

*This Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 January and 31 March 2018. It is also available online here: [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)*

## 20th anniversary of IDMC and of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement - making 2018 the year of IDPs

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and of IDMC itself. Twenty years ago, states committed to preventing armed conflict, violence, disasters and human rights violations from displacing people inside their own country, and to providing protection and assistance to them when they did. Since then, internal displacement has been recognised as an issue of global concern, and the plight, needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced people (IDPs) have been systematically documented and reported on.

In 2017, the world experienced some of the highest rates of violence and internal displacement on record. These were driven by political instability, complex humanitarian emergencies, failed peace agreements, unsustainable refugee returns, urban warfare dynamics, extreme weather and disasters. Well over one million people were displaced across the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the year, fleeing armed attacks and seeking shelter wherever they could, often with no assistance. Armed violence continued to force unacceptably large numbers of people to flee across the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Yemen's catastrophic humanitarian situation left the country's two million IDPs with no access to basic services, severely malnourished and at high risk of famine. World attention was also drawn in 2017 to the Caribbean and South Asia, where violent storms, floods and hurricanes swept across entire communities, destroying critical infrastructure and leaving millions of people homeless.

These human tragedies give us few reasons to celebrate.

Nevertheless, at IDMC we celebrate our 20th anniversary with renewed energy and determination. We commit to elevating the issue of internal displacement within the debates on displacement

and migration that have dominated the post-2015 global policy agenda and that have, to date, excluded the tens of millions of people who live in displacement within the borders of their own countries and receive little political attention or support. We argue that the exclusion of internal displacement from these conversations will come at great cost to future peace, development and security, and that it is time to refocus world attention on the most vulnerable and neglected.

If 2018 is to be the year in which we see real change for IDPs, we need to think and talk about internal displacement differently. We must consider it a human rights issue, but also focus on the critical and often neglected political and development dimensions of the phenomenon. Ignoring its longer-term causes and its future impact on individuals, communities and national economies will lead to short-sighted policies and slow progress towards the achievement of national and global development goals. Beyond a moral or legal obligation, it is in the interest of national governments to invest more in preventing and finding lasting solutions to displacement.



Monitoring internal displacement in the future will need to be about more than just numbers. Building on our past research, we will have to systematically assess which investments truly address the drivers of displacement, what can be done to mitigate its impacts, and how to solve practical problems faced by the displaced and by local and national authorities. For this, solid research into the political, social, economic and environmental dimensions of displacement, and a good understanding of how these factors inter-connect and determine different levels of vulnerability, will be needed. This research will have to be comparative across contexts, draw from lessons about what works and what does not, and showcase effective and innovative solutions.

For this research to be translated into effective policy, we will need to actively involve governments and local actors in countries affected by internal displacement. Sustainable solutions to displacement need to be inclusive, locally driven, anchored in

countries' realities, and owned by governments. We will need to work hand-in-hand with these governments to ensure internal displacement becomes an integral part of their planning, and that collective outcomes are achieved by multiple stakeholders reaching across different political and institutional mandates, timeframes and budgets.

IDMC commits to working towards all these objectives in the coming years. We will prioritise building partnerships with governments, NGOs, UN agencies and academic bodies to monitor, analyse and report on internal displacement. We will offer our services and expertise to inform policy-making, and provide thought leadership in framing and creating a global dialogue around the issue. We will build the case for the urgent need to finally mobilise more political will and financial investment, in order to definitively end the displacement of millions worldwide. This will require challenging ourselves, our mandates and our ways of working, which will mean stepping out of our comfort zone, trying out new approaches and daring to embark on an altogether new path. For this, we invite our partners, collaborators and supporters to join forces with us and push the boundaries of our understanding of displacement and our commitment to keep this issue high on the global agenda.

## ACTIVITIES

### January

#### IDMC and UN Unite Ideas team up to launch #DDART, a digital arts challenge to illustrate internal displacement

Building on the success of #IDTECT, in January the UN innovation platform, Unite Ideas, launched our new challenge, #DDART, the Displacement Art Challenge.



The challenge, initiated to mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and IDMC, is to develop a form of digital art to illustrate the phenomenon of internal displacement. Participants are invited to follow one of two tracks, one illustrating the nature of internal displacement and the challenges facing IDPs and the other the processes we use to capture information on internal displacement. Appropriate digital art includes animation, a digital storytelling platform, or a virtual or augmented reality project.

Shortlisted entries will be selected at IDMC events this coming May, and the winning digital art illustration will be announced during the Science Technology & Innovation Forum on the Sustain-

able Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN in New York on 5 and 6 June. The winner will be offered a paid one-month residency with IDMC – equivalent to a 5,000 CHF prize plus paid air travel costs.

### International forum on migration statistics

Our head of data and analysis, Justin Ginetti, joined other experts on a panel on migration and the environment during the first International [Forum on Migration Statistics](#) in Paris on 15 and 16 January. The two-day event showcased the most innovative research and initiatives to measure population mobility and generate timely statistics. More than 150 experts, high-level policy-makers, and civil society representatives exchanged ideas on data innovations to improve understanding of the global migration phenomenon and support policy evaluations. This unique forum, co-organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, also created synergies between all stakeholders, including representatives from countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants.

### PreView data workshop

On 16 and 17 January, our senior data scientist, Leonardo Milano, was in Berlin for a data workshop organised by the German Federal Foreign Office. The Office is currently improving its crisis prediction and conflict analysis capabilities by establishing an Early Warning Unit. Part of the work of this unit is dedicated to the PreView (Prediction, Visualisation, and Early Warning) project. PreView aims to provide analysts with a comprehensive tool for exploring and analysing structural and event data, enabling our country desks and crisis teams to minimise and harmonise research efforts and to concentrate on evaluating data and taking action. During the workshop Leonardo presented our work on real-time monitoring and early warning tools.

### International workshop on disaster resilient infrastructure

On 15 and 16 January, our head of policy and research, Bina Desai, was in New Delhi for the [International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure](#), organised by the National Disaster Management Authority of the Government of India in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The workshop brought together experts from partner countries, multilateral development banks, the UN, the private sector and academia. IDMC joined the workshop also in its capacity as the interim secretariat of the [Risk Nexus Initiative](#).

### IDMC workshop on internal displacement data

At the end of 2017 we added two interactive features to our [Global Internal Displacement Database](#) (GIDD): a [Global Displacement Risk Model](#) and a [Displacement Data Exploration Tool](#). We then convened a series of hands-on training workshops on how to use the existing tools, to showcase additions planned for 2018, and to get feedback on what additional features and functionalities would be helpful to incorporate into the next versions of the GIDD. The first of these workshops took place on 18 January in Brussels with the support of the EU Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

Operations (DG ECHO). This was followed by a second workshop organised on 22 February in Washington D.C., hosted by IDMC's partner - the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). The workshops aimed to give partners access to as much of our displacement data as possible and to equip them to maximise its use to better inform policy development and investment decision making, particularly around disaster risk reduction, development, climate change adaptation and humanitarian assistance.

## Applied Machine Learning Conference

On 29 and 30 January, IDMC's senior data scientist, Leonardo Milano, and Marco Tucci participated in the [Applied Machine Learning Days](#) at the *École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne* (EPFL). Leonardo's presentation, "Detecting incidents of displacement through machine learning and natural language processing", was singled out as one of the most popular talks at the conference, and EPFL has invited IDMC back to give a longer follow-up presentation at their next machine learning conference later this year.



Our interactive display at the conference.

## IDMC mission to Amman (Jordan)

From 28 January to 3 February, IDMC researchers Elizabeth J. Rushing and Schadi Semnani were in Amman to prepare for upcoming research in Syria and Iraq on the relationship between internal displacement, cross-border movements and durable solutions, as part of IDMC's [Invisible Majority thematic series](#). During the visit, they met NRC colleagues from the Syria Response Office, the Jordan country office and the Middle East regional office, as well as the Durable Solutions Platform, the Mixed Migration Platform, OCHA and UNHCR, with a view to confirming next steps and identifying risks and opportunities for the planned research.

## February

### Social Science FOO Camp

From 2 to 5 February, our head of data and analysis, Justin Ginnetti, presented at a social science conference sponsored by Sage publications and hosted by Facebook at its headquarters in Menlo Park, California. The event, which takes its name from Sage founder Tim O'Reilly (FOO stands for "Friends of O'Reilly"), is self-organised and attended by participants from various fields of expertise who set their agenda based on shared professional interests and concerns. IDMC's session explored new ways of using big data to identify incidents of internal displacement and analyse displacement patterns.

### IDMC's Donor Consultation

On 2 February, we organised a donor consultation with our Geneva-based partners, to update them on our current plans and priorities. During the consultation, we presented our new displacement data monitoring tools and our plans to continue to expand the scope of our global monitoring with additional inputs into our displacement monitoring platform and Global Internal Displacement Database. We also presented our new research agenda, enhancing understanding of drivers, patterns, and impacts of internal to cross-border displacement, urban internal displacement, the economic impacts of displacement, and the multicausal nature of displacement linked to slow onset disasters. Our strategy and plans to commemorate this year's 20th anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were shared and discussed from both a policy and communications perspective. We closed the meeting by providing a current funding outlook and updates to our 2018 budget. IDMC expresses its sincere gratitude for the feedback provided by its funding partners during this consultation, including suggestions on leveraging funding to meet increasing budgetary needs, and their leading role in enhancing coordination of displacement data partners.

### Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum

The coordinator of our Global Report on Internal Displacement, Vicente Anzellini, was in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) from 7 to 13 February for the ninth session of the [World Urban Forum \(WUF9\)](#), the world's premier conference on urban issues. Established by the UN in 2001, the Forum examines one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanisation and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. Organised by UN-Habitat, the ninth session was the first to focus on implementation of the [New Urban Agenda](#) adopted in Habitat III and provided substantive inputs for the first report on this project.

On 8 February, Vicente participated in the panel discussion on "[Improving Urban Humanitarian Response: How Far Have We Come? What's Next on the Horizon?](#)" organised by the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action. On the same day, Vicente took part in a panel discussion side event on "[Urban forced displacement: the new normal](#)", convened by the EU/ECHO Directorate-General. The side event aimed to raise awareness of the urgency of the urban refugee problem. Discussions explored how implementation of the New Urban Agenda can contribute to addressing the needs of forcibly displaced persons, in line with the 'Leave No One Behind' commitment guiding this Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and associated commitments from the

World Humanitarian Summit, and the General Assembly's Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants.

Within this context, IDMC introduced its [new research agenda and call for partners on Urban displacement](#). The first case study in the thematic series, "City of challenge and opportunity: Employment and livelihoods for internally displaced people in Maiduguri, Borno State", explores the challenges and opportunities for IDPs in north-eastern Nigeria and their participation in the city's economy.

## EU/ECHO project partners workshop

On 20 February, our senior monitoring coordinator on conflict and violence, Adrián Calvo-Valderrama, and our senior monitoring coordinator on disasters and development, Sylvain Ponserre, were in The Hague (Netherlands) for a workshop at the newly established UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Centre for Humanitarian Data. The workshop gathered partners of the EU/ECHO project including IDMC, IOM, OCHA's Humanitarian Data Exchange platform (HDX) and [Flowminder](#) to present their work to expand mutual collaboration, and to discuss the current state of the integration of DTM datasets into HDX. Adrián and Sylvain presented a session entitled "Getting the most out of IDMC's displacement data — and what's needed to enhance it in the future".



## Lunchtime presentation at the World Bank

On 23 February, Justin Ginnetti gave a lunchtime presentation before the World Bank's Development Data Group illustrating how IDMC has begun analysing data on the bank's development indicators in order to identify the structural drivers of internal displacement. The Development Data Group has been a key IDMC partner since 2017, when we began sharing our core metrics with the World Bank to use in its DataBank of [World Development Indicators](#).

## IDMC at regional durable solutions workshop in Nairobi

From 7 to 9 February, IDMC attended a Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) workshop in Nairobi to support the development of an IDP strategy for East Africa. At the workshop, which was attended by ReDSS members and other relevant partners, IDMC provided an overview of internal displacement in East Africa, highlighted opportunities and challenges for IDP-related data collection and analysis, and led group discussions to collec-

tively reflect upon the necessary components of ReDSS' proposed IDP strategy. The workshop, attended by ReDSS members and other relevant partners, also presented an opportunity for IDMC to engage with ReDSS on shared research interests and to identify potential pathways for future cooperation. Among other things, this prompted IDMC to recruit a team of volunteers to conduct a durable solutions analysis of displacement-affected populations in Iraq in line with the ReDSS durable solutions framework.

## Technical workshop on the economic impact of internal displacement



On 15 and 16 February, IDMC's head of policy and research Bina Desai, head of data and analysis Justin Ginnetti and researcher Christelle Cazabat met in Laxenburg, (Austria) with experts from the [International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis](#) (IIASA) and [UN University](#) to agree on the first conceptual framework assessing the economic impact of internal displacement on IDPs, host communities and the broader economy. Short- and longer-term costs were considered, including emergency humanitarian aid but also reduced productivity and loss of economic potential for IDPs and host communities whose health, security and education may be affected by displacement. Practical solutions to translate the conceptual framework into quantitative assessments of economic impact will be presented for implementation in the following phase of this research project funded by the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance.

## What's next for IDPs - a conversation with Alexandra Bilak

On 21 February, IDMC director Alexandra Bilak was invited by [InterAction](#) in Washington, D.C., to present her views on the state of discussions around the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Alexandra shared her perspective on actions and politics since the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, IDMC's focus marking its own 20th anniversary, and where NGOs can engage.

## CIDH 167

The Organisation of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held its 167th period of sessions from 22 February to 2 March in Bogotá (Colombia). On 1 March, our monitoring expert, Andrés Lizcano Rodríguez, joined a hearing on the human rights situation of IDPs in the region. Participants included the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas, and civil society representatives from Ecuador, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Chile, among others. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs also attended.



## Recruitment of senior research consultants in Central America

As part of our research project, “A baseline for action: understanding and estimating internal displacement in Central America”, financially supported by the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrants, IDMC recruited and deployed three senior research consultants to the region. Elizabeth Kennedy (Honduras), Dr. Vickie Knox (El Salvador) and Dr. Ananda Millard together with Gloria Lara-Florian of the Policy Research Institute (Guatemala) will conduct desk research and expert/key informant interviews. These activities aim to build an evidence base on the drivers, triggers, impacts and patterns of displacement in the Northern Triangle of Central America to feed into a conceptual framework and a final report. The research consultants began their work in February and will share a final synthesis report of their findings by 31 May 2018.

## March

### Conference on migration, climate and food security

The coordinator of our Global Report on Internal Displacement, Vicente Anzellini, was one of the speakers at the “Migration, climate and food security” conference organised by [Foraus](#), the Swiss foreign policy think tank during [Swiss Sustainability Week](#) at the University of Geneva.

Migration, food security and climate change are all central to sustainable development and closely interconnected. Food insecurity, which is linked to climate change, is indeed an important driver of migration in low-income countries. What solutions can be found to solve this issue? What role can Switzerland play? These and other questions were discussed during the round table joined by Vicente.

## Inter-American Commission on Human Rights sessions

In Guatemala, our monitoring expert, Andrés Lizcano Rodríguez, participated in a consultation session hosted by the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Pan American Development Foundation. Other participants included representatives of UN agencies, civil society, academia and governments of Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA) countries (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala). During the session, IDMC, UNHCR, Universidad Rafael Landívar and Fundación Cristosal presented their thoughts on the causes of internal displacement in the region; the main obstacles faced by governments in guaranteeing the rights of the displaced population; and the role of civil society, international organisations, and research centres in promoting and protecting the rights of IDPs.

In Bogota, Andrés participated in a hearing on internal displacement in the Americas during IACHR's 167th session. He presented three challenges that IDMC considers of particular importance regarding internal displacement in the region: first, the recognition and understanding of the phenomenon of internal displacement induced by generalised criminal violence in the NTCA, second, the inclusion of civil society in spaces where policy making and protection programmes are defined, and third, the publication of disaster-induced internal displacement data in actionable and interoperable formats.

## Adoption of the report by the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP statistics at the United Nations Statistical Commission

On 8 March, IDMC participated in the 49th UN Statistical Commission which saw the adoption of the [Report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics](#), to which IDMC's data and analysis team contributed. This event marks the successful outcome of two years of work for the Expert Group, and the beginning of further work for the development of revised recommendations on IDP statistics and of an IDP statistics compilers manual. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Turkey, Uganda, Finland, Russia, Chad, Bangladesh, Cuba and Germany made official statements supporting the report before the Statistical Commission.

## Adoption of the UN Statistical Commission's Expert Group report on Refugee and IDP statistics

On 19 and 20 March, our senior disasters and development monitoring coordinator, Sylvain Ponsérre, was in Bangkok for the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS) Partners Meeting. During the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in March 2015, UNDP and the International Research Institute for Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, launched the GCDS as a joint commitment of UNDP and IRIDeS in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the SDGs. The GCDS project focuses on supporting high-risk countries and is with UNDP's global commitment in support of the (SFDRR that will systematically address the growing threats from climate change and disaster risks.

## Panel debate: Protecting people on the move: internally displaced persons in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis

On 21 March, in the framework of the 37th session of the UN Human Rights Council, we co-organised a panel debate on the theme of "Protecting people on the move: Internally displaced persons in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis", with the [Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue](#) and the permanent mission of the United Arab Emirates to the UN in Geneva.

The panel discussed the causes and consequences of internal displacement associated with conflict-related violence and analysed current mechanisms related to the protection, return and reintegration of IDPs. This included on some of the specific challenges related to internal displacement through a case-study analysis of Iraq and Syria. Azerbaijan provided practical insights on lessons learned related to assisting and supporting IDPs in protracted conflict situations.

Opening remarks were made by Dr. Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim, chairman of the Geneva Centre, and by Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov, permanent representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN in Geneva. The panel was moderated by Ambassador Idriss Jazairy, executive director of the Geneva Centre.



Panellists included our director, Alexandra Bilak, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) advocacy and information advisor Rachel Sider, and Fuad Huseynov, deputy chairman of the Republic of Azerbaijan's Committee on Refugee and IDP Affairs. Cecilia-Jimenez Damary, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, messaged the panellists via video link. To mark the event, we also shared a preview of our upcoming report, "[Searching for Solutions: Lessons for Syria](#)".

## NRC workshop on its return programming and policy

Our writer/researcher, Elizabeth Rushing, and our senior conflict and violence monitoring coordinator, Adrián Calvo Valderrama, were in Dubai from 17 to 23 March for a workshop on returns organised by NRC. Current access to solutions for the forcibly displaced is extremely limited. The return option – whether for refugees or IDPs – is both the most lauded and the most controversial of the three traditional possibilities. Return is often cited by states as the "preferred option" and an essential aspect of a "well-managed migration policy". Furthermore, it is commonly

suggested that it is the preferred choice of displaced people themselves. Running contrary to the 'preferred option' narrative however is the reality that political and economic pressures often inform the debates on return as much as, if not more than humanitarian realities or objective interests in the well-being of refugees and IDPs. The preconditions of physical, legal and material safety and security for returnees are frequently far from being established in return areas. Even where those preconditions are met, the process of restructuring and rebuilding services and infrastructure to ensure returns are sustainable can take years and entail an extremely high cost – far exceeding the timeframe and available financing typically associated with return programmes.

The primary objectives of the workshop were to provide space to exchange experiences across the various country offices working on return as one of the durable solutions to displacement; solidify key organisation-wide positions on specific return-related programming and policy issues; and develop the core elements for an organisational engagement strategy on return.

## Data for Development Festival

Our researcher, Christelle Cazabat, participated in the [Data for Development Festival](#) organised by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data in Bristol, UK, from 20 to 23 March. She discussed the challenges and the importance of monitoring internal displacement, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The event brought together 350 representatives from civil society, national statistical offices and intergovernmental agencies working on collecting, analysing and using data on development.

# IDMC PUBLICATIONS

## Escaping war: where to next?

This report from IDMC, NRC and Samuel Hall presents the findings of a comprehensive assessment of the protection needs of IDPs across Afghanistan and follows on from a similar assessment carried out in 2012 when we published the first in-depth study of the impact of displacement on Afghans.

The new report confirms that the ongoing conflict has taken on worrying intensity in parts of the country and is having a heavy impact on civilians. Since 2012, one alarming trend has been a sharp and steady growth in the levels of internal and external displacement: in the past five years a total of 1.7 million Afghans have been displaced - three times more than the number we reported on five years ago.



Today, more than ever, Afghans are a population on the move. Safe havens are increasingly more difficult to find. With protec-

tion and asylum space in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran having rapidly diminished over the past few years, our study shows that scores upon scores of Afghans have been forced back to their home country, often to face secondary displacement upon return. Over 250,000 Afghans arrived in Europe in 2015 and 2016 in search of safety only to find that their chance of getting asylum is slim and getting slimmer. Asylum acceptance rates in Europe for Afghans have declined sharply over the past two years. Afghans are not returning to the flourishing post-conflict economy the international community had hoped for. They are returning to a war zone—one that they had originally fled - where hundreds of thousands of Afghans are displaced each year.

Our researcher/writer, Elizabeth J. Rushing, travelled to Brussels to moderate a high-level panel event for the launch of the report on 24 January. Following opening remarks from Christos Stylianides, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, IDMC moderated a discussion among four panelists: Toby Lanzer, Assistant Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator, UN Afghanistan; Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the NRC; Nassim Majidi, Director of Samuel Hall; and Pierre Amilhat, Director of DG DEVCO Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/ Gulf and the Pacific. [Download the report \(PDF, 2 MB\)](#)

## UnSettlement: Urban displacement in the 21st Century

The increasingly long-term and intractable nature of displacement, particularly for people in low and middle-income countries, means that camp settings are not a viable option in the long term.

In the 21st century urban centres have increasingly become destinations for internally displaced people. This is not a new phenomenon, but its real scale at regional and global levels is not known. We also know little about the extent to which cities provide safe havens for those internally displaced and the degree to which they are able to establish new urban lives. And we have only limited insights into how displacement shapes urban systems as well as the way displacement risk is generated within cities.

Our new thematic series seeks to fill the information gap by exploring the scale, nature, and dynamics of urban internal displacement across the world from the perspective of both internally displaced people and that of the cities they flee to. We are embarking on a programme of research that will involve partnerships with a wide range of experts and institutions. For this, we invite those interested to join our effort.

[Download research agenda and call for partners \(PDF, 0.6 MB\)](#)



## City of challenge and opportunity

Almost 300,000 internally displaced people live in Maiduguri, Nigeria, a country where displacement is driven by a number of factors including insecurity (mainly due to Boko Haram), weak governance and climate change. The large-scale influx of IDPs in urban centres challenges existing social dynamics as competition for scarce jobs and resources increases. It can however potentially create socio-economic gains as IDPs bring skills, resources and other assets that benefit cities. The first case study of the thematic series explores the challenges and opportunities for IDPs in Maiduguri and their participation in the city's economy. [Download the case study \(PDF, 0.4 MB\)](#)



## Internal Displacement Updates

In 2016 we launched a new update service on internal displacement. The service is part of ongoing plans to increase the regularity of information provided by IDMC on internal displacement worldwide. The updates published so far are available [here](#).

## Expert Opinions

The IDMC blog is a space to engage in the debate around internal displacement. In the last quarter we published the following blog posts:

### While the migration agenda moves forward, IDPs keep getting side-tracked

Experts at the first International Forum on Migration Statistics this month talked extensively about the need for more data on human mobility to support the 2030 Agenda. Yet despite the clear nexus between internal displacement and the SDGs, little if any attention was given to the issue. IDMC researcher Christelle Cazabat shares her views and explains why this was a major oversight. Read the full post [here](#). This blog post was re-published by [Equal Times](#)

### Urban myths? Debunking claims about displacement in cities

Urban experts, planners, humanitarians and development organisations gathered in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) for the 9th World Urban Forum. Under the slogan "Cities for All", they discussed how growing mega-cities and rapidly transforming towns present opportunities and risks in equal measure. Read the full post [here](#).

## Internal displacement is not a footnote

Three reasons on why internal displacement should be more firmly embedded in the global compact on refugees, and IDMC's [written statement](#) for the upcoming formal consultations.

Read the full post [here](#).

## Seven years of sadness in Syria

As if Syrian government offensives were not driving enough people from their homes, a Turkish intervention in the north has forced tens of thousands more to flee.

Read the full post [here](#).

## New staff



[Avigail Shai](#) joined our policy and research department in March as our new political adviser. Avigail worked as an Australian diplomat for eight years, serving overseas in Zimbabwe (also covering the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Laos, and at headquarters focusing on human rights policy development, Chinese

politics and strategic communications. Avigail has also worked as a child protection officer at UNICEF Nepal, as a legal researcher at the NSW Supreme Court and the South Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre in India, and on evidence law reform and indigenous land rights policy in Australia. At IDMC she provides policy advice, coordinates strategic planning on engagement with key stakeholders, and identifies opportunities for the organisation to contribute to and influence policy processes relating to internal displacement. Avigail holds a Master of International Affairs from the Australian National University and Bachelor degrees in Law and International Studies from the University of New South Wales.

# COMMUNICATIONS and MEDIA COVERAGE

| [Why change, not charity, is needed to resolve the world's migration crisis](#)

Opinion piece written by IDMC's head of policy and research Bina Desai and published by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

IDMC was mentioned more than 200 times in the media during the first quarter of 2018.

## Media Coverage highlights:

- | Al Jazeera: [Growing up too fast in Afghanistan](#)
- | Courrier International: [Deux tiers des Afghans rapatriés fuient à nouveau leur pays](#)
- | France Info: [143 millions de migrants climatiques en 2050 : l'alerte de la Banque mondiale](#)
- | IPS online: [UN panel debate: Response to migrant and refugee crisis must recognise the adverse impact of forced displacement of IDPs](#)
- | National Geographic Magazine: [Some of the world's biggest lakes are drying up. Here's why.](#)
- | Reuters: [Climate migration to surge by 2050 unless emissions are curbed - World Bank](#)
- | Salon: [Americans can't hide from the global refugee crisis](#)
- | The Australian: [Climate-related migration set to surge](#)
- | The New York Times: [In Pakistan, long-suffering Pashtuns find their voice](#)
- | World Economic Forum blog: [3 ways big data is changing the humanitarian sector](#) (article written by IDMC monitoring expert Luisa Meneghetti)

## Website figures January - March 2018

Total views: 127,393  
Most visited pages:  
Country profiles: 28,921  
Homepage: 13,166  
Database: 10,526

## IDMC on Social Media

Our community on Facebook attracted 500 new fans, and our page had more than 11,000 likes as of the end of March 2018.

Our @IDMC\_Geneva account had almost 8,000 followers as of the end of March. Tweets during the quarter garnered 600 retweets, 830 favourites, 40 replies and 276,800 impressions.



# IDMC's FINANCIAL SITUATION

## Thanks to our donors!

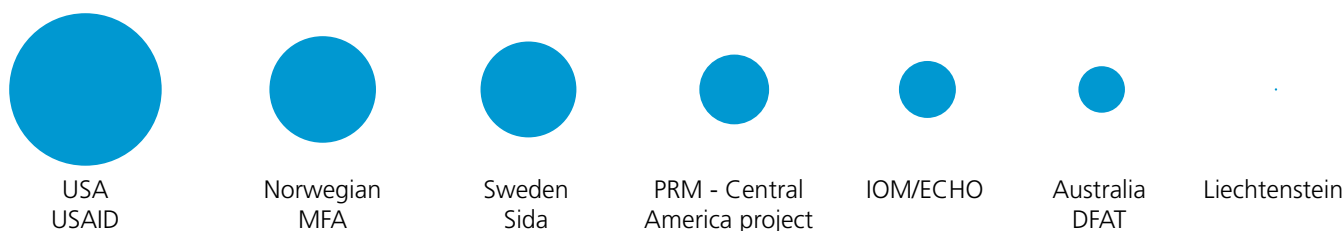
We would like to thank our donors for their support in 2018:

USAID/OFDA, NMFA, the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Australia DFAT, SIDA, ECHO/IOM, Liechtenstein

## Financial Situation as of 31 March 2018

Funds received: 885,043.77  
 Expenditure: 885,043.77  
 Actual expenditure against received funds: 100%

## Funds received as of 31 March 2018



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