
PRESS RELEASE

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Only when root causes of internal displacement are understood can there be sustainable solutions

As the UN Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) eighth annual High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges – on the theme *Understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement* commences today, **the IDMC is releasing a new paper on the root causes of internal displacement.**

The Dialogue's theme could hardly be timelier. The current influx of refugees into Europe has dramatically highlighted the need to re-think displacement and migration. Understanding the root causes and complex patterns of displacement is key to: responding better to displaced people's protection and assistance needs; preventing crises which cause families to risk their lives in pursuit of safety; and ensuring today's internally displaced are not displaced again.

For IDMC this meeting is a unique opportunity to encourage political actors, development experts, human rights advocates, data specialists to inform responses to displacement based on sound analysis and understanding of the underlying drivers of displacement. IDMC's new briefing paper can help everyone re-think displacement in the context of today's crises.

To sustainably address displacement requires the work of political actors, development experts, human rights advocates, data specialists and many other stakeholders. As outlined in the paper, these actors will need to:

- Agree on a clear and common terminology to discuss root causes of displacement
- Acknowledge that any response to displacement must be informed by a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of its drivers and their linkages
- Support IDMC's calls for more accurate and comprehensive data across all phases of displacement and across all situations
- Commit to finding political solutions to displacement crises
- Capitalise on the opportunities offered by current global policy processes

'Their policies and actions should ensure internally displaced people are not left behind and the underlying drivers are addressed sustainably. Failing to do so will exacerbate underlying drivers and lead to additional, repeated and cross-border displacement' states Alexandra Bilak, Head of Research & Policy at IDMC, who will present at the event today.

The full paper can be accessed at www.internal-displacement.org

Notes to editors:

For quotes and interviews, contact:

Sian Bowen, Head of Communications, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
E-Mail: sian.bowen@idmc.org Mobile: +41 78 630 16 78

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (<http://www.internal-displacement.org>) was established by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in 1998. Monitoring internal displacement caused by conflict, violence, human rights violations and natural disasters worldwide, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is widely respected as the leading source of information and analysis on internal displacement throughout the world.