

Forced Displacement and the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda: Towards “Common Messaging” Among Solutions Alliance Members – Messages that Members May Draw Upon

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I. Background

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), established in 2001 to guide the international community’s development agenda, are due to be replaced by Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at a global summit of world leaders in September 2015. A large and inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process is already well underway in preparation for the Summit.

Inter-state consultations have been proceeding via the General Assembly’s Open-Working Group (OWG) on post-2015 (co-chaired by Hungary and Kenya), which met most recently in May. **The OWG produced a revised list of 17 proposed SDGs on June 2, 2014 (attached). The next meeting of the OWG will take place June 16-20.**

At a Roundtable on Solutions in Copenhagen in April 2014 a diverse network of states, civil society groups, UN agencies and others agreed to establish a “Solutions Alliance” to support the achievement of solutions for displaced persons, and to help prevent displacement situations from becoming protracted.

Solutions Alliance members agreed that the work on the post-2015 SDGs represented an important opportunity to get displacement on the international development agenda (and, relatedly, to get displacement-related issues included in national and local development plans). Some considered that it would be useful to devise some “common messages” that could help achieve this. Accordingly, this paper has been prepared for use by Solutions Alliance members who wish to join forces, or work individually, to ensure appropriate inclusion of displacement-related issues in the post-2015 agenda.

This is particularly important as most actors are unlikely to be focused on forced displacement and its particular relationship to development outcomes, or on the importance of new models of cooperation between humanitarian and development actors for achieving durable solutions and preventing protracted displacement.

II. Overarching Messages

The occurrence of forced displacement, especially internal displacement, and statelessness must be understood as indicators of development. They are indicative of whether societies are peaceful and stable and enjoy good governance. They also tend to impact on other development indicators, including those related to poverty, health, and education.

The disruption of existing development planning and macro-economic indicators in countries affected by the Syria situation, for example, illustrates why displacement must be taken seriously as a development concern, impacting not only the human development outcomes of those displaced, but also of the communities and countries that host them.

Moreover, the more that forced displacement and statelessness are seen as development concerns and indicators of development – not just as humanitarian issues – the more likely it is that humanitarian organizations will be able to partner strategically with Governments and others on area-based approaches, including approaches in urban and out-of-camp settings that fit within mainstream development planning and benefit displaced and host populations together. Moreover, the more successful States are in devising integrated, sustainable approaches, the less likely it is that humanitarian agencies will continue to be forced to set up parallel mechanisms for the delivery of basic services that are outside of state services and unsustainable. Camp approaches that rely on parallel mechanisms for the delivery of basic services contribute to long-term dependency and protracted displacement, which in turn undermine stability and development.

A number of proposed SDGs include targets, and provide a space for the definition of indicators, that are relevant to ensuring more effective protection and a better life for persons of concern (such as proposed SDGs related to peaceful societies and good governance, poverty and equality, food security, health and population dynamics, education, employment and decent work for all, water and sanitation, and energy).

A first objective should, therefore, be to advocate for the retention of those targets (some of which are listed in section IV below) and to work together to design viable indicators that would capture progress for displaced and stateless persons under those targets.

A second objective is to ensure that displaced persons and stateless people are included in any listing or definition of vulnerable groups across goals and targets, as they are particularly vulnerable.

III. Text Proposals

- Retain Proposed Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies as a high priority.
- Retain goals 1-, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 17 as additional good potential hooks for eventual inclusion of specific targets and indicators related to persons of concern. At a subsequent stage of the process, seek inclusion of targets and indicators related to persons of concern (refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons) in these mainstream development areas as appropriate (see some examples of good targets and indicators below).
- Seek a definition of “vulnerable groups” that includes displaced persons and stateless people, for example under the current target 10.5. If there is no such definition included and vulnerable groups are instead listed in various places

in the text, advocate that displaced persons deserve to be singled out and included in every listing, as they are among the world's most vulnerable.

- Retain 16.9, which currently reads “reduce the number of internally displaced persons and refugees” and refine this with a targeted percentage reduction (e.g. By X date, reduce by YY% the number of internally displaced persons and refugees.)
- Seek to add an additional target under 16 that reads, “By 2030, eliminate statelessness.”
- Seek to add a target under 16 that reads, “By 2030, reduce conflict leading to forced displacement.”

IV. Examples of Good Targets and Indicators for inclusion (*note that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but is rather illustrative. Some additional good targets in the zero draft include 6.2, 10.7, 16.3, 16.12, 16.13, 17.34*)

Target: Reduce the number of internally displaced persons and refugees (Currently SDG 16.9)

Sample Indicators

- # of refugees globally compared to the 2014 baseline
- # of States offering resettlement opportunities to refugees compared to the 2014 baseline
- # of refugees resettled annually compared to the 2014 baseline
- # of States offering local integration opportunities to refugees compared to the 2014 baseline
- # of refugees locally integrated annually compared to the 2014 baseline
- # of refugees supported to voluntarily repatriate annually compared to the 2014 baseline
- # of IDPs globally compared to the 2014 baseline, indicating the principal cause of their displacement
- # of countries globally that have IDP populations above 10,000 persons compared to the 2014 baseline

Target: Elimination of Statelessness by 2030 (Note: this target is not currently in the OWG text, but could be placed in SDG 16)

Sample Indicators

- # of stateless persons compared to the 2014 baseline
- #of states that have ratified or acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions
- # of States that have stateless populations above 10,000
- #of States providing birth registration documentation
- # of States globally that have completed statelessness mapping exercises

- #of States that have established procedures for determining statelessness
- # of States that grant nationality to children born in their territory who would otherwise be stateless

Target: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls (currently SDG 5.1)

Sample indicators:

- # of States that grant equal treatment to women and men with respect to acquisition, change and retention of nationality and conferral of nationality to their children

Target: By 2030 ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective outcomes (currently SDG 4.1)

Sample indicators:

- #of refugee children with access to such education globally compared to the overall refugee population
- #of internally displaced children with access to such education globally compared to the overall IDP population.

Target: By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young persons and persons with disabilities (currently SDG 8.3)

Sample indicators:

- # of countries that allow refugees freedom to work
- # of refugee men and women enjoying productive and decent work globally
- # of IDP men and women enjoying productive and decent work globally

Target: By 2030 ensure universal access to sustainable modern energy services for all (currently SDG 7.1)

Sample indicators:

- #of refugees globally with access to sustainable modern energy services
- #of refugee camps benefiting from sustainable modern energy services as compared with the global total number of refugee camps
- #of IDPs with access to sustainable modern energy services
- #of IDP camps benefitting from sustainable modern energy services compared to the global total number of IDP camps

Target: By 2030 provide universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene for all (current SDG 6.1)

Sample indicators:

- # of refugees globally with access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene

- #of refugee camps with access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene compared with the global total number of refugee camps
- #of IDPs globally with access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene
- # of IDP camps globally with access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene compared to the global total number of IDP camps