

IDP Profiling Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

1. WHAT is IDP Profiling?

IDP Profiling is the collaborative process of identifying internally displaced groups or individuals through data collection, including counting, and analysis in order to take action and advocate on behalf of the IDPs, to protect and assist them and eventually, to help bring about a solution to their displacement. ¹

IDP Profiles consist of the following **core data**:

- i. *Number of IDPs disaggregated by age and sex*: in many cases these may be only best estimates depending on the timing of the exercise and accessibility to the field.
- ii. *Location/s*: The location requirements include both current location and location of habitual residence whenever methodology allows.

Wherever possible **additional data** could be collected through the process and could include:

- iii. *Cause of displacement*
- iv. *Patterns of displacement*
- v. *Protection concerns*
- vi. *Humanitarian needs*
- vii. *Potential solution for the group / individual, if available*
- viii. *Programme specific information* ²

2. WHEN does IDP Profiling happen?

IDP Profiling takes place whenever data for evidence-based response is needed by governments or humanitarian/ development actors to improve the situation of the internally displaced populations.

An IDP profiling exercise is needed if:

- Lack of numbers, disaggregated by sex and age
- Lack of broad baseline information on protection and assistance needs
- Many actors, different data and lack of agreed upon figures
- Inflation or deflation of figures, and lack of an agreed upon update mechanism
- Need for cross-sectoral common overview of the displacement situation
- Need for figures for planning, assistance and advocacy purposes

IDP profiling could take place during **all the phases of displacement** including:

- Contingency planning
- Emergency phase or sudden onset
- Post emergency phase or protracted displacement situations

Profiling is applicable in Durable Solutions phase and can provide relevant information when it's often lacking.

3. WHO can initiate IDP Profiling?

In most situations the **national government³ would lead** the profiling exercise with international agencies playing a supporting role if necessary.

Alternatively, the **United Nations Resident or Humanitarian Coordinator** may initiate a profiling exercise in consultation with the country team. It is not expected that the RC or HC will actually lead the process, but that a member of the Country Team will do so on his or her behalf.

¹ The interagency agreed upon definition can be found in "Guidance on Profiling Internally Displaced Persons" 2008, Ch. 1 pp 8.

² It is common to include in profiling exercises data related to specific programmes or projects requirements

³ "Addressing Internal Displacement: A Framework for National Responsibility" 2005, Brookings Bern Institute

The initiative may also be taken in consultation with the RC and/or HC where relevant, by **field based managers, NGOs, Agencies, a Cluster or inter-Cluster forum, or local committees.**

Due to the cross-cutting value of profiling data, clusters with a non-sectoral mandate are better positioned to initiate the process.

The main point is that, profiling should be a **commonly agreed inter-agency process.**

5. HOW is IDP Profiling conducted?

Please refer to JIPS' *"Overview of a Profiling Exercise: A Step by Step"*

6. HOW MUCH does IDP Profiling cost and HOW LONG does it take?

The cost and duration of profiling depends on many factors:

- The duration of the exercise (sudden onset emergency 24-72 hours, slow onset emergency one week- two

months, protracted emergency one-three months)

- Size and type of settlements
- Staff costs
- Training costs
- Implementation costs (transport, computers and communication devices, printing materials)
- Reporting and dissemination costs
- Updating costs

7. WHO is JIPS?

JIPS is an inter-agency service initiated by DRC, IOM, NRC-IDMC, OCHA, UNFPA and UNHCR. It is currently hosted at UNHCR.

8. Does JIPS fund IDP Profiling?

JIPS is not a funding agency but a service that assists in all areas relevant to profiling. JIPS covers its own costs. In certain circumstances, limited funds are available to cover some costs.