for horizontal multilevel governance. The paper explores the Strategy’s use of the language of ‘co-responsibility’, a technocratic action-planning process, and capacity-building initiatives. I propose frameworks from the literature on the multilevel

governance of migration to identify the conditions for coordination between levels to emerge, bridging multilevel governance literature with forced migration literature. I will focus my presentation on the application of multilevel governance in internal displacement contexts, rather than presenting an in-depth case on the Strategy of Co-Responsibility.

SESSION 4A - Accountability for Arbitrary Displacement (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Prof. David Cantor** (Internal Displacement Research Programme, UK)

The past two years has seen a push at the international level to focus on arbitrary displacement as a crime. This is marked both by the former Special Rapporteur's 2021 report, which suggested two sets of thresholds for displacement: 1) whether it is permissible or arbitrary; and 2) whether arbitrary displacement constitutes an international crime, and with the UNHCR-Global Protection Cluster's report on the need to criminalize arbitrary displacement. This panel focuses on efforts to use different accountability mechanisms at the international, regional, and domestic levels to respond to arbitrary displacement.

"Seeking Accountability for the Crime of Forced Displacement: Universal Jurisdiction as a National Response Mechanism"

Mareen Brosinsky (University of Wollongong, Australia)

By the end of 2022, the number of people internally displaced as a result of conflict and violence reached a historical record of 62.5 million. While displacement is often portrayed as a consequence or sign of grave human rights violations, it has been argued that the forced expulsion of people from their homes and their forced migration within and across borders should be understood as a crime under international law itself. The deportation or forcible transfer of populations can amount to a war crime or crime against humanity, reflected in international treaty and customary law. There have been calls for the need to hold those responsible for forcibly displacing people to account. Yet, to date there have been limited cases of addressing forced displacement as a crime through legal means. In light of these calls and persistent impunity the question arises how perpetrators can be held accountable as a crucial steppingstone in seeking justice and redress for victims of displacement.

In recent years, the principle of Universal Jurisdiction (UJ) has been increasingly used by states worldwide to investigate and try perpetrators of international crimes, especially in contexts in which the international community remained largely unresponsive due to political differences or lack of authority. UJ enables states to prosecute grave crimes, such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity through their own national judicial systems, regardless of the location of the crime or the nationality of perpetrator or victim. This paper examines (1) whether and how UJ applies to the crime of forced displacement, with a specific focus on internal displacement, (2) how it has been applied in contexts of internal displacement and whether it has specifically sought

accountability for it, and (3) how current UJ practices can be improved to distinctly address forced displacement as a crime within proceedings.

“Regional Human Rights Courts and Commissions: Reinforcing Durable Solutions through Reparation”

Dr Deborah Casalin (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

State responsibility is a key mechanism to ensure legal accountability for a range of forms of arbitrary displacement. Regional human rights courts and commissions (such as the African Commission and Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights, and the European Court of Human Rights) fill a particular accountability gap in this sense, as they are open to invocation of state responsibility by affected people or communities who have not been able to obtain a domestic remedy. This is especially pertinent in cases of internal displacement, which has often been caused by affected people’s own state of nationality or residence, and is therefore generally not susceptible to interstate claims. Internally displaced people have indeed advanced a host of claims before these courts and commissions, particularly over the last twenty-five years, resulting in a range of reparation decisions.

This paper examines how accountability for arbitrary displacement has been advanced through the reparation decisions/judgments of these courts, with a particular focus on how reparation orders have reinforced internally displaced people’s voluntary choice of durable solution. It is submitted that this has taken place through four types of measures, which are examined in further detail in relation to the safeguarding of voluntary choice: 1) explicit endorsement of this principle in reparation decisions; 2) recognition and interim protection of housing, land and property rights, regardless of the immediate feasibility of a solution; 3) ordering or recommending interim assistance to internally displaced people; 4) consolidating a right to restitution without prejudice to the choice of solution, which is not extinguished merely by the passage of time. Regional human rights bodies have thus not only attached legal consequences to arbitrary displacement, but have also aimed to ensure that responsible parties cannot benefit from it.

“Development Finance Institutions and Development Induced Displacements: Independent Accountability Mechanisms and Human Rights of the Displaced Populations”

Janet Jebichii Sego (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

While large scale development projects in various sectors such as transport, energy and urban development may result in a number of benefits to the wider public, involuntary and arbitrary displacements that may result from such projects remains to be the most significant adverse impacts of development projects that potentially affect the enjoyment of human rights by the people (in)directly affected by development projects. And noting that large scale development projects usually involve multiple

actors ranging from host country's government entities, financiers, project developers and international investors among others, there is need to ensure that each of the actors guarantee protection of the human rights of the displaced persons including the right to effective remedy in line with the UN Guidelines on Internal Displacements, 1998 and other human rights normative framework.

This paper focuses on Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in the web of actors involved in large scale development projects that may result in arbitrary displacements. The DFIs have established Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) to hold them accountable and provide remedies to the project affected persons in their financed projects as well as ensure compliance with the DFIs' involuntary resettlement policies. This Paper examines these institutions' Independent Accountability Mechanisms against the right to effective remedy for the complainants in financed projects.

Existing literature has focused on the accountability for violations of the human rights of the internally displaced persons particularly through judicial mechanisms for example the domestic courts and regional courts. There is grey literature on the redress of the human rights harms resulting from financed projects through the DFIs' Independent Accountability Mechanisms and how these mechanisms enforce the DFIs' responsibilities towards the people displaced by the projects they finance. Therefore, this paper seeks to explore this under researched area noting the high likelihood of increased development induced displacements due to large scale infrastructural projects in the developing countries for example in the global focus on green transition initiatives.

“Enforcing Accountability for Forced Displacement Crimes”

Professor Phil Orchard (University of Wollongong, Australia)

Some forms of internal displacement constitute not only arbitrary displacement but also violations of international criminal law. Thus, while the Guiding Principles themselves are non-binding, two sets of existing international mechanisms can be used to respond to situations of arbitrary displacement by anchoring displacement as an atrocity crime, particularly the war crime and crime against humanity of forcible transfer. As atrocity crimes, these can trigger responses through both the International Criminal Court's Rome Statute and through the Responsibility to Protect doctrine. Increasingly, such efforts are also not limited to the international level. Regional organisations - including the African Union, the Organization of American States, and the Council of Europe – have moved forward with their own processes to prohibit these acts. Individual states, too, are starting to use domestic level mechanisms such as universal jurisdiction and Magnitsky Act sanctions to respond. This paper will examine how these mechanisms function and their potential for enforcing accountability for forced displacement crimes by examining Russia's forcible transfer (and deportation) campaign in Ukraine since 2022.

SESSION 4B - Understanding Solutions Dynamics in Communities (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Dr Ana Mosneaga** (DanChurchAid, Denmark)

“Point of No Return? Perceptions of Integration and Belonging in Communities Experiencing Internal Displacement in Colombia, Iraq, and Nigeria”

Beatrice Riva (IDMC, Switzerland), **Alesia O'Connor** (IDMC, Switzerland) and **Dr Lena von Naso** (Norwegian Refugee Council, Germany)

When it comes to durable solutions, considering the voices of the displaced and people in the communities they live in is essential. However, this does not happen often enough. Drawing from more than 30 in-depth interviews with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community members and a dozen key informant interviews with local authorities, humanitarian and development actors, the paper outlines perceptions of both displaced and non-displaced people in Colombia, Iraq and Nigeria about barriers and enabling factors to support local integration. Based on evidence from qualitative research led by IDMC, the paper incorporates different community voices and showcases what is perceived as challenges and what as progress towards durable solutions.

The paper argues that understanding and assessment of progress towards local integration cannot occur without IDPs' own perceptions of where they stand in their journey towards durable solutions. Through a thematic analysis of the interviews, triangulated with existing data and research on durable solutions, we get a more nuanced picture of what integration—or lack thereof—looks like in daily life, adding depth to quantitative data already available on needs and services. The voices of IDPs, host communities, authorities, and practitioners highlight a complex landscape, where individual life and family events but also contextual developments influence IDPs' often fluid decision-making regarding their future. The paper also shows how other factors such as sex, disability, occupation, and age intersect with displacement status, and influence a displaced person's chances towards integration. Finally, the paper links research findings with the operational level and makes recommendations for humanitarian and development actors to take forward in their response based on the evidence gathered.

“Forced Displacement: Understanding Preferences for Host Communities in the Kasai, Congo”

Dr Peter van der Windt (New York University, Abu Dhabi)

The study investigates the preferences of individuals forced to flee for the type of host communities they want to live in. We collaborated with the UNHCR, the UN Refugee agency, and conducted a survey with over 4,000 individuals in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a place severely affected by conflict-induced displacement. The survey included a conjoint experiment to learn about displaced

populations' preferences for host communities. The data suggest that, in addition to safety and securing their livelihood, displaced populations desire to build a social and political life. The data also suggest that access to political integration strengthens trust in host communities, and that displaced people with higher levels of trust are more likely to prioritize political integration into host communities.

The study makes an important addition to thinking about solutions to displacement. First, the findings emphasize the agency of forcibly displaced individuals in choosing their host communities, highlighting the importance of understanding their preferences to ensure more inclusive and successful integration. Second, insofar that the two-way relationship between civic participation and trust holds, the study underlines the significance of interventions that promote civic participation and trust-building in host communities, ultimately contributing to improved social cohesion, a crucial aspect of forced displacement contexts.

“Restoring the Social Contract to Realize Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons: Theoretical and Practical Reflections on a Promising Notion”

Dr. Jerome Elie (Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, Bangladesh)

The past few years have been remarkable in renewing international attention and efforts to support durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs). In this context, landmark documents such as the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement have highlighted the primary responsibility of States to protect the rights of IDPs and respond to their needs, as citizens and residents of their country. In this context, several actors have argued that realizing durable solutions depends markedly on renewing the social contract between Governments and their citizens, that had been disrupted through the experience of forced displacement.

However interesting and potentially fruitful, this notion has been the focus of relatively little analysis and reflection. Which understanding of the social contract underpins this approach? What are the practical steps to be taken to help renew this social contract, and what are the roles that various actors may fulfill? As mentioned above, the centrality of governments and other authorities is paramount when looking to renew the social contract but experience has also shown that other stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations, displaced populations and local communities, have major impacts on the process.

Based on existing literature this paper will first unpack the relevance of the “social contract” to internal displacement, giving depth to the notion that its renewal should be central to finding durable solutions. In a second part, this paper will draw on analyses and experience with interventions from non-governmental organizations and UN Agencies in support of rebuilding the social contract to propose practical steps to realize its potential towards realizing durable solutions. It is anticipated that this paper will then bring value-added through theoretical developments as well as

through concretely informing future multi-stakeholder initiatives and programming.

“Riverbank Erosion: Sustainable Solutions for Protecting the Livelihoods of Displaced People in Bangladesh”

Shahadat Hossain (South Asian University, India)

Bangladesh stands as a nation intrinsically linked with its rivers, boasting a population of 170 million in a compact 147 thousand square kilometres. However, this riverine landscape, while essential to its communication systems, traditional livelihoods, and economic stability, also exposes its inhabitants to the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly the severe consequences of river erosion. Over the past two decades, more than half a million individuals have been displaced due to river erosion, contributing to a migration influx towards urban centres, especially Dhaka.

This paper, rooted in extensive data from the Centre for Environment and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and the Asian Development Bank, delves into the multifaceted challenges faced by those affected by river erosion in Bangladesh. It explores the socioeconomic repercussions of displacement, migration, and the loss of traditional occupations, painting a comprehensive picture of the struggle for survival among the affected populace.

This thematic paper aims not only to highlight the challenges faced by river erosion victims in Bangladesh but also to offer practical, sustainable, and inclusive solutions to alleviate their hardships. By addressing the root causes of displacement, ensuring secure land rights, and promoting skill diversification, these proposed strategies aspire to safeguard the livelihoods and well-being of the affected population, fostering resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

SESSION 5A - Including IDP Children in Defining Solutions: Lessons from Ethiopia (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Tory Clawson** (Save the Children International, Canada)

Children comprise more than 40% of IDPs globally, and yet they are generally not the focus of, nor are they included in, the development of solutions. This panel addresses the importance of solutions for internally displaced children and ways to include children in their development.

“The Human Rights Situation of Children in the Context of Displacement”

Enguday Meskele Ashine (Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ethiopia)

The ongoing displacement situation continued to affect human rights of significant number of people in Ethiopia. An estimated 4.3 million people in Ethiopia remain in forced displacement, with about 53% being children below the age of 18 years. The annual report on the human rights situation of IDP by the Ethiopia Human Rights

Commission indicated that children are often disproportionately affected by and deal with a multitude of issues during displacement. Access to personal identification documents, safety and security issues, access to humanitarian assistance including food, water, shelter, health services and education are among the major human rights concerns faced by displaced children. IDP children may not be in possession of their documentation, this along with failure to provide them with birth certificates can imply a lack of access to basic services, hindering them from exercising their rights.

Lack of disaggregated data of displaced children poses a challenge to ensure response tailored to their protection & assistance concerns. The humanitarian assistance and other long-term programmes do not often consider the special needs of children. As result, displaced children are at risk of harmful coping mechanisms that makes them vulnerable to various forms of human rights abuse.

Hence, to address the challenges faced by displaced children and to achieve durable solutions for the displacement context they are in, it demands a preventive approach and clear legal framework with clear accountability mechanism, needs assessments with data disaggregated by age and consultations with children, along with comprehensive and inclusive response. Adequate policies and operations should be in place adopting to a whole-of-government and whole-of-system approach, to enhance community stabilization and sustainable solutions for IDP children and host communities. By the same token, rights-based approach that takes into account the heightened risks faced by children during displacement and their specific needs should be applied.

“Voices Unheard - Why the Participation of Children in Solutions is Not Optional”
Laura Kivelä (Danish Refugee Council, Ethiopia)

No practitioner would disagree with the statement that age, gender and diversity need to be considered in humanitarian response, including in search for durable solutions to displacement – in theory. In practice, often than not, solutions plans are developed based on government, donor and other ‘power holders’ agendas, with limited consultation and participation by affected people themselves. This is in particular true for children, older people and people with disabilities, who are often seen as vulnerable and in-need-of-protection, rather than as right holders with priorities of their own. These attitudes are often embedded in cultural norms, and exacerbated rather than challenged by actors supporting solutions processes.

With the increased policy momentum on internal displacement and solutions over the recent years, a new paradigm on how ‘implementing durable solutions’ should look like seems to be forming. Practical experience and research from different contexts show that durable solutions processes can hardly be considered a success without meaningful involvement of IDPs in all their diversity, and yet age, gender and other characteristics continue to be treated as a mainstreaming consideration rather than the defining element of all solutions planning.

Commitment is needed to shift from a technocratic approach to solutions planning to one focused on rights and ownership by IDPs themselves, regardless of their gender, age or other characteristics. This can be achieved, among others, through striking the balance between protection and agency and voice; going beyond data about people to really listening to what they wish to say; and ensuring that durable solutions efforts start to not only respond to displacement-related needs, but also addressing the root causes of displacement, often linked to lack of opportunities for significant proportion of populations, including children, to express their priorities and have their rights respected.

“Exploring Protracted Displacement and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Children and Families in Ethiopia: Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities”
Tsion Teferra (Save the Children, Ethiopia)

During this session, we will present a paper with the key emerging findings from mixed methods (predominantly qualitative and participatory) research currently underway in three locations in Ethiopia. This research focuses on children who have been internally displaced due to climate change and/or conflict, and it will look at different solutions - integration with host communities, return to community of origin, and relocation to a new site. It examines the challenges children face in protracted displacement situations; what works and what does not for children; and ways to improve child-focused durable solution strategies. Importantly, the point of view of children themselves is prioritised in this research.

By drawing on this new empirical evidence from the Ethiopian context and (re) introducing the inter-agency Durable Solutions Checklist for IDP Children, the session will:

1. Address the limited information we have around solutions for children – and their general absence from the solutions conversation;
2. Challenge how we conceive and develop solutions, with a focus on the inclusion of children in this process; and
3. Tease out the broader implications of these findings and applicability of these approaches within Ethiopia, across the wider East and Southern African region, and generally in the development of evidence-based and child-focused, long-term solutions and advocacy interventions.

Presentation from member of children’s parliament, Ethiopia

In today’s Ethiopia, over 4.3 million people, including innocent children, bear the heavy burden of internal displacement due to the ravages of war and the climate crisis. At the crucial event I be a voice for the voiceless and plea for change, with a call for tangible action.

As a child campaigner and a member of the children’s parliament in Ethiopia, I’ve seen

the devastating impact of war and the climate crisis on our nation. It's not just statistics; it's the faces of families who have become refugees in their own land. At the event, I stand as their voice, advocating for the displaced children who long for the comfort of home. As children, we face inconceivable challenges: our education interrupted, our homes destroyed, and our dreams replaced by the harsh realities of displacement. The children displaced through no fault of their own, have witnessed unimaginable horrors such as killing of their family members before their own eyes, and now yearn for the warmth of our homes, the laughter of our friends, and the safety that every child deserves.

In my remark at event, I will shed light on the pressing issues displaced children face daily supported by real life stories. I'll speak of the urgency to address the immediate concerns—ensuring protection, access to education, and healthcare for the displaced. I will emphasize the need for involving children in finding a durable solution, for tangible actions, a pathway for the millions of children to return home, where they belong. I will appeal the world to join hands in advocating for policies that consider views of Ethiopia's displaced children and prioritize their safety and well-being. It's not just about shelter; it's about rebuilding lives, restoring hope, and securing a future for a generation marred by conflict.

SESSION 5B – Local Responses to Internal Displacement (OPEN)

Moderator: **Dr Carolien Jacobs** (Leiden Law School, Netherlands)

“Networks of Persistence: A New Framework for Protracted Displacement (Georgia)”

Dr Jared R. Dmello (University of Adelaide, Australia); and **Dr Beth Mitchneck** (University of Arizona, USA)

The UNHCR estimated that over 100 million people were forcibly displaced because of violence, humanitarian abuses, and persecution in their countries, with over 58% of those displaced internally within their own countries as of May 23, 2022. The practical implication of this estimate is that millions are living in their own countries in a temporary status called ‘protracted displacement,’ a term not without its debates on operationalization. The United Nations defines protracted displacement as having 25,000 or more people living in exile from their country for five or more consecutive years. Using a sample of 57 internally displaced individuals from Georgia in the aftermath of the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, we find that networks of persistence demonstrate patterns of protracted displacement within 18 months.

Our analysis of IDP personal social networks over time in Georgia documents two major findings over the first two years of displacement. Our results show that after about a year into displacement (i.e., second round) network structures adapt in size, with a greater concentration of local kin and other local IDPs. By about 18 months after displacement (i.e., third round), networks exhibit further impact from the shock of forced displacement, showing a reduction in size and becoming even more composed

of kin and local IDPs. The 18-month size and composition network patterns of IDPs from South Ossetia resemble those of Georgian IDPs from Abkhazia after fifteen years, a dramatically shortened period.

Using the personal social network as the lens into the outcomes of structural forces and individual agency, we find that internally displaced people do not necessarily experience the same processes as refugees. Perhaps the meaning of integration for IDPs and the social, political, and economic markers of IDP integration need to be examined as distinct from that of refugees.

“Loopholes in Humanitarian Policy Response to Urban IDPs in Nigeria”

Rebecca Enobong Roberts (Technical University of Berlin, Germany)

The issue of internal displacement has emerged as a prominent and urgent humanitarian crisis in contemporary times, with a particular emphasis on its impact on countries in the Global South. However, it is noteworthy that internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to be inadequately represented in both humanitarian policy and academic discourse. The current discourse surrounding IDPs has witnessed a growing focus; yet, there are valid concerns regarding the comprehensive inclusivity of this descriptor in encompassing all instances of internal displacement. This contribution argues that the prolonged duration of displacement on a worldwide scale, particularly in Africa, poses a challenge to the prevailing approaches of providing assistance exclusively within encampment settings. It highlights the importance of recognising and supporting the mobility of IDPs who wish to resettle and integrate into metropolitan areas. The present work is grounded in an ongoing doctoral research endeavour that investigates the process of self-relocation and independent assimilation of IDPs from the northern region of Nigeria inside the urban setting of Lagos.

The present study evaluates the extent to which the ongoing institutional reforms in humanitarian policy and praxis in Nigeria have resulted in enhanced protection and aid for IDPs, particularly in the context of prolonged displacement. This study also examines the policy loopholes present in both national and regional scenarios and assesses their influence on the conditions of IDPs and their ability to receive protection and support in metropolitan areas. Through an examination of the origins, development, and underlying strategies employed by IDPs who engage in self-resettlement, the research reveals that the term “IDP” primarily pertains to displaced individuals who belong to indigenous urban poor communities, while neglecting the inclusion of mobile IDPs. Furthermore, within the context of the international humanitarian framework in Nigeria, refugees in Lagos enjoy greater entitlements compared to mobile IDPs originating from the northern region of the country. This highlights the necessity to reconsider and redefine the approaches aimed at addressing the issue of internal displacement. The overarching inquiry pertains to the extent of uniformity or divergence in the “solutions” implemented to address internal displacement, as observed across different situations. What are some emerging concepts, such as ‘durable solutions’, ‘transitional solutions’,

or 'development solutions', that should be taken into account?

“Moving Beyond Humanitarian Hand-outs: A Study of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Farmers Beans Market, Auta Balefi, Nasarawa State- Nigeria”

Cosmas Ba-Ana-Itenebe (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)

This study examines the role of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as agents of change, moving beyond their traditional position as victims of socio-economic hardship. Using primary data collected through qualitative interviews and complemented with secondary sources, the paper explores the IDPs farmers beans market in Auta-Belefi, Nasarawa state of Nigeria. The establishment of this thriving market can be seen as a demonstration of agency and resourcefulness on the part of IDPs to move beyond humanitarian support and to alter the perception of them as helpless victims. Since its establishment in 2015, the market has not only ameliorated the living conditions of many IDPs, but has also contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of the town and the local council area. The paper highlights the need for research and policy action focus on IDP innovations and resiliency - a gap in the literature that it fills. The paper concludes by recommending support on two fronts: incentives by relevant government agencies in the areas of security and local tax rebates, and IDPs engagement by key partners to further develop the market's social networks towards long-term sustainability.

“Decolonizing Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Indigenous Peoples in Mindanao”

Dyan Mabunga Rodriguez (University of the Philippines Baguio, Philippines)

Mindanao, one of three major island groups of the Philippines, is home to Indigenous peoples, Moros, and Christian settlers. Majority (61%) of the Indigenous peoples in the Philippines live in Mindanao. Historically, this southernmost island group has experienced complex disasters: a catastrophic combination of recurring natural disasters and skirmishes between Government Forces and non-state armed groups. Some households experience displacement, including protracted displacement. As of November 2022, approximately 158,725 individuals are currently displaced in Mindanao (UNHCR, 2022). Severely affected households come from marginalized and vulnerable communities, including Indigenous peoples. Displacement has an incalculable and irreversible impact on them. Purportedly places of hope and resilience, displacement sites and evacuation centers are avenues of collusion between knowledge and power where only one paradigm for change, value system, and knowledge dominates, the Western aid paradigm. Through grants from donor agencies, international and local agencies implement projects intended for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including displaced Indigenous communities. These services are opportunities to operationalize one of the humanitarian imperatives, which is, the alleviation of human suffering in the event of conflicts and disasters.

It is my contention that projects can reinforce, not alleviate, the suffering and marginalization of displaced Indigenous peoples in Mindanao. The inherent, deeply-seated power dynamics between Western aid agencies and displaced Indigenous communities perpetuate paternalism and colonialism. Instead of recognizing and harnessing Indigenous knowledges, projects can reinforce the decentering of the pursuit for self-determination, carving another layer of marginalization. I argue that projects and programs in displacement sites, underpinned by a Western aid paradigm, reinforce the impact of the 7Cs in the lives of Indigenous communities. Therefore, a revitalizing paradigm is relevant to the lives of displaced Indigenous peoples in Mindanao. Inspired by the research of Alberto Gomes, I would like to propose a decolonizing paradigm, one which is anchored on Remembering the past, Reframing the challenges, and Revitalizing aspirations, the 3Rs. I call this decolonizing paradigm, Luyungan, which is a Binukid word for 'seedbed'. The proposed paradigm seeks to serve as a platform for emerging ideas from Indigenous and non-Indigenous advocates in Mindanao, enriched by an understanding of the tyranny of the 7Cs and emboldened by the commitment to dream new dreams and forge new journeys with Indigenous communities which have been displaced in Mindanao.

SESSION 6A - Rethinking the 'Integration' Aspect of 'Local Integration' (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Dr Sarah Deardorff Miller** (Refugees International, USA)

"Rethinking the 'Integration' Aspect of 'Local Integration'"

Dr Clayton Boeyink (University of Edinburgh, UK)

There is an abundance of research and policy discussions on local integration in both refugee and IDP literature. Of the three durable solutions, local integration has become known as the 'forgotten' (Jacobsen 2001) and 'evaded' (Hovil and Maple 2022) because with rare exceptions, host countries are extremely reluctant to offer citizenship to refugees as a solution to displacement. This is a moot point for IDPs who already possess citizenship. The question guiding this panel is what determines the durability of local integration for IDPs? There have been recent successes in developing global frameworks for IDP solutions, which hinges on the idea that the state is the primary guarantor of durable solutions (Ferris 2020; Kälin 2023).

Surprisingly, in most discussions of local integration for refugees and IDPs, there is no engagement with the vast literature on the concept of 'integration', which holds a prominent place in social sciences but also preoccupies attention of governments and Home Offices around the world. This is due in part to a major critique of integration theory: these debates occur in the Global North and centres the state as the prominent arbiter of integration (Landau and Bakewell 2018; Abdelhady and Norocel 2023), whereas the majority of the world's displacements occur in the Global South, where states have varying degrees of control and power. Drawing primarily from Ager and Strang's (2008) influential framework, 'domains of integration', we bring local integration

and integration into conversation to analyse the durability of local integration of IDPs in Somalia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

This panel shares findings from the Displaced Somali and Congolese (DiSoCo) project (<https://displacement.sps.ed.ac.uk/>) which explores access to healthcare at the intersection of gender and protracted displacement amongst Somali and Congolese refugees and IDPs in the DRC, Somalia, Kenya, and South Africa.

“Local Integration as an ‘Endurable’ Solution for IDPs in South Kivu, DRC”

Leonard Muzee Kazamwali (Centre d’Excellence Denis Mukwege, Democratic Republic of Congo)

Eastern DRC has been mired in recurring regional and inter-communal conflict, natural disasters, and the resultant chronic poverty has led to DRC having one of the largest IDP populations in the world. Some estimates suggest more than 90% of IDPs in South Kivu (the location of this research) live with host families rather than in camps or settlements. While most research on DRC IDPs focuses on large cities such as Goma and Bukavu, our project explores IDPs in camps, smaller rural towns, and those displaced by flooding living in tents on the outskirts of Uvira. Methods for this project include focus group discussions with a total of 111 participants, 57 in-depth IDP life history interviews, and 847 surveys. Governance in South Kivu is fragmented and characterised by having few basic services; those in operation are often run by national and international NGOs. While there is some state presence, state actors lack local legitimacy and trust. Moreover, while all recent IDP international instruments such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala Convention call on the state to be proactive in ensuring durability of solutions, in DRC, the state has shown a general apathy in this regard. Our data demonstrates that government indifference and the scale of armed violence and endemic underdevelopment means that IDPs are in a state of stasis: most have no plans to return to pre-displacement areas or new destinations, yet there is a dearth of employment opportunities to improve their households’ situation. While IDPs predictably experience poorer integration indicators than non-IDPs, those displaced by flooding have greater access and connections to NGOs in the area yet experience less stable housing and poverty indicators. In short, for IDPs in South Kivu, integration is an endurable situation, rather than a desirable durable solution.

“Social Connections and Access to Health-care among Displaced People in the DRC, Somalia, and Kenya”

Dr Jean-Benoit Falisse (University of Edinburgh, UK)

Of the panel’s papers, this research zooms in on the healthcare, and to a lesser extent, justice dimensions of local integration. More specifically, we use the ‘social connections’ methodology (Strang and Quinn 2021; Boeyink et al. 2022), to explore what people, organisations, and institutions displaced and ‘host’ communities turn to when facing issues of depression, persistent physical pain and illness, and sexual and gender-based

violence (SGBV). Through participatory workshops, lists of social connections for the aforementioned issues are generated, which are distilled to 30 social connections for each country. Examples of social connections in these settings include family, friends, religious leaders and institutions, police, healthcare providers, indigenous or traditional healers, among others. We then conducted quantitative surveys in each field site asking about incidences of contact, levels of confidence, and reciprocal relationships participants have with each social connection. We find very different social networks being formed and mobilised between locally displaced people and populations displaced internationally or over longer distances. Locally displaced people, who are within a few days of the residence they fled, mobilise more, rather than less, social connections than their hosts (which is similar to refugees). They turn more frequently to the biomedical system, traditional healers, and faith communities for healthcare. We also find that the drivers of displacement matter: aid (international or not) organisations are a connection mostly to those affected by climatic events such as floods in South Kivu, DRC. We explore the possibility that the higher number of social connections is a dispersed strategy of necessity, whereas non-IDPs who have greater access to livelihoods have fewer but stronger bonds. Both the nature of the connections (e.g. the more important place of faith and traditional healers) and their 'density' have important policy implications for seeking solutions to these issues.

“Domains of (Local) Integration and their Durability in Kismayo and Garowe, Somalia”
Ahmed S. Bile and Mohamed A. Ali-Salad (Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis, Somalia)

Somalia has faced decades of conflict and natural disaster, causing one of the largest and most protracted displacement situations in the world. Millions of IDPs live in overcrowded informal camps near major cities across the country, resulting in poor settlements and unplanned urbanization. Amidst rapid urbanization, the value of urban land increases dramatically. As a result, IDPs face insecure housing, land, and property tenure as most informal camps do not have legal property protections. Forced relocations and evictions expose IDPs to further displacement, economic hardship, and distress. This paper explores these processes in the cities of Kismayo and Garowe to expand and complicate the literature on integration and local integration for those displaced within Somalia and its borderlands.

We draw from mixed qualitative and quantitative methods including 178 people in participatory workshops, 60 in depth life history interviews, and 800 surveys across the two cities. The research engaged with five IDP settlements spanning a spectrum of formality and informality, with varying degrees of economic and housing security. Toward this end, we use Ager and Strang's (2008) oft-engaged work on the interlocking "domains of integration" to frame integration. In Somalia, where clans are interwoven into the state, clan affiliation represents social connections domains, yet also influences the state's role in the foundational domain of rights and citizenship and makers and means (employment, housing, education, health). International donors and NGOs as

well as the nascent process of state-building and democratisation through elections Garowe and the Federal Member State of Puntland also have large roles in these processes of integration.

As such, we argue that the ten domains of integration intersect and blur to an even greater extent than in Global North contexts, particularly around crucial issues such as housing, land, and property; key factors in people's decisions to integrate or not.

SESSION 6B - How Can Protection Be Integrated into Solutions (THEMATIC)

Moderator: **Samuel David Cheung** (Global Protection Cluster, Switzerland)

The Global Protection Cluster, in partnership with the Geneva Graduate Institute, proposes to organise a panel at the "Internal Displacement and Solutions" Conference to present protection practitioner perspectives on Operationalizing International Standards and Protection in Achieving Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) – Emerging Lessons, Good Practices and Ways Forward. The panel aims to bring together practitioners from key crisis contexts to reflect on the current approaches to protection for IDPs amidst forced returns/relocations and camp closures, and to identify lessons learnt, including with respect to the realization of meaningful solutions to displacement, and way forward.

The Panel discussion will draw on a joint research project led by a team of students at the Geneva Graduate Institute, supervised by faculty members and the Global Protection Cluster. The research explored the issue of return and relocation of internally displaced communities, and particularly when solutions were implemented in ways that violates durable solutions principles and pose protection risks to displaced communities. Key findings from the research, which looked at risks and trends and actions from across 32 Protection Cluster contexts with particular focus on 4 country cases, will be presented, including lessons learnt and best practices. These cases included Myanmar, Nigeria, Mozambique and Niger. Panellists from different country contexts will offer further tangible insights into the priority protection concerns related to forced return, the actions of Protection Clusters and partners to address such risks and support durable solutions and what else is needed to ensure dignified, principled returns in line with international standards.

The proposed panel discussion aims to highlight practitioner perspectives and learnings and foster a dialogue between humanitarian practitioners, academics and other stakeholders to explore the following themes:

1. How can protection and international standards be further positioned as central to realizing durable solutions, including through leveraging of protection analysis, community-based approaches and action across the triple nexus (humanitarian/peace/development)?
2. What can UN, donors, humanitarian, peace, and development actors do to

strengthen local state capacity in designing and implementing displacement solutions that are contextualized, durable and meet basic international standards? What can we do when unprincipled efforts violate the rights of displaced communities?

3. What concrete lessons and best practices can be drawn from key protection cluster operations to guide future research and policy efforts regarding durable solutions?

“When Implementing Solutions Creates Protection Risks”

Hao Cai (Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland)

The presentation will delve into a joint research project on the issue of return and relocation of internally displaced communities, led by students at the Geneva Graduate Institute, supervised by faculty members and the GPC. The research explored the issue of return and relocation of internally displaced communities, and particularly when solutions were implemented in ways that violates durable solutions principles and pose protection risks to displaced communities.

Despite the escalating demand for durable displacement solutions as 71.1 million were internally displaced at the end of 2022, achieving such solutions are far from assured. The research, encompassing analysis across 32 Protection Cluster contexts, with a specific focus on three country cases - Mozambique, Nigeria, and Niger - revealed that over half of the incidents identified across conflict and disaster contexts were initiated by national or subnational governments, often when pursuing displacement solutions in an unprincipled manner that violated the basic human rights of IDPs. Weak legal and policy frameworks, unaccountable governance models, lack of housing, land and property rights, and discrimination and marginalization of IDPs all contributed to exposing displaced communities to protection risks.

The central role of States as duty bearers to IDPs and the lack of capacity to fulfil such obligations also pose a dilemma to humanitarian and protection actors, who are often caught between the need to maintain humanitarian access and their duties to uphold humanitarian principles and basic human rights. Coordination deficits, competing programmatic priorities, lack of political access and leverage, and gaps in operational guidance on specific protection risks also poses challenges for effective advocacy and response. When Protection Cluster operations achieved measurable results, the crucial contributing factors often include extensive coordination efforts beyond humanitarians to formulate a principled common approach, strategic positioning and programming to enhance access and exchange with local governance actors, rights-based and innovative approaches to amplify the voices of the displaced communities, and concerted efforts to breakdown the silos between humanitarian agencies and between the humanitarian, peace and development actors.

“Solutions and Protection Response in North-East Nigeria”

Ramsey Bryant (UNHCR, Nigeria)

Displacement remains persistently high in North-East Nigeria, as the conflict between the Government of Nigeria (GoN) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) continues in its 13th year with a total of about 2.2 million displaced people in the States of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (‘BAY states’). Significant challenges remain in finding solutions to displacement for the affected population across the BAY states on all internationally recognized benchmarks.

This is especially relevant with the closure of all IDP camps in Maiduguri by the Borno State Government (BSG) and their prioritization of the population’s relocation into Local Government Areas (LGAs), some that remain insecure, without taking the affected population’s informed and voluntary decisions into consideration, as required by international standards. This has led to the affected displaced population continuing to experience specific humanitarian assistance and protection needs and facing serious protection risks, undermining their ability to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.

Following the appointment of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement in June 2022, Nigeria has been selected as one of the countries to implement the action agenda on ending internal displacement. The BSG has considered this as a support from the humanitarian community and a green light to close camps. Protection sensitive solutions have not been adhered to, with resulting harms for affected civilians, including IDPs and host communities.

The panellist will unpack relevant elements in the context of Nigeria, highlighting the potential influence that Nigeria policies might have in shaping the policies adopted by other African countries towards IDPs.

“Forced Returns and Protection Risks in Niger”

Aliou Salihou Maiga (UNHCR, Niger)

Similar to some other countries in the Sahel, Niger is at the crossroads of multidimensional crises characterized by insecurity by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), climate crisis, and food insecurity which continue to inflict considerable consequences on the living conditions of the population. Compared to 2022, the protection environment has not improved over the first three quarters of 2023. Attacks by NSAG increased in the regions of Tillabéry, Diffa, Tahoua and Maradi and displaced more than 700,000 people including more than 400,000 IDPs and 350,000 refugees fleeing violence in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad and expulsions from Algeria.

The coup d’état on 26 July, leading to economic sanctions imposed by ECOWAS and the closure of international borders, marked by an increase in kidnapping, sexual exploitation, inter-community conflicts, livestock extortion and forced displacement,

further impacted the communities' capacity to cope with these multiple, simultaneous shocks. Alliance of states was signed between Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso to reinforce collaboration in fighting against the NSAG. Humanitarian access has been restricted in the four regions affected by armed conflict. The panellist will dive into the forced return of IDPs in two regions of Diffa and Tillaberi, outlining the protection risks such forced returns have exposed IDPs to. He will further demonstrate the efforts of the protection cluster in advocating against such returns and calling for protection principles to be upheld.

"The Human Rights Based Approach to IDP Solutions"

Paula Gaviria Betancur (UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Colombia)

A human rights-based approach to durable solutions to internal displacement is essential. IDPs have the right to choose freely between return, local integration or settlement in another part of the country. The government is responsible for creating the conditions that allow IDPs to rebuild their lives no matter where they opt to settle. Full participation of IDPs in the planning and management of durable solutions will facilitate the process and ensure such movements are voluntary.

Regardless of where they decide to settle, IDPs usually continue to face difficulties rebuilding their lives and require support until they achieve a durable solution. Return, local integration and settlement elsewhere in the country are not a durable solution in and of themselves absent full and holistic integration and reintegration. The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons offers a human rights-based approach to determining to what degree a durable solution has been achieved.

In these closing remarks, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons will comment on the cases presented and offer reflections based on international standards on durable solutions. She will focus on the myriad aspects of creating the conditions for integration, reintegration and peace as well as the important role of the government and humanitarian, development and peace organizations. Her remarks will conclude with suggestions for collective action to help IDPs achieve a durable solution in safety and dignity.

Refugee Law Initiative
Senate House
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HU
United Kingdom

Email: rli@sas.ac.uk

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