

QUARTERLY UPDATE

July - September 2017

This Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 July and 30 September 2017. It is also available online here: www.internal-displacement.org

Feature article

More than nine million new displacements in the first half of 2017

Our mid-year figures, published in August, show that conflict, violence and disasters caused 9.1 million new internal displacements globally in the first half of 2017.

Conflict led to 4.6 million new displacements, already two-thirds of last year's total. The countries with the highest figures are the [Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#) with 997,000; [Iraq](#) 922,000; [Syria](#) 692,000; [the Philippines](#) 466,000; [Ethiopia](#) 213,000; [Central African Republic \(CAR\)](#) 206,000; [South Sudan](#) 163,000; the [Gambia](#) 162,000; [Afghanistan](#) 159,000; [Nigeria](#) 142,000; [Yemen](#) 112,000 and [Somalia](#) 70,000.

There are currently around 3.7 million people displaced by conflict in DRC, an increase of around two million on June 2016 as the security situation continued to deteriorate. The violence has spread to new areas, and eight of the country's 26 provinces are now affected. DRC's figures remain the highest in Africa.

The 922,000 new displacements in Iraq were mainly the result of a series of offensives on Mosul. Extensive damage to the city means that those displaced are unlikely to be able to return in the near future. In Kirkuk governorate, which until recently was controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), clashes

in the Hawiia district resulted in around 37,000 displacements. In Syria, fighting between government and non-state forces intensified in several governorates, including the offensive on Raqqa city, triggering 692,000 new displacements.

In the [Philippines](#), 466,000 new displacements associated with ongoing tensions and armed conflict on Mindanao island were reported, mainly in and around Marawi city. More than 350,000 people are estimated to be displaced in the city and surrounding region.

Besides DRC, there are deepening concerns about other African countries. Unrest is on the rise in Ethiopia, where armed groups have stepped up their efforts to bring down the government. There were 213,000 new displacements in the first half of 2017, bringing the overall number of people internally displaced by conflict in the country to more than 588,000. Clashes between various armed groups have also escalated in CAR since September 2016, leading to 209,000 new displacements.

There was also significant displacement associated with disasters in the first half of the year. More than 350 disaster events had been recorded by the end of June 2017, already more than half of the total for 2016, though the 4.5 million new displacements reported represent only a fifth of the total for the previous year. The figures remain concerning, however, because sudden-onset seasonal storms and floods in south and south-east Asia and the hurricane season in the Americas were still to come as of the end of June. As such, the number of new displacements can be expected to rise exponentially, as has happened in previous years.

Floods in the southern provinces of [China](#) triggered 858,000 new displacements in June, and tropical cyclone Mora caused 851,000 in [Bangladesh](#), [India](#) and [Myanmar](#) in May and June. In the Philippines, flooding in Visayas and Mindanao triggered 381,000 between January and March; the rainy season in [Peru](#) 293,000 between January and June; tropical cyclone Enawo in [Madagascar](#) 246,000 in March and the Oroville Dam flood in the [US](#) 188,000 in February. Further flooding in the Philippines in May, this time in Maguindanao, triggered 182,000 new displacements; tropical cyclone Dineo 174,000 in [Mozambique](#) and [Botswana](#) in February, typhoon Merbok - known locally as Bai Miao - 117,000 in China in June and monsoon floods 104,000 in [Sri Lanka](#) between May to June.



The two largest events serve as stark reminders of the fact that the concentration of populations on exposed flood plains and coastlines combined with high levels of vulnerability repeatedly drive major new displacements when hazards strike. This will continue to be the case and ever more so as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of weather events.

The fact that large numbers of people continue to be displaced by expected seasonal weather patterns, as with the floods in the Philippines, Peru and Sri Lanka, also clearly illustrates that such countries are not investing enough in reducing vulnerability and exposure. Preparedness, early warning and evacuation systems have improved over the years, but the overall risk of people being forced from their homes remains high.

Activities

July

Guidance on reducing displacement associated with disasters

In mid-July, we joined a group of Geneva-based organisations, including the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in kickstarting the development of [Words into Action](#) (WiA) guidelines on human mobility and displacement in disaster risk reduction (DRR). The WiA process is coordinated by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to support implementation of the Sendai framework. It will provide evidence on good practice and guidance for reducing displacement associated with disasters and improving DRR by considering displacement risk. The guidelines will be developed over six months, including extensive consultations with government representatives, international organisations and experts. They will be published in the first half of 2018.

Understanding urban displacement

We participated in further work planning for the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, of which we are an active member. The group has laid out its core priorities, and we will engage specifically in its working group on building evidence through our new work on disaggregating urban displacement figures, patterns and trends in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Nigeria mission

Our research fellow, Lauren Wyman, travelled to Nigeria and visited two host communities with high numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) between 2 and 25 July. The mission's objectives were to research opportunities and challenges inherent in integrating IDPs into the local economy, explore gender differences in IDPs' economic engagement and advocate putting the private sector on the UN and NGO radar as a possible partner for traditional livelihood programmes. Key findings will be presented as part of a case study to be published in late 2017.

August

Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)

We participated in the third round of work to finalise [EGRIS](#)'s technical report covering statistics on IDPs. The report is one of the key deliverables of the group, which is mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSD).

Global Centre for Disaster Statistics and Pilot Countries meeting

Our head of data and analysis, Justin Ginnetti, was in Bangkok on 31 August and 1 September for a meeting organised by the [Global Centre for Disaster Statistics](#) (GCDS). The project, launched by UN Development Fund (UNDP) and the International Research Institute for Disaster Science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University, focuses on supporting high-risk countries. It is aligned with UNDP's global commitment to support implementation of the Sendai framework, which aims to systematically address the growing threats from climate change and disaster risks.

GCDS combines UNDP's global and in-country experience, IRIDeS' research and analysis skills, and Fujitsu's IT expertise to increase countries' capacity to reduce the loss of life and livelihoods caused by disasters among their poorest and most vulnerable people. Before developing a fully-fledged programme to scale-up GCDS support globally, the three organisations plan to undertake a limited number of joint pilot activities in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

This was the first meeting of IRIDeS, Fujitsu and UNDP with technical representatives from each of the pilot countries. There had previously been bilateral discussions on developing capacities and providing support for monitoring and reporting targets and indicators for the Sendai framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but the meeting provided a first opportunity to bring all of the pilot countries and partners together to share information and develop a concrete plan of action.

Workshop on FME in action for humanitarian discovery

Our monitoring expert Maria Teresa Miranda Espinosa joined a group of fellow specialists for a workshop organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 30 August. She gave a presentation on our use of FME data integration software to consolidate hazard alert systems into a single standard layer which our data and analysis department employs to support our monitoring of displacement associated with disasters.

The workshop included participants from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit; the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); CartONG a French NGO that specialises in mapping and information management for humanitarians; Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF); INSER, a Swiss organisation that specialises in geographic information systems, UNHCR and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).



Data and Analysis colleagues presented IDMC's work and the challenges of collecting and interpreting IDP related data from the Horn of Africa region. Photo: NRC, September 2017



IDMC's maps were presented at the OpenStreetMap Summit. Photo tweeted by @mataharimhairi, September 2017

September

NRC Horn of Africa workshop

Our senior monitoring coordinator, Adrián Calvo-Valderrama, and monitoring expert Ivana Hajzmanova were in Nairobi from 11 to 15 September for a strategic regional seminar run by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Horn of Africa team. Staff from NRC's offices in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Yemen and the regional office in Nairobi took part in the workshop, which focused on drawing up of a regional strategy for 2018 to 2020. We gave a presentation on the challenges inherent in collecting and interpreting data on IDPs in the region, given the wide range displacement scenarios and data collection methods used.

Workshop on the economic impacts of displacement

We held a workshop with the [International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis](#) (IIASA) on 12 and 13 September to kickstart a new work stream on understanding the economic impacts of displacement. The first project, funded by USAID's Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and implemented in partnership with IIASA, seeks to establish an assessment framework. The aim is to support improved humanitarian and development responses to the longer-term impacts of internal displacement and to start building a case for significant national and international investment in reducing displacement risk. The project will run until September 2018 and is expected to pilot new methods and tools for future decision-making.

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Summit

Our monitoring expert Maria Teresa Miranda Espinosa was in Ottawa, Canada on 14 and 15 September for the [Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Summit](#). The summit gathers representa-

tives from around the world working to make open geographic data available to improve people's lives through [OpenStreetMap](#) (OSM), the world's biggest open map. It brings to together the biggest crowdsourcing community for the support of humanitarian work. The focus of the summit was OSM's impact on disasters and development, and we set out how we could potentially use OSM data to understand the extent of people's vulnerability to displacement. We also identified and engaged with possible partners and follow-up projects that could support our mandate.

Public event on the protection of IDPs' rights in Ukraine

Our director Alexandra Bilak joined a panel of experts on 19 September to explore the economic and social rights of Ukraine's displaced population and others affected by the country's conflict. The panelists - Chaloka Beyani, an associate professor of international law at the London School of Economics and former UN Special Rapporteur on IDPs' human rights; Christopher Mehley, NRC's country director for Ukraine and Mykhailo Tarakhkalo, the strategic litigation director at the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union – discussed IDPs' protection and assistance needs and highlighted the areas in which the government could make further progress in complying with international standards.

Following the event, Bilak and our researcher and writer Elizabeth Rushing travelled to Kyiv, where they participated in a high-level workshop organised by OCHA and UNHCR to discuss national-level commitments and a "new way of working" to address protracted internal displacement in Ukraine. The meeting was convened to introduce the results of a report commissioned by OCHA - [Breaking the Impasse: a new approach to addressing protracted internal displacement](#) - and breakout groups brainstormed a set of outcomes to guide government ministries and humanitarian and development organisations and donors.

While in Ukraine, IDMC also participated in a conference on IDPs' housing, land and property issues, followed by a press conference that received extensive national coverage. During a three-day field visit to cities and villages along the contact line dividing Ukraine, we spoke to a range of partners and community members affected by displacement about the main obstacles IDPs face in achieving durable solutions, such as tenure insecurity, damaged or destroyed housing and lack of viable employment.

Humanitarian Innovation Day

Our senior data scientist, Leonardo Milano, was in Oslo on 20 September for a [Humanitarian Innovation Day](#) event. The meeting, organised by NRC, Save the Children Norway, the Norwegian Church Aid and the Norwegian Red Cross, invited participants to share best practices and experiences in developing and implementing innovative solutions to improve humanitarian responses. Milano gave a presentation on the use of big data and predictive modelling.

11th session of UNISDR's working group on DRR

Milano was also in Mombasa, Kenya, on 26 and 27 September for the 11th session of UNISDR's Africa working group on DRR. He presented our thematic report *Reducing displacement risk in the Greater Horn of Africa*. More information on the report is given in the publications section below.

Kick-off meeting for the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles



Photo: IDMC/Rachel Natali

We convened a meeting with partners and other organisations on 22 September to discuss plans for next year's 20th anniversary of the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#). The meeting was well attended, with participants from the permanent missions of Australia, Norway and Switzerland, ICRC, IOM, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), OCHA, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), PDD and UNHCR. It generated a lively and dynamic discussion about a potential common political objective for commemoration activities in 2018. We also participated in the Special Rapporteur's stakeholder consultations and follow-up discussions, and will convene further meetings to consolidate plans and objectives.

IDMC publications

Two steps forward, one step back: Internal Displacement and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

Progress against the [2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development](#) targets was reviewed at a UN high-level political forum in New York in July. The six SDGs in focus were on reducing poverty (SDG 1), reducing hunger (SDG 2), improving health (SDG 3), advancing gender equality (SDG 5), building resilient industry and infrastructure (SDG 9) and protecting the marine environment (SDG 14). All of the goals are relevant to internal displacement as progress can help to



prevent the phenomenon and reduce its negative impacts. At the same time, investments in these areas can also create new vulnerabilities and risks that undermine overall achievement of the 2030 agenda. The forced displacement of people from their homes and livelihoods is one such risk.

Our briefing paper explores the relationship between the six SDGs and internal displacement across the globe. SDG 9 and associated investments are of particular interest. Building resilient infrastructure is vital to broader economic development, but projects regularly displace people from their homes and can result in new poverty and marginalisation.

The trade-offs inherent in development investment must be made visible and the connections between the different SDGs considered to ensure progress in one area does not set back advances in others. This paper discusses these connections and the need to identify, measure and expose both progress and setbacks in implementing the 2030 agenda.

[Download the report \(PDF\)](#)

Expert roundtable on displacement caused by development

We convened and hosted an expert roundtable meeting at the end of 2016 with 13 senior scholars and experts on [displacement associated with development](#) to seek strategic guidance and support for our work on the issue.



Drawn from the UN, civil society, academia and the development finance community in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, the participants discussed the available data on people displaced by development work, the

human impacts of such displacement and subsequent resettlement, and ways of voicing and addressing issues and challenges, including via collaborative work.

Our report summarises the participants' general views and presents a selection of points raised on monitoring and data collection, human impacts and influencing policy. It also sets out actions we will take as we pursue our work on displacement caused by development.

[Download the report \(PDF\)](#)

Annual Report 2016

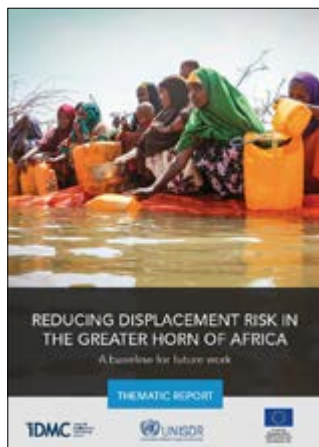
The annual report is a reflection of our accomplishments in 2016, a year when political focus on internal displacement was overshadowed by the urgency of the global refugee crisis. Our figures for the year show clearly that internal displacement should be a priority humanitarian and development issue on the global policy agenda, given its unprecedented scale and relentless escalation worldwide.

[Download the Annual Report 2016 \(PDF\)](#)



Reducing displacement risk in the Greater Horn of Africa

This thematic report presents a first baseline for displacement risk associated with sudden-onset disasters in the countries of the Greater Horn of Africa, with the ultimate aim of reducing it in the future. Given that sudden-onset natural hazards, primarily floods, caused more than 600,000 new displacements in the Greater Horn of Africa in 2016, the report was very timely.



The need to address the risk and impacts of displacement associated with disasters is a global and regional policy priority. To do so, however, such risk must be measured. Governments and other agencies need a baseline against which to gauge their progress, so we have developed a methodology for estimating displacement risk associated with sudden-onset natural hazards. The result is the first fully probabilistic assessment of the phenomenon for the Greater Horn of Africa.

Displacement in the region is highly complex because of the broad range of interlinked triggers and drivers at play. Disasters increase competition for land and resources, which can lead to violence and conflict. This in turn can increase communities' vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards. The Greater Horn of Africa is also among the regions worst affected by the multiple effects of climate change, including above average temperatures, excessive or insufficient rainfall, desertification and environmental degradation.

[Download the report \(PDF\)](#)

Internal Displacement Updates

We launched a new update service on internal displacement in 2016, part of ongoing plans to increase the regularity of information we provide on the phenomenon worldwide. The updates published so far are available here: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/internal-displacement-updates/>

Expert Opinion

Our blog is a space to engage in debate about internal displacement. We published the following posts in the last quarter:

Internal displacement: what's development got to do with it?

Global development leaders recently concluded their annual review of progress toward achievement of the SDGs, a 15-year framework that came into effect in 2016. Despite longstanding and widespread acceptance that internal displacement is a development issue, it was rarely even mentioned. It should have been central.

Read the full post [here](#).

How many Rohingya IDPs are trapped inside Myanmar?

Despite the wide coverage given to the displacement crisis in Myanmar, there are no credible estimates for the number of Rohingya IDPs in the country. Our monitoring experts are working to piece this puzzle together to ensure accurate figures are soon available.

Read the full post [here](#).

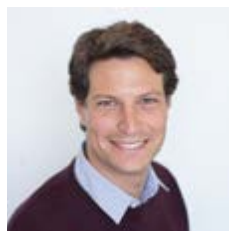
(This piece has been published originally by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.)

New staff join the policy and research department

Two new staff members joined the policy and research department in September. [Vicente Anzellini](#) was appointed as the coordinator of our Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), and

[Schâdi Sémnani](#) as a researcher leading the department's country research portfolio.

Vicente holds a BA in history and geography from the University of Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, and an MA in human geography



and migration studies from the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland. He previously worked for UNISDR's risk knowledge section and its regional office for Africa, where undertook a global policy review exercise that formed the basis for national policy indicators for the Sendai framework.

He also coordinated research and country programmes, developed disaster loss and damage data and analysis, and helped to build government capacity on risk knowledge at the national and regional level. He has worked in a number of countries across Africa, central and south Asia and the Pacific.

Schadi brings highly relevant academic, research and project management experience in the Middle East to the department.



She has an MA in Arab studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and five years of field research experience on the conflict in Syria. She has managed in-country teams researching a range of topics, including the development of governance, security and justice institutions in areas beyond government

control, civil society development, conflict dynamics and community dynamics in area liberated from ISIL. Her research has been used at the local level to inform individual programming and interventions, and by donor countries to inform policy.

Communications and media coverage

Highlights

| [India's land conflicts will persist until acquisition policy is inclusive, says expert](#)

Thomson Reuters Foundation

| [Un migrant climatique supplémentaire chaque seconde](#)

Le Matin

| [Record-setting pace as over 9 million displaced from homes around globe so far in 2017: report](#)

The Washington Times

| [Fifteen years after bloody riots, Indian Muslims struggling to escape Gujarat ghettos](#)

Reuters

| [DR Congo tops list of most newly displaced people in first half year](#)

Reliefweb

| [Neuf millions de personnes déplacées de force dans leur propre pays depuis le début de l'année](#)

Le Monde

| [Conflits, catastrophes naturelles : où se situent les "déplacés internes" en 2017?](#)

RTL

Website views July - September 2017

Website total: 107,356

Most visited sections

Country Profiles: 22,122

Homepage: 13,170

Database: 5,224

IDMC on Social Media

Facebook figures: Our community attracted almost 350 new fans during the quarter, and our page had 10,200 likes as of the end of September.

Twitter figures: Our @IDMC_Geneva account had 6,800 followers as of the end of September. Our tweets during the quarter garnered more than 320 retweets, 400 favourites, 23 replies and 171,500 impressions. Our tweets about our mid-year displacement figures were highly successful in terms of impressions and engagement rates.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.facebook.com/InternalDisplacement

 www.twitter.com/IDMC_Geneva

Finance update

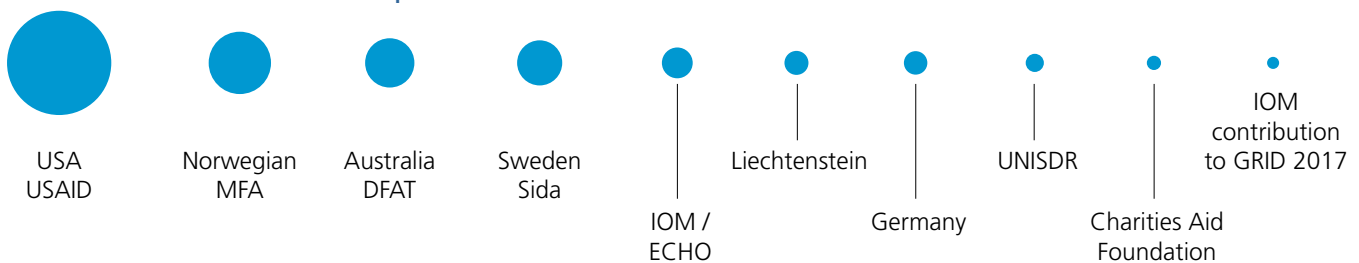
IDMC's financial situation as of 30 September 2017

Funds received: 2,557,414.46 USD
 Expenditure: 2,557,414.46 USD
 Actual expenditure against received funds: 100%

Thanks to our donors!

We would like to thank our donors for their support in 2017 - USAID, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the EU's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), IOM, the governments of Liechtenstein and Germany, UNISDR and CAF.

Funds received as of 30 September 2017



IDMC MISSION

To lead on the provision of information and analysis on internal displacement and to inform policy and operational decisions that improve the lives of IDPs

Strategic Objective 1

To provide comprehensive data and information on internal displacement worldwide

Outcome 1

Selected methodological and conceptual gaps that underpin current limitations of humanitarian and development approaches to displacement are addressed

Outcome 2

Data and information on the scope, scale and patterns of displacement and the location and protection of IDPs worldwide is available online and accessible to our partners and to the broader public

Strategic Objective 2

To inform and influence policy and operational decision-making on internal displacement

Outcome 3

Internal displacement is positioned as a cross-cutting issue in key global and regional policy processes and debates

INNOVATIVE ACCURATE AUTHORITATIVE
 FLEXIBLE IMPARTIAL INDEPENDENT COLLABORATIVE
 INNOVATIVE THE COLLABORATIVE
 ACCURATE POWER
 RELIABLE OF FLEXIBLE
 IMPARTIAL ACCURATE INFORMATION
 INDEPENDENT INNOVATIVE IMPARTIAL RELIABLE
 AUTHORITATIVE FLEXIBLE COLLABORATIVE
 ACCURATE RELIABLE ACCURATE