

Alexandra Bilak appointed as new Director of IDMC

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)'s Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is delighted to announce the appointment of Alexandra Bilak as its new Director. She will officially take up this role on 1st August 2016.

20 July 2016 (Geneva) – As IDMC Director, Alexandra will lead IDMC towards achieving the objectives of its 2015-2020 strategy, and will consolidate IDMC's role as the leading source of data and analysis on internal displacement. In this phase, IDMC will work with new and existing partners to provide ever-more compelling evidence of the drivers, scale, patterns and impacts of displacement across the world.

Alexandra Bilak brings over fifteen years' experience with international NGOs and research institutes in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa working on strategy, policy development and programme design and delivery. She has directed a number of programmes on forced migration in conflict and post-conflict contexts, and has published extensively on these themes. She joined IDMC in January 2014 as Head of Policy and Research, where she led IDMC's work on displacement in the context of conflict and violence, natural hazard-related disasters and development projects. In this role, Alexandra helped develop IDMC's new vision and strategy for 2015-2020, and demonstrated her commitment to publishing quality research and to finding innovative policy and programmatic approaches to displacement that offer real solutions to IDPs.

Alexandra Bilak expressed her excitement at taking up this important role at a challenging time for displacement, migration and refugee issues globally: "As we began to show in our 2016 Global Report on Internal Displacement, there are many unexplored connections between different drivers and triggers of displacement, and multiple ways in which displacement – whether internal, external, short-lived or protracted – affects different people in different contexts. I look forward to bringing thinkers and practitioners together from all parts of the world to help us provide new and compelling knowledge to tackle this global challenge. It is time to change the conversation about the issue."

Alexandra holds a Master's degree in International Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London and a DEA in African Studies and Political Science from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. She lived and worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya from 2004 to 2014, and has worked across Central, East and West Africa. She is fluent in English and French.

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About IDMC

The IDMC has a UN recognized mandate. It was established by NRC in 1998. Monitoring internal displacement caused by conflict, violence, human rights violations and natural disasters worldwide, IDMC is widely respected as the leading source of information and analysis on internal displacement throughout the world.

IDMC estimates that as of December 2015 there were 40.8 million people displaced by conflict and violence worldwide.

For more information visit our website at <http://www.internal-displacement.org>