

This Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 October and 31 December 2017. It is also available online www.internal-displacement.org.

Feature

IDMC's Africa Report on Internal Displacement: 15,000 people displaced every day inside African countries

As the world focuses its attention on preventing irregular migration and protecting refugees fleeing Africa, displacement within its borders persists at an alarming rate but the plight of those affected goes largely unnoticed.

[Our new report](#) reveals that 2.7 million people fled conflict, violence and disasters but did not cross an international border in the first half of 2017 alone. The figure includes 997,000 new displacements associated with conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), more than in the whole of 2016, and 206,000 in the Central African Republic (CAR), four times the figure for the previous year.



Behind the numbers lie the blighted lives of people forced to leave their homes, often at a moment's notice and in the most traumatic of circumstances, and who receive little protection and assistance from their governments. In countries with low coping capacity and weak governance, the majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) are extremely vulnerable and often at risk of further upheaval and long-term impoverishment. This is the case for many of the 12.6 million Africans living in displacement as of the end of 2016.

Conflict caused 70 per cent of new displacement in Africa in 2016, and 75 per cent in the first half of 2017. DRC, Nigeria and South Sudan were among the five countries worst affected, as

they have often been over the years. East Africa, where much displacement is driven by protracted and cyclical conflicts such as those in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, bore the brunt of the crisis in regional terms.

This dire and clearly worsening situation demands a new approach. Responses must go beyond humanitarian action to address the causes and long-term implications of internal displacement, because every case is much more than a personal tragedy. Displacement threatens to undermine the achievement of Africa's broader development objectives.

To reverse this trend, humanitarians and development agencies at all levels need to work together to ensure that emergency interventions are reinforced by longer-term support and measures to prevent and reduce the risk of new displacement. This can only happen by taking early action on conflict prevention, peace-building and overall economic and political development.

In countries with high numbers of people living in protracted displacement, helping those affected to rebuild their lives would contribute to the achievement of many of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The situation is similar for displacement associated with disasters. Effective risk reduction measures help to reduce the impact of disasters, the number of people they displace and the length of time it takes them to rebuild their lives. Such interventions also lessen people's vulnerability to repeated displacement, particularly during slow-onset crises such as drought, which are set to become more frequent and severe as a result of climate change.

The figures presented in this report are undoubtedly alarming, but they still underestimate the true scale of internal displacement. Displacement associated with slow-onset disasters and development projects is not recorded, and the number of people who remain displaced for months and years following sudden-onset disasters such as storms and floods is unknown.

Key facts and figures

2016

- | 12.6 million people living in internal displacement as of the end of the year
- | 3.9 million new displacements during the year

- | 2.8 million people newly displaced by conflict and violence, representing 70 per cent of all new displacements
- | 1.1 million people displaced by sudden-onset disasters
- | More than 977,000 people displaced by floods, representing over 90 per cent of all new displacements associated with disasters
- | More than a million people newly displaced in DRC, including 922,000 as a result of conflict

January to June 2017

- | 2.7 million people newly displaced, the equivalent of 15,000 a day
- | 75 per cent of new displacement attributed to conflict and violence
- | 997,000 new displacements associated with conflict in DRC, more than in the whole of 2016
- | 552,000 people displaced by sudden-onset disasters

Launch of the report

Our director, Alexandra Bilak, launched the report in Geneva on 8 December. Her presentation was followed by a discussion with the following panellists:

- | **Zénon Mukongo Ngay**, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, permanent representative of the permanent mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organisations
- | **Léopold Ismael Samba**, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, permanent representative of the permanent mission of the Central African Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organisations
- | **Bruce Mokaya Orina**, deputy director for Africa at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



From left to right: Bruce Mokaya Orina, Zénon Mukongo Ngay, Alexandra Bilak and Léopold Ismael Samba. Photo: IDMC, December 2017

The launch was covered by more than 270 international and African media outlets. Media coverage included Al Jazeera, BBC, Bloomberg, IRIN News, Le Monde, Radio France Internationale and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (see the Communications and media coverage section for more information).

ACTIVITIES

October

Seminar: Reducing disaster risk to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

The coordinator of our Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), Vicente Anzellini, took part in a seminar organised by the UN Information Service and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). He discussed the first and second priority areas of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, on understanding disaster risk and strengthening disaster risk governance, and the potential they have in helping to achieve the SDGs.

He also presented some preliminary findings of the [disaster displacement risk model](#) we have developed, and discussed the importance of assessing future displacement risk rather than simply counting the number of people displaced by disasters retrospectively.

International Day for Disaster Reduction 2017

We launched our report [Global disaster displacement risk - a baseline for future work](#) in partnership with UNISDR at the UN Palace of Nations in Geneva on 13 October. With 24.2 million new internal displacements associated with sudden-onset disasters worldwide in 2016 the phenomenon is a global issue. It is, however, one of the least reported impacts of such events, and its consequences for people's lives, local communities, countries and the international community are rarely considered. Its true scale, trends, patterns and future risks are also poorly understood, which hinders the effective reduction of both displacement and disaster risk.

Our thematic report lays the groundwork for addressing this gap and presents the first results generated by our [global displacement risk model](#). It looks at displacement through a risk lens, rather than as something to be addressed only after it has occurred. A launch press release is available [here](#).

On the same day, our head of policy and research, Bina Desai, was in Addis Ababa for an event organised by the African Union Commission. It was an opportunity to reflect on the substantial progress made in reducing disaster risk in Africa and discuss the challenges that remain.

Bina gave a presentation on displacement associated with disasters in Ethiopia and on the continent as whole, during which she discussed the key findings of the above thematic report and a second study, [Reducing displacement risk in the Greater Horn of Africa](#), which we published the previous month.



Data and analysis experts respond to questions from the audience from the Innovation at IDMC event. Photo: IDMC, October 2017

Event: Innovation at IDMC

We hosted an event to present the ways in which we are using innovative techniques to monitor, analyse and forecast displacement. Our data and analysis experts discussed our desire to collaborate with other organisations in developing and improving our tools, and determining how they can best be applied to other issues and challenges. Representatives from [Data for Democracy](#), a community-driven initiative for data scientists and winner of our [#IDTECT](#) challenge, joined the conversation.

The event was streamed live on Facebook, and a video is available [here](#). The presentations are available [here](#).

IDMC mission to El Salvador and Honduras

Our senior monitoring coordinator on conflict and violence, Adrián Calvo-Valderrama, and monitoring expert, Andres Lizcano Rodriguez, visited El Salvador and Honduras at the end of October as part of our research on internal displacement associated with criminal violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA). The ultimate aim is to estimate the scale of phenomenon and inform policy and programming responses.

Organised criminal violence associated with drug trafficking and gang activity has reached epidemic proportions in NTCA - El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras - in recent years. Some cities in the region suffer the highest homicide rates in the world and levels of violence comparable with a war zone. There were around 190,000 IDPs in Honduras and 256,500 in Guatemala as of the end of 2016, and an estimated 219,724 new displacements in El Salvador during the year. Data is scarce and decaying, however, and the figures based on it are unreliable and likely to be very significant underestimates.

During the mission Adrián and Andres met representatives from ICRC, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and other organisations to identify potential partners in

the region. They also attended a regional conference in San Pedro Sula in Honduras to discuss a comprehensive refugee response framework to address displacement in the region.

November

IDMC at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 23)

We were in Bonn for a [COP 23](#) side-event entitled Uprooted by Climate Change: Responding to the Growing Risk of Displacement. Organised in partnership with COAST Bangladesh, NRC and Oxfam, the event served a forum to discuss displacement associated with climate change and to consider progress related to displacement in implementing the [Paris Agreement](#) and other COP decisions.

Special focus was given to the Task Force on Displacement established under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM). It is charged with developing recommendations to prevent, minimise and address displacement associated with the adverse effects of climate change in time for COP 24 in December 2018. The event also discussed the role of the global compacts on refugees and migration, which are to be finalised in September 2018, and other global, regional and national initiatives in addressing the phenomenon.

Launch of new two-year NTCA project

With financial support from the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, we launched a two-year research and monitoring project entitled "A Baseline for Action: understanding the phenomenon and estimating the scope and scale of organized crime-induced internal displacement in the Northern Triangle of Central America." The objectives are to develop a comprehensive and shared understanding of internal displacement associated with organised criminal violence in NTCA, to help paint a more complete picture of the phenomenon and its scale, and to inform the operational and policy responses currently being scaled up in the region.

To kick-start the project following our mission to Honduras and El Salvador the previous month, we held a partner workshop in Geneva that outlined the achievements, objectives, deliverables and timelines for our work. We also conducted a mapping exercise in which we invited our partners to give a brief overview of their organisation's current activities and plans in NTCA, with the aim of establishing priorities, ensuring complementary efforts and avoiding duplication. Those taking part found the initiative useful and several suggested the group should undertake a similar exercise on a regular basis.

Participants included representatives from Cristosal, a human rights organisation based in El Salvador and covering NTCA, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), NRC, UNHCR, IOM and the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs. Following the event, we held another half-day workshop with Cristosal to define our roles and respective work on internal displacement in the region.

The Invisible Majority: a new thematic series

Six out of ten people who flee their homes to escape conflict, violence and disasters do not cross an international border. Of the 65 million people forcibly displaced around the world, 40 million are IDPs, and they constitute an invisible majority.

The relationship between internal displacement and the cross-border movements of refugees and migrants, including returnees, is not well understood. This is a major knowledge and data gap which we want to address. To this end, and building on findings in our [GRID 2017](#), we launched [our new thematic series](#) with a briefing paper, [IDPs on the Displacement Continuum](#), which introduced our three research and monitoring tracks and provided a list of potential case studies, such as Colombia, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia and Syria.

In the coming years, we will seek to build an evidence base that paints a more complete quantitative and qualitative picture of the entire displacement continuum, from internal displacement to the drivers of onward movement across borders and to return to countries of origin. To undertake this huge task, we need and invite all the data, information and support that affected communities, international agencies, NGOs, academic institutions and governments can provide. Our plans also depend on obtaining sufficient financial support.

A win for IDPs: IDMC at the thematic discussions for the global compacts

Following months of dialogue and deliberation, we presented our concerns that the UN's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) overlooks internal displacement and its clear links with cross-border movements at the fourth thematic discussion for the global compact on refugees. You can read our statement on the issue [here](#).

To support our position, we also published a new policy brief, [Internal Displacement and the Global Compact on Refugees: Are Today's Returning Refugees Tomorrow's IDPs?](#). Part of our Invisible Majority thematic series, it reviewed existing policy and research and set out our position on returning refugees, internal displacement and durable solutions. The aim was to inform the thematic discussions, and we also put forward two [recommendations](#) that were endorsed in the closing plenary session for inclusion the programme of action for the global compact.

The recommendations were simple, but they will have a positive impact on IDPs' lives and other affected by displacement if they are ultimately included in the compact. First, we called on member states, and particularly those that are countries of origin for returning refugees, to integrate the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into their national laws and policies. As a framework covering the vulnerabilities and rights of displaced people under the protection of their own national governments, the Guiding Principles should be used alongside international refugee, human rights and humanitarian law to ensure that returning refugees are received "in a safe, dignified and humane manner and with full respect for human rights in accordance with obligations under international law", as stated in CRRF article 11.b.

Second, we called on member states, UN agencies and their partners to expand and coordinate the collection of interoperable data that covers the entire displacement continuum, from internal displacement to refuge abroad and repatriation and return. Informed planning across sectors on sustainable return and reintegration, as called for in CRRF article 12, cannot move forward without data that takes the specific needs of returnees into account and so engages more decisively with IDPs. This means monitoring returnees' trajectories over time, not just at drop-off but much further into their settlement and reintegration process, and gathering data on a range of indicators that measure progress toward durable solutions systematically and comprehensively.

We will maintain the momentum on these two recommendations in the coming rounds of discussions, including the formal consultations in 2018.

International conference on humanitarian responses to urban crises

Our GRID coordinator, Vicente Anzellini, was in London on 15 and 16 November for a conference organised by the International Institute for Environment and Development and the International Rescue Committee.

The event, entitled [Crises in cities and cities in crisis: towards a collaborative urban response](#), brought together researchers, practitioners and policymakers from the humanitarian and development communities, urban specialists including planners and senior officials, and representatives of donor organisations.

Vicente took part in a panel discussion on data for more effective urban responses, during which he presented our research on urban displacement monitoring and our programme on the topic for the coming years. The conference agenda is available [here](#).



IDMC director Alexandra Bilak gives the opening speech at the Afghanistan returnee-IDP event - "Going 'home' to displacement".
Photo: IDMC, December 2017

Workshop on displacement data with NRC and the African Union

Our senior monitoring coordinator on conflict and violence, Adrián Calvo Valderrama, and his counterpart for disasters and development, Sylvain Ponserre, were in Kampala, Uganda, from 13 to 15 November to facilitate a two-day workshop co-organised with NRC and the African Union.

The event brought together representatives from various African countries, the World Bank, JIPS, and agencies such as UNHCR, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to discuss ways of improving the collection, analysis and use of forced displacement data and reporting in Africa.

The workshop aimed to take stock of the data that African governments currently do and do not collect, and to identify future challenges and solutions. Adrián and Sylvain gave a presentation on general practices and challenges associated with the collection and analysis of data on IDPs, and emphasised the need to improve tools and coordination between national governments and international organisations. In a joint session with JIPS, they also presented the work of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) established by the UN Statistical Commission.

Conference on responses to displacement in the Middle East

Our researcher Schadi Semnani attended a conference organised by the London School of Economics on responses to displacement in the Middle East. She took part in a panel discussion on internal displacement and return, during which she presented our [case study on returnees' experiences in Syria](#). The conference programme is available [here](#).

Global Centre for Disaster Statistics pilot meeting

Our senior monitoring coordinator on disasters and development, Sylvain Ponserre, and our monitoring expert Vincent Fung gave a remote presentation on the 29 November to a meeting of the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS) and pilot countries held in Sendai, Japan, on the monitoring of displacement associated with disasters.

GCDS is a joint initiative of UNDP and the international research institute for disaster science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University set up to contribute to the implementation of the Sendai framework and the SDGs. The project supports high-risk countries and is aligned with UNDP's global commitment to the Sendai framework. The meeting brought together representatives from the pilot countries - Cambodia, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Nepal and Sri Lanka - and from Tohoku University, Fujitsu and UNDP.

During their presentation, Sylvain and Vincent emphasised the links between displacement statistics and international frameworks, the need for national authorities to lead the collection of data on IDPs, and the importance of ensuring that the information gathered is interoperable, shared and used effectively.

December

Going 'home' to displacement: Afghanistan's returnee-IDPs – a new case study

As Afghanistan's conflict escalates, internal displacement is on the rise and Afghans are ever less welcome in neighbouring countries. As many as 500,000 were expected to have returned from Pakistan and Iran by the end of 2017, many of them directly into internal displacement. Afghans who have returned to their country but are unable to go back to their area of origin are known as returnee-IDPs, and they number in the hundreds of thousands. Like Afghanistan's IDPs, they struggle to secure basic living conditions, livelihoods and services.

NRC and the think tank [Samuel Hall](#) were on the ground in Afghanistan in mid-2017, hearing from both groups about their reintegration needs and the obstacles they face in achieving durable solutions. The broader findings of the research will be published early in 2018, but we took the opportunity during the week of the [High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#) to launch a case study on the country's returnee-IDPs as part of our [Invisible Majority](#) thematic series.

Our director, Alexandra Bilak gave the opening speech at the launch event, after which her counterpart at Samuel Hall, Nassim Majidi, presented the study and research findings. This was followed by a discussion and Q&A with Ayaki Ito, UNHCR's deputy regional director for Asia and the Pacific; Will Carter, NRC's head of programme in Afghanistan and Muhammad Rizki, IOM's information management officer.

Technical workshop on the economic impact of internal displacement

As part of a new project to assess the economic impact of internal displacement, our policy and research team held a workshop with our partner, the [International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis](#), to discuss the issue. The exploratory research, funded by the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance, aims to assess the cost of internal displacement associated with conflict, disasters and development to national economies and at the global level.

The first phase of the project will run until the end of 2018 and will put forward a conceptual framework to guide quantitative assessments of the cost. Different risk and impact models will be tested in selected countries. The December workshop set the baseline for the project, and confirmed the absence of consensus in the existing literature on the issue, both on the conceptual and the modelling side.

IDMC joins the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

We joined the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together 280 inter-governmental organisations, national statistical offices, private companies and international NGOs working on ways to improve the monitoring of progress toward the SDGs through the use of innovative technologies.

We will contribute to the partnership's discussions on disaggregating data and making it interoperable, take part in high-level events alongside other members, share technological innovations and policy recommendations, and propose solutions to the data challenges inherent in monitoring internal displacement.

Launch of the Global Internal Displacement Database (GIDD) 2.0

We added two interactive features to our [Global Internal Displacement Database \(GIDD\)](#) - a [global displacement risk model](#) and a [displacement data exploration tool](#). The first enables users to explore and visualise displacement risk metrics associated with disasters, such as the number of people likely to be displaced by country or hazard type each year over five or ten-year periods. It

also allows them to assess the likelihood of specific displacement events, such as a cyclone that displaces 100,000 people or an earthquake that displaces 50,000, occurring.

The data exploration tool lets users generate their own custom charts using our displacement data, UNHCR's refugee data and all of the indicators from the World Bank's open data catalogue. In the coming months, we will update the tool to include more data related to development and humanitarian assistance and more granular data on specific sectors, such as agricultural production and food availability.

In order to get the most out of both features, we have made brief ["how to" videos](#) that include instructions and demonstrations. We also convene training sessions and workshops for partners. If you would like to know more about upcoming workshops, or to request that one be held near you, please contact us at data@idmc.ch.



PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the new studies and reports discussed and linked to above, we also continued to publish the following:

Internal Displacement Updates

We launched a new update service on internal displacement in 2016 as part of our ongoing plans to make the information we provide more regular and timely. You can read the updates published so far [here](#).

Expert opinions

Our blog is a space to engage in the global debate on internal displacement. In the last quarter we published the following posts:

Syrians at the berm: surviving in nightmarish conditions and with an uncertain status

Tens of thousands of people are stuck in no man's land in between Jordan and Syria and their situation is far beyond desperate. They live, or rather survive, on the berm, a strip of land between two man-made barriers of sand, a rocky desert with no vegetation, no water and one of the harshest climates on earth. Few outsiders have ever visited the area.

Read the full post [here](#).

Lives across the frontline: internal displacement in a divided Ukraine

In the absence of progress in Ukraine's peace process, the country faces the challenge of protracted internal displacement. Our director, Alexandra Bilak, and our researcher and writer, Elizabeth Rushing, report on their discussions in September 2017 with communities affected by displacement along the contact line in the conflict.

Read the full post [here](#).

Raising the alarm in DRC

Long considered one of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian crises, the situation in DRC is getting even worse. We put the current displacement figures in context, describe the challenges in getting accurate data and add our voice to the chorus of calls for humanitarian efforts to be scaled up.

Read the full post [here](#).

Going 'home' to displacement

Conflict and internal displacement in Afghanistan are on the rise again, but as the situation deteriorates many Afghans who have fled to neighbouring countries find they are no longer welcome there either. Our researcher and writer, Elizabeth Rushing, introduces a new case study on refugees and deportees who face a life of internal displacement when they return.

Read the full post [here](#).

New staff



[Christelle Cazabat](#) joined our policy and research department in November. She holds a PhD on the role of civil society in development from the University of the Sorbonne in Paris, for which she conducted 18 months of research in Cameroon. She has been working in international development since 2007 for

the French embassies in the Dominican Republic and Cameroon, the UN Population Fund's country office in Cameroon, the World Health Organisation's regional office in Egypt and headquarters in Geneva, and UNDP's human development report office in New York. As an IDMC researcher, she will focus on the economic impact of internal displacement, displacement associated with development projects and global monitoring frameworks.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Highlights

We were mentioned more than 700 times in the media during the last quarter of 2017, including the following coverage:

- | Al Jazeera: [The new struggle for Colombia's countryside after FARC](#)
- | Inter Press Service: [The roots of exodus: Why are people compelled to leave their homes?](#)
- | IRIN: [In the eye of the storm: small island states call for action at climate change summit](#)
- | Le Monde: [15,000 Africans flee within their own countries each day](#) (French)
- | Reuters: [Disasters make 14 million people homeless each year](#)
- | New York Times: [Climate change is driving people from home. So why don't they count as refugees?](#)
- | Times of India: [Calamities displace 23 lakh every year in India](#)
- | Radio France Internationale: [15,000 people a day on African continent forced to flee their homes: report](#)
- | Voice of America: [Report: Rise in natural disasters fueling global homelessness](#)

Website figures

Total views: 132,726
Most visited pages:
Country profiles: 32,959
Homepage: 13,951
Database: 9,109

Social media

Facebook

Our community attracted almost 500 new fans, and our page had nearly 10,700 likes as of the end of December 2017.

Twitter

Our @IDMC_Geneva account had 7,420 followers as of the end of December. Tweets during the quarter garnered 780 retweets, 880 favourites, 31 replies and 254,900 impressions. Our tweets promoting our Africa Report on Internal Displacement 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

Financial Situation as of 31 December 2017

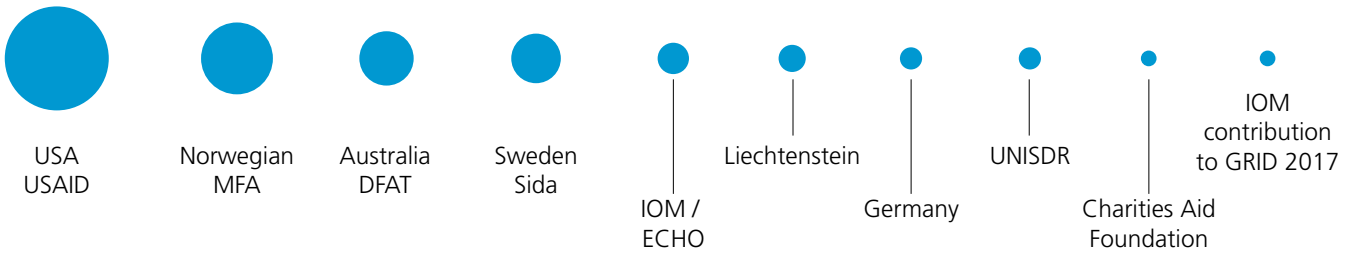
Funds received: 3,664,884.22
 Expenditure: 3,664,884.22
 Actual expenditure against received funds: 100%

Thanks to our donors!

We would like to thank our donors for their support in 2017:

USAID, NMFA, Australia DFAT, SIDA, ECHO, IOM, Liechtenstein, Germany, UNISDR, CAF

Funds received as of 31 December 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

