

NEW DATABASE REVEALS THE STRENGTHS AND GAPS IN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

(Geneva) On behalf of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Law and Policy, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), today launched a new [law and policy database](#) revealing how countries around the world are framing their response to situations of internal displacement through national legislation and policies and regional instruments such as the Kampala Convention and Great Lakes Pact.

This tool adds a further dimension to IDMC's role as the world's leading source of data and analysis on internal displacement to inform the decisions and actions of policy-makers and humanitarian practitioners engaged in work to ease the plight and uphold the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

One of its main features provides an overview of the strengths and gaps in national and regional frameworks on internal displacement, both in terms of their content and implementation. Governments planning or in the process of formulating national frameworks to address internal displacement may therefore also find it a useful source of information on relevant developments in other countries and regions.

The database covers more than 70 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. It will be updated and expanded as new national laws and policies to address internal displacement come into effect in more countries.

Its launch comes as the number of people identified by IDMC as internally displaced by conflict and disasters has continued to grow since the organisation began monitoring this issue worldwide in 1998. This phenomenon represents one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time and underscores the urgent need to develop and translate normative frameworks on the issue into concrete action.

Data gathered so far however reveals that while a number of governments have made positive strides in formulating legislative and policy frameworks, gaps persist regarding the adoption of comprehensive normative instruments including provisions identifying national institutions in charge of response, setting up effective coordination mechanisms and allocating adequate resources for implementation. Additional challenges remain in key areas such as assistance for communities hosting IDPs, sustainable return, local integration or resettlement.

Information in the new database highlights these gaps and details the degree of development or adoption in the following five areas in the countries surveyed:

- Laws
- Policies and other non-binding instruments
- Laws, policies and other instruments under development or not yet adopted
- Laws and policies relevant but not specific to the protection of IDPs
- The Kampala Convention and the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (Great Lakes Pact)

The initiative to create this compendium of national frameworks was launched in mid-2015 by the GPC Task Team on Law and Policy, co-chaired by the UN Refugee Agency and IDMC, as part of the GPC project “Operationalizing the Centrality of Protection in Cluster Settings” co-financed by the European Union (ECHO). It complements the work of the Task Team to coordinate support for regional efforts to develop or reinforce normative frameworks on this issue at the national level.

As part of this undertaking, the Task Team also recently redesigned a [training package](#) to build capacity on displacement law and policy-making originally developed by IDMC, UNHCR and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on IDPs’ human rights.

Available to the public on the IDMC website as well as the GPC Website, the training package highlights the need to establish effective frameworks that prevent and address displacement crises. In order to encourage the harmonious development of such instruments, it also recommends a consultative approach involving a range of institutions and organisations, IDPs themselves and other affected communities.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

This project involved online research of available related information drawn from sources such as the Brookings Institution’s IDP Laws and Policies Index, available at: <http://goo.gl/6eD2YI>.

It also included the consolidation of law and policy data that IDMC gathers as part of its regular monitoring activities. UNHCR was directly involved in researching and analysing a number of national instruments during the subsequent phase of the study.

ABOUT IDMC

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.

IDMC estimates that as of December 2014 there were 39 million people displaced by conflict and violence, and between 2008-2014 an average of 26.4 million people were displaced by disasters each year. Updated figures will be released in May 2016.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER

Co-chaired by UNHCR and IDMC, the **Global Protection Cluster Task Team** on Law and Policy coordinates international efforts in support of the development of national and regional frameworks on internal displacement. Taking into account the experience gained by different UN and non-governmental institutions and making use of existing resources, the Task Team brings together traditional and new GPC partners to provide technical support at local level and to build the global and local capacity to support law and policy making exercises on internal displacement.