



PAINTING THE FULL PICTURE

Persistent data gaps on internal displacement associated with violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras

THEMATIC REPORT

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Cover photo: People displaced from La Anémona community in El Salvador walk through the underbrush.
Credit: Cristosal, 2009.

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INTRODUCTION

Available data indicates that significant internal displacement takes place in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.¹ There is no comprehensive database or coordinated data collection that allows us to determine the full scope of the phenomenon in the region, but small pockets of data collected by humanitarian agencies, human rights groups, academia, statistics institutions, national disaster management agencies and media outlets suggest that internal displacement in the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA) is a serious and growing issue.

Several initiatives by civil society groups and academia, in cooperation with UN agencies and former and current Special Rapporteurs on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; and in some cases governments, have contributed significantly to understanding the causes, impacts and patterns of internal displacement in the region. This research reveals that targeted, generalised and structural violence, conflicts over land, natural hazards aggravated by large-scale development projects and climate change, and a lack of effective state responses all contribute to the phenomenon.

These initiatives have made enormous contributions to raising awareness on internal displacement and beginning to understand the phenomenon. However, substantial challenges remain and there are still a number of significant data gaps that prevent full understanding of the phenomenon and its magnitude. As lamented by civil society and other stakeholders in the region, and reported by the former Special Rapporteur on IDPs following his mission to Honduras, there are “numerous challenges that persist with regard to data, research and gaining a full picture of the internal displacement situation and dynamics, including where internally displaced persons are located, their needs and protection issues”.²

There is no systematic data collection on displacement, which limits our capacity to understand the scale of the phenomenon, and where to invest resources to gauge whether initiatives to address and prevent internal displacement are working. The lack of data also impedes full understanding and visibility of the drivers and other factors that influence displacement associated with violence in the NTCA, the dynamics of multiple displacements and the links between internal displacement, cross-border movements and irregular migration.

Based on in-depth interviews with stakeholders in the NTCA and an analysis of existing data, this report provides an overview of current data collection efforts and how to make improvements. It first discusses the relevance of collecting and analysing data on internal displacement and the metrics necessary to fully understand the phenomenon. It then describes the current data situation in the region, highlighting gaps and breaking down the main challenges. It concludes with a set of recommendations to improve data collection and fill the gaps identified.

ASSESSING DISPLACEMENT: WHAT DATA IS NEEDED AND WHY?

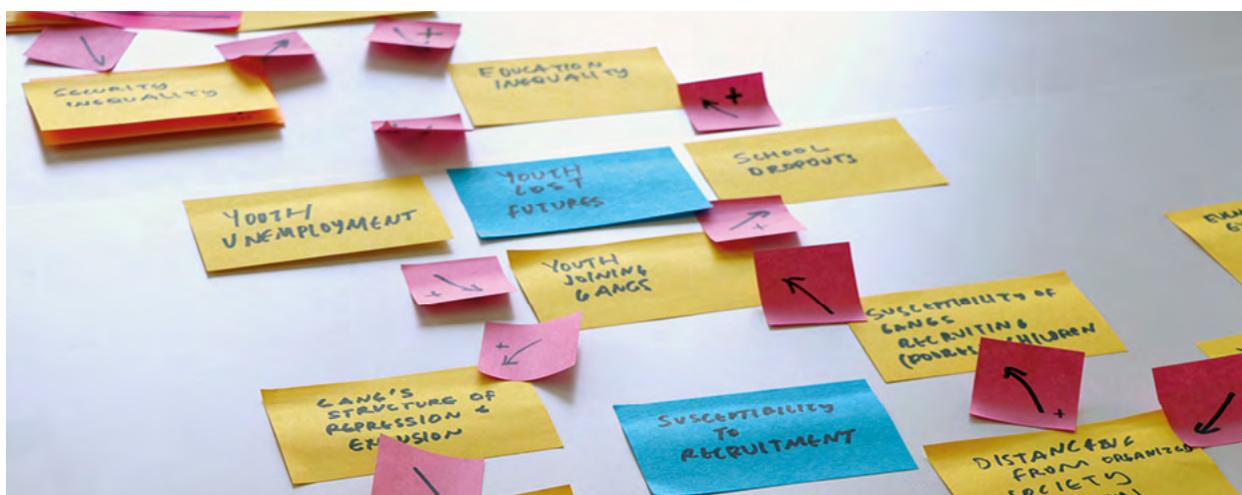
This chapter highlights the importance of comprehensive and reliable data on internal displacement, not only to properly understand the scale, triggers, drivers, patterns and impacts of the phenomenon, but also to inform responses and prevent the conditions that lead to it happening in the first place.

DATA RELEVANCE

The magnitude, severity and diversity of internal displacement cannot be understood, let alone adequately responded to, at the national or global level, without comprehensive and accurate data. As the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) worldwide continues to rise, it is vital that those working to prevent and address the issue in line with international standards have the most comprehensive and reliable data and evidence to inform their responses.

Internal displacement is an issue of global importance that takes many forms, and it tends to be under-reported, not only in terms of its consequences for IDPs and their host communities, but also for governments and societies as a whole. Comprehensive and reliable data is essential not only to understanding, prevention and mitigation, but also to prioritise investments and inform programming, policymaking and advocacy for IDPs' protection and assistance.

Comprehensive, credible baseline data and evidence at all levels, including national and subnational, is a prerequisite for monitoring efforts to reduce displacement and achieve durable solutions. Good data also plays a significant role at the political level in ensuring the accountability of governments and their agencies. Accurate information on the number, locations, characteristics, needs and vulnerabilities of people affected by displacement is fundamental, in both the short and long term.



A full understanding of displacement triggers and drivers also helps to contextualise and identify trends, which in turn helps to develop models to predict how people may move when they are displaced, including whether they remain in their country or eventually cross borders, and the support and services they are likely to need during their displacement.

Good data also helps to challenge assumptions and orthodoxies about the nature of internal displacement and the best ways to address it. Forced population movements tend to be associated with major disasters and large-scale violence, and it is true that the countries with the highest displacement figures are those in the throes of major conflicts such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq and Syria, and those most exposed to natural hazards, such as China, India and the Philippines.

It is also true to say, however, that a significant number of internal displacements are triggered by much smaller events, and of many sorts. These “drip” displacements, such as those in the NTCA, are often not captured and so are overlooked.

The defining criteria for internal displacement, as per the internationally agreed definition, are its forced nature, its origin at the habitual place of residence and its containment within the internationally recognised borders of the country of residence. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement also highlight that internal displacement affects people regardless of their nationality and has a range of causes and contributing factors. This, in conjunction with the lack of reliable and comprehensive data, means that most movements are not properly captured (see figure 1).

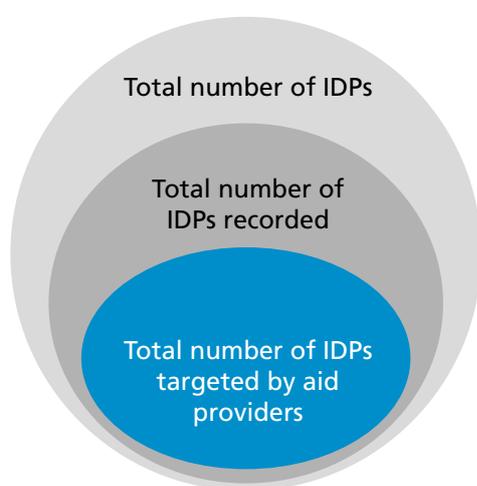


Figure 1: Different IDP headcounts in data sources

Criminal violence is a good example of how, in the absence of in-depth understanding, the effects of a trigger can be mischaracterised and understated, despite the fact that it has directly caused the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in the NTCA. At the heart of the matter lies a failure to recognise the link between criminal violence and internal displacement, and the subsequent lack of definitions, indicators and tangible and usable data.

Initiatives are in place to address the issue of common standards in further defining internal displacement and its characteristics and impacts based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the IASC framework on durable solutions, and to design indicators, approaches and methodologies to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data.³ The Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) is working on a set of recommendations to help national governments formulate policies, programmes and decisions based on solid evidence and data.⁴ The Central American Commission on Statistics (CENTROESTAD/SICA) has recently joined EGRIS, represented by Honduras, and has established an internal working group on refugee and displacement statistics.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DEFINITIONS AND FRAMEWORK

Painting a comprehensive and accurate picture of displacement at any given point in time needs solid data and evidence that adequately represents the various forms of movement and the characteristics of the people affected. A strong model that encapsulates all of these elements is important, because it enables consistent and context-specific monitoring, analysis and reporting, which in turn better informs policy-making and action at the national, regional and international level.

A common definition of internal displacement enables comparative analysis over time and between countries through the use of consistent and harmonised indicators and allows to accurately paint the entire displacement spectrum. Understanding the whole displacement continuum is necessary to devise comprehensive regional policies and assistance programmes. This includes movements across borders, which are common in the NTCA, and makes it vital to understand their relationship with internal displacement.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT METRICS AND DATA MODEL

IDMC’s data model represents the various population groups affected by displacement, or “stocks”, and the movements or “flows” that increase or decrease the stock figures (see figure 2). The primary stock is the number of people living in internal displacement at a specific moment in time. Our annual Global Report on Internal Displacement uses 31 December as the stock date.⁵ Other stocks include people who have crossed an internationally recognised border and those trying to achieve durable solutions to their displacement by returning to their habitual place of residence, integrating locally in their place of displacement or resettling elsewhere in the country.

The flows are represented by arrows. They include the number of new displacements, which increases the stock of IDPs, and the number of new cross-border movements, which decreases the stock of IDPs in a country of origin and increases the stock of cross-border migrants and refugees in a host country.

It is important to note that “new displacements” refer to movements rather than individuals, which means their number might include people who have moved more than once, whether the result of secondary or multiple displacement. The former are movements caused by

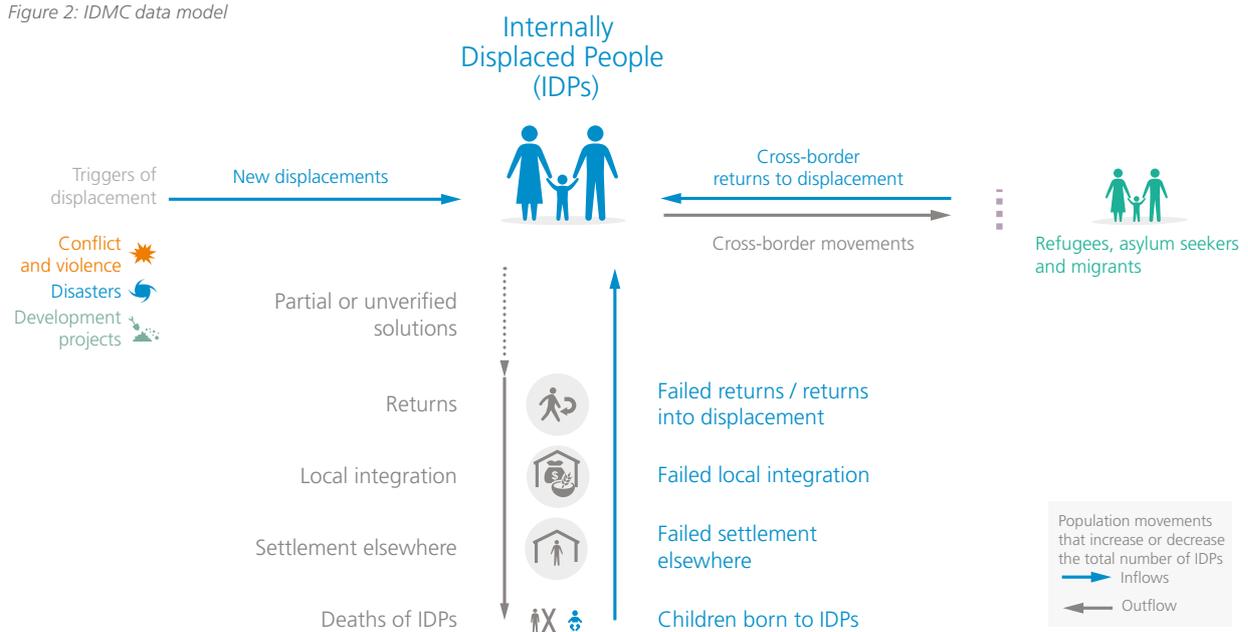
the same trigger, the latter by a different trigger, or cause. If, for example, 1,000 people were forced to move three times, this would be expressed as 3,000 new displacements. The distinction is significant in that it says a lot about the trends and dynamics of displacement, with clear implications for responses. It also tends to be very difficult to disaggregate new displacements into a number of people displaced.

Understanding these different metrics allows us to paint a complete picture of displacement. Estimates of the number of new displacements helps to understand how often the phenomenon recurs and its triggers and drivers. Stock estimates reflect the magnitude of the phenomenon in terms of the number of people affected and their vulnerabilities.

This model also tries to reflect the extent to which IDPs have or have not been able to achieve truly durable solutions by including a “partial or unverified solutions” category. This is for people reported as having achieved some form of solution and who are removed from the total number of IDPs as result, but who have clearly not achieved a durable solution as per the IASC framework, or whose achievement of a durable solution cannot be confirmed.

This category shows the importance of properly defining context-specific categories and indicators for internal displacement. Simply removing people from the stock

Figure 2: IDMC data model



of IDPs because they have reportedly achieved a solution would not be an accurate representation of their situation, and may lead to any remaining vulnerabilities not being properly addressed.⁶ EGRIS is in the process of developing guidance and recommendations for measuring the end of displacement statistically.⁷

DATA QUALITY

The relevance and accuracy of internal displacement indicators is paramount, because it determines the quality of data produced within the defined parameters. This is important not only for analysis, including comparative analysis, but also to ensure that vulnerable people affected by criminal violence and displacement are properly identified, their needs addressed, and further new displacements prevented.

If a state refuses to acknowledge or recognise internal displacement on its territory, including that associated with criminal violence, it impedes understanding of the reality faced by hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people. It also means that internationally agreed frameworks and indicators cannot be adequately applied. Instead, when those affected are identified it is often through the use of inadequate definitions and analyses. This lack of political will to acknowledge, let alone frame and understand the phenomenon fully clearly has significant consequences for the quality of data produced.

In order to be considered comprehensive and robust, data should cover the duration, severity, triggers, drivers, patterns and impacts of displacement in all its forms and regardless of scale.⁸ It should also be disaggregated by geographical, demographic, temporal and socioeconomic characteristics, including sex and age, for both IDPs and their host communities. This type of information is vital to inform effective policies and targeted responses to the protection and assistance needs of those affected.⁹ Nor is it possible to understand the relative severity of displacement situations globally without it.¹⁰

Coverage of triggers and drivers allows the different vulnerabilities that result from displacement associated with conflict, violence, disasters and other factors to be assessed. Understanding impacts is essential to effective responses and appropriate mitigation and protection strategies. It is also important to avoid using thresholds

for a displacement event to be recorded, either in terms of the number of people displaced or the distance they have travelled.

Thresholds limit understanding and introduce reporting biases by under-representing displacement associated with small-scale triggers and drivers such as extortion, which displace few people in any one go but whose number may accumulate over time. The same can be said about displacement associated with slow-onset events such as drought. This also highlights the importance of temporal coverage. The more frequently data is collected, the more representative and accurate it will be. Using census or annual surveys, albeit being a strong basis, might not reflect more spontaneous and short-term population movements.

Primary responsibility for monitoring, reporting on and preventing displacement and providing those affected with assistance and protection rests with governments, but coordination and collaboration with local, national and international humanitarian and development stakeholders has the potential to greatly improve data coverage and quality.

UN agencies and international NGOs that monitor and assist displaced people, such as the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) collect data for operational purposes, which can feed into wider reporting or be used to triangulate government data. These organisations also tend to have better capacity and tools for more frequent reporting, because they collect data as the basis for providing timely assistance and protection.

CURRENT STATE OF DATA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The complex drivers and triggers of displacement in the region, many of which overlap or are interlinked, make it difficult to capture reliable data with which to fully gauge its magnitude. Questions also remain about the patterns and impacts of displacement, and the extent to which those displaced, many of whom remain invisible, are able to achieve durable solutions. The pockets of data that are available provide initial insights at best.

Data collection varies across the region, as evidenced by the different amounts available in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Overall there is not enough to compile comprehensive estimates of new displacements and people living in situation of displacement, and caveats

or limitations often have to be attached. The quantitative and qualitative studies carried out in the region in previous years hint at the magnitude of the phenomenon, but the data available is only marginal. This chapter analyses the different pockets of data available and the resulting gaps. These provide insights to the scale and complexity of the phenomenon in the region, despite the limitations.

Annex provides a non-exhaustive mapping of the stakeholders, government and non-governmental, local, national and international, that collect, analyse, aggregate, publish and curate data on internal displacement in the NTCA, along with their coverage, methods and information collected.

EL SALVADOR

2018	New displacements	Stock	Figure analysis
El Salvador	246,000		IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in El Salvador in 2018 is based on an analysis of a representative survey conducted in November 2018 by the Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP) at the José Simeón Cañas Central American University (UCA). IDMC extrapolated the results of the survey based on population projections from the latest census, published in 2007.

Civil society organisations in El Salvador have been very vocal and have been publishing data on internal displacement more regularly since 2015. The Roundtable Against Forced Displacement (MCDF), which was formed that year, has published annual reports on the phenomenon, based on the cases, experiences and

data collected by the member organisations.¹¹ Cristosal, which works to advance human rights in Central America, has also published reports on displacement associated with violence in El Salvador since 2017, as well as thematic reports on the displacement of children and returns.

**Hector (46), his wife
*Camila (39) and their 3
children (15, 10 and 3) are
refugees living in Guate-
mala. They were forced to
flee El Salvador when they
started to receive death
threats from gang members
after Hector helped a friend
of his who was shot by a
gang member. The gangs
also wanted to recruit
Hector's 15 year old son,
started watching their house
and intimidated Camila every
day. They made the decision
to flee when one day gang
members forced their way
inside the family's home.
Photo: UNHCR/Michael
Muller, July 2018*



Given the difficulty, however, of integrating, combining and comparing the information captured by separate civil society organisations while being mindful of privacy and data-protection concerns, it is not possible to estimate stocks and flows because of the risk of double-counting.

The Office of the Ombudsman of El Salvador (PDDH) was the first state institution to engage on internal displacement. It has published its registry of cases handled of families affected by violence and internal displacement every year since 2016. It reported 104 cases of internal displacement in 2016, 132 in 2017 and 145 in 2018. The figure for 2018 covers 471 individuals, of whom 162 were women and 155 children or young people. Data on self-reported cases to the ombudsman carries significant caveats, given that many people do not report their displacement for fear of reprisals or lack of trust in the state's capacity and willingness to act and protect them. Therefore this figure only presents a partial estimate of the phenomenon and an underestimate of the full magnitude.¹²

The government also published the results of a profiling exercise on internal mobility caused by violence in El Salvador in March 2018.¹³ The exercise was led by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and carried out in 2016 by the General Directorate for Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) and the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO) with support from UNHCR and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS). It constitutes a first step by the government to understand the causes of displacement, its impacts on those affected and the assistance they are able to access.

| New displacements

The best basis currently available for estimating internal displacement nationwide is IUDOP's representative survey, which it conducted in November and December of 2017 and 2018.¹⁴ The survey includes a question about whether the interviewees had to change their place of residence during the year to protect themselves or their family from a threat or act of violence.¹⁵ In the most recent results, 5.2 per cent of respondents answered "yes".

The survey is based on a sample of 1,806 valid interviews, carried out in 52 municipalities across El Salvador's 14 departments. At a 95 per cent confidence interval, the sample is representative at the national level and has a sample error of +/-2.309 per cent. On that basis, the IUDOP survey results can be extrapolated to the country's total adult population of 4,732,319, according to population projections from DIGESTYC's VI Population Census and V Housing Census 2007, to arrive at an estimate of 246,000 for the number of people who had to change their place of residence in 2018 in response to threats or acts of violence.

IDMC considers this figure to be an underestimate. The survey is voluntary, but it could include bias related to the characteristics of the people who agreed to participate in it. The survey also refers to people displaced rather than incidents of displacement, which means that secondary or multiple displacements of the same person are not captured.

| Total number of IDPs

It is not possible to compile a stock estimate for El Salvador. The government's 2018 internal mobility study provides insights and information about displaced families' situations, but it is not representative and cannot be used for projections. Its sample was based on a preliminary list of 20 prioritised municipalities identified as having the largest numbers of people who had moved because of violence. As it is described in the report, it was "disproportionately distributed among strata, with the aim of guaranteeing a minimum number of surveys of population internally displaced by violence".¹⁶ This allows for the information obtained to better represent the universe of people displaced in El Salvador, but it is not representative of the total population.

The study reported that in "1.1 per cent of families residing in El Salvador at the end of 2016 at least one member was forced to change his or her place of habitual residence within El Salvador between 2006 and 2016 as a result of or to avoid the effects of acts of violence."¹⁷

A number of civil society organisations have been collecting data systematically on IDPs and their progress toward achieving durable solutions for several years, but the information is marginal compared with the magnitude of the phenomenon suggested by the estimate of new displacements. Nor are the pockets of data collected by the civil society organisations and PDDH interoperable, which makes comparing and contrasting the information challenging because of the risk of double-counting. It is not possible to ascertain whether the cases handled by PDDH are same or different to those recorded by the civil society organisations, and the same is true among the organisations themselves.

El Salvador has the most comprehensive new displacement estimate in the region, but there is no broad knowledge about IDPs' situations and whether they have made progress toward achieving durable solutions by overcoming the vulnerabilities related to their displacement. Cristosal has recently developed a regional tool to record such information, which could help overcome this gap.¹⁸

GUATEMALA

2018	New displacements	Stock	Figure analysis
Guatemala		242,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Guatemala is based on a 1997 UN Population Fund (UNFPA) figure for people left internally displaced after the civil war. The figure is clearly outdated, but we have not obtained any evidence to suggest whether they are still displaced or not. We attach a very low confidence level to the figure as result.

Research suggests that internal displacement is taking place in Guatemala.¹⁹ Data is sorely lacking, however, particularly when it comes to displacement associated with violence. Neither the government nor UN agencies collect such information systematically.²⁰ Some civil society organisations have recently begun to collect data in a somewhat systematic way, based on their programmes and activities. The Rafael Landívar University has also carried out a diagnostic study of internal displacement in Guatemala between 2010 and 2016, which is the most comprehensive undertaking to date.²¹

The study provides insight in terms of the regions where most displacement takes place, IDPs' trajectories and the main causes of displacement, including violence, natural hazards and development projects. It is also the first study to analyse Guatemala's most recent living conditions survey (ENCOVI), covering the period of 2011 to 2014, to estimate school desertion and internal displacement. It estimates that 20,337 new displacements took place between and 2011 and 2016; and 23,184 between 2009 and 2014.

IOM also collected information on displacement in 2016 through 1,564 interviews with key informants in 304 municipalities, which provided an overview of the municipalities that receive and generate IDPs.²² IOM has not operated its displacement tracking matrix (DTM) since, except following the 2018 eruptions of the Fuego volcano in 2018.²³

A number of civil society organisations including Refugio de la Niñez and Médicos del Mundo have recently been receiving internal displacement cases, but they have faced difficulties recording related information, because of the lack of institutional recognition and the civil society mechanisms in place. Organisations such as the Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial (ECAP) and Cristosal have also begun to publish studies that shed light on displacement trends and its impacts on children.²⁴

These organisations' information cannot be used, however, to infer the scale of displacement in Guatemala. It is not collected regularly enough or from large enough samples to be representative. Nor is the data collected interoperable. It exists in small pockets, drawn from different sources that cannot be jointly analysed or

compared to consolidate numbers and establish more holistic understanding.²⁵

| New displacements

No estimates of new displacement associated with violence can be compiled for Guatemala. The only figures available relate to displacements caused by forced evictions and were recorded by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNHCR. The figure is anecdotal, however, and they do not reflect the true magnitude of the broader phenomenon.

| Total number of IDPs

Nor is there any information on the number of people living in displacement as of the end of each year. Given the government's lack of recognition of internal displacement, there is no institution responsible for registering IDPs and monitoring their progress in overcoming their vulnerabilities. This makes it impossible to gauge the extent to which they may or may not have achieved durable solutions.



Guatemalan Army members are patrolling a street of Guatemala City downtown. Guatemala City is one of the most dangerous cities in the world. © UNHCR/Daniele Volpe, May 2016

The most comprehensive stock estimate of 242,000 IDPs is based on a report published in 2000 by the Central American Development Foundation (FUNCEDE), the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and UN Habitat, which disaggregates UNFPA figures from 1997 on people displaced during the country’s civil war.²⁶

The information we have obtained about new displacements in 2007 and 2017 and the cases reported by

IOM’s DTM in 2016 cannot be added to the 1997 case-load because of the risk of double-counting. Nor can the figure of 242,000 be reduced because there is not any evidence that any of the people concerned have been able to achieve durable solutions. The result is a decaying stock figure that has not been updated for more than 20 years, and does not include any people who have fled generalised criminal violence or been displaced by forced evictions since.

HONDURAS

2018	New displacements	Stock	Figure Analysis
Honduras	950	190,000	<p>IDMC’s estimate of the total number of IDPs in Honduras is based on data obtained from UNHCR’s 2016 supplementary appeal for the NTCA.²⁷ UNHCR’s projection for the end of 2015 was calculated from the average number of people displaced each year between 2004 and 2014, reported in a profiling exercise conducted by the Honduran Inter-Agency Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV) in 2015. The exercise was updated in 2018, but at the time of writing the methodology and report had not been published.</p> <p>IDMC’s estimate of the number of new displacements in 2018 is based on the latest report by the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), published in March 2019, which includes information based on verified complaints received about at least 950 people displaced, most of them by criminal violence.</p>

The Honduran government has taken a number of steps to engage on and understand internal displacement. It recognised the existence of the phenomenon and established the CIPPDV in 2013.²⁸ The new agency undertook the first profiling exercise in the region the following year, through the National Statistics Institute (INE) with support from JIPS, UNHCR and the ERIC-Jesuit Service. The results were published in 2015.²⁹ CONADEH set up an internal Forced Internal Displacement Unit in 2016, which collects data and analyses trends, patterns and IDPs’ vulnerabilities.

A number of civil society organisations, including the Centre for Research and Promotion of Human Rights (CIPRODEH), Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH), Asociación Calidad de Vida, the Pastoral de Movilidad Humana (PMH), the Hermanas Scalabrinianas, the

LGBT rights organisation SOMOS CDC, Cristosal and the Honduran Red Cross, have also registered cases of forced displacement associated with violence in parallel, and provide assistance, protection, and relocation and durable solutions support. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), ICRC, IOM and UNHCR also provide direct assistance, and funding for national organisations that work with IDPs.

| New displacements

The government’s official estimate of 950 new displacements in 2018 is based on data from CONADEH, which publishes the number of reported cases of forced internal displacement it receives each year. It also recorded 246 reported cases of forced internal displacement triggered by threats or violence in the first six months of 2019.³⁰

CONADEH's figures are based on self-reported cases. Given that many people do not report their displacement for fear of reprisals or lack of trust in the state, they constitute significant underestimates. The figure of 950 for 2018 is also in stark contrast to the almost 16,000 new displacements that UNHCR estimates took place on average each year from 2004 to 2014 as reported in CIPPDV's 2015 profiling exercise.

Similar caveats and limitations apply to figures compiled by other state institutions and civil society organisations, in that many IDPs are likely to lack confidence in state institutions and fear attracting attention and putting themselves at risk by denouncing their plight or asking for assistance.

| Total number of IDPs

CIPPDV's 2015 profiling exercise provides the basis for the most comprehensive and reliable estimate of a stock figure for Honduras as of 31 December 2018.³¹ UNHCR published its projection of 190,000 in 2016, based on the same annual average mentioned above. The figure is based on a projection of approximately 174,000 IDPs across 20 municipalities by the end of 2014, plus an assumed almost 16,000 in 2015.³³ Given the lack of further information or updated data until 2019, it could only be assumed that most of the people remained displaced. The exercise was updated in 2018 and at the time of writing the methodology and report had not been published, but the results that have been made public indicate that around 247,000 people have been displaced in Honduras between 2004 and 2018.³²



A month after the kidnapping, Manuel contacted his family. "When we got to know that he was alive, I knew that I had to get out of where I was and save my children. He was no longer with us and the extortions didn't stop", says Rocío*. Manuel's family made the difficult decision to flee the house that had been their home until then, in Honduras. They had to move.*
Photo: Up Studio/NRC, 2019

DATA COLLECTION CHALLENGES

Through research and consultations with state institutions and civil society organisations in the region, IDMC has identified a number of issues that make the collection of data on internal displacement in the NTCA particularly difficult. These challenges are interconnected and often mutually reinforcing, making it hard to establish a causal order or the best ways to resolve them.

RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT

Governments' unwillingness to recognise that internal displacement is taking place in their country and that they are required to lead an effective response was one of the main challenges identified. Civil society organisations cited this issue as a major obstacle to their work on the phenomenon, including data collection.

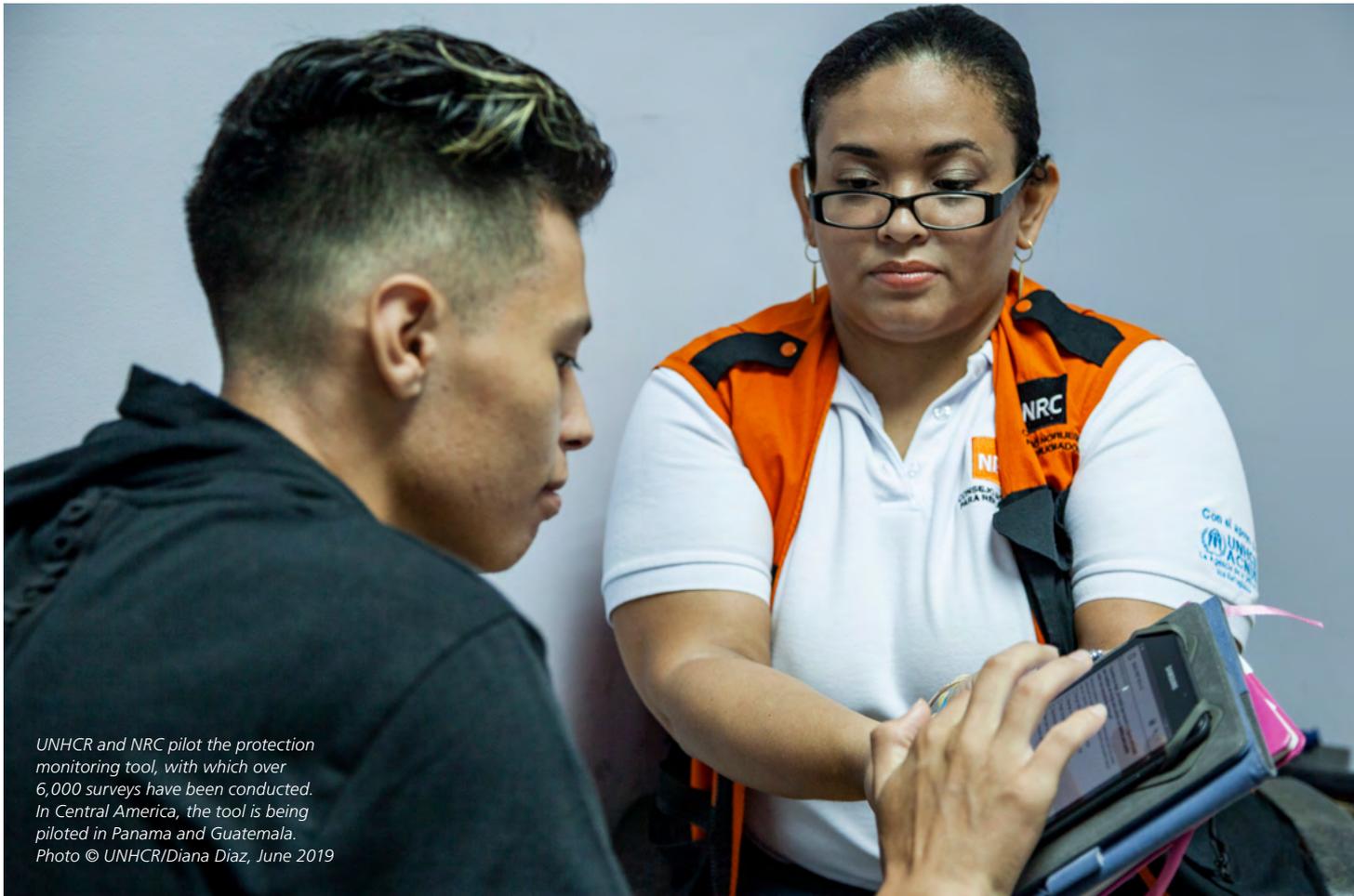
This unwillingness has resulted in a lack of awareness, and too few public services and resources dedicated to preventing and responding to displacement. Even when recognition has been forthcoming it has not necessarily led to effective public policy responses. That said, a government's acknowledgement of its responsibilities is an essential first step toward a national response.³⁴

Government officials working on issues linked to internal displacement, such as the protection of people against violence and the provision of humanitarian assistance, also said the lack of official state recognition impeded their work. Without it, public institutions lack a clear mandate to work on the issue and its causes and consequences.

The implications are manifold, including the absence of clear protocols or policies to guide responses, a lack of resources to fund them, a leadership vacuum that may result in overlapping efforts or no response at all to certain issues, and the continued invisibility of the phenomenon as it is sidelined from political discourse and the public agenda.

The primary responsibility for acknowledging, preventing and addressing internal displacement lies with governments, but the extent of state recognition varies widely from country to country in the NTCA.³⁵ The Guatemalan government does not officially recognise that internal displacement has taken place since the country's civil war, which ended in 1996. It is recognised in legislation, but only in a 1994 resettlement agreement for people displaced by the conflict and the national compensation programme for them.³⁶ These mechanisms define an IDP and set out initiatives to ensure the achievement of durable solutions, including by resettlement, but they are irrelevant beyond 1996 and do not include any measures to prevent displacement.

El Salvador's government also refused until recently to recognise the existence of internal displacement in the country. In July 2018, however, the constitutional chamber of the Supreme Court ruled that the state had violated the rights of an internally displaced family of 33 people by its failure to formally recognise that organised criminal violence was causing displacement in the country. The court ordered the government to acknowledge the situation and take concrete measures to prevent further displacement and protect those already displaced, including the adoption of legislation to guarantee their rights.³⁷



UNHCR and NRC pilot the protection monitoring tool, with which over 6,000 surveys have been conducted. In Central America, the tool is being piloted in Panama and Guatemala. Photo © UNHCR/Diana Diaz, June 2019

There are still no public policies or institutions dedicated to preventing and addressing internal displacement, and it remains to be seen whether there is sufficient political will to pass and implement the relevant laws and policies. Parliament is currently debating the final draft of a law on the protection and assistance of people displaced by violence, based on the Guiding Principles and building on proposals presented by Cristosal, the Executive Technical Unit of the Justice Sector (UTE) and the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety.³⁸

Honduras has shown political willingness and stewardship since 2013, when it became the first of the three NTCA countries to publicly recognise the existence of internal displacement associated with violence. CIPPDV was established in the same year to develop and promote policies to prevent such displacement and provide assistance, protection and solutions to those affected.³⁹ Forced displacement is also deemed a crime under article 248 of the 2017 penal code.⁴⁰ Six years after recognition, however, financial, political and technical obstacles to preventing displacement and assisting IDPs remain.

Because protection is fundamentally a legal concept, developing a national legal framework that upholds IDPs' rights is a particularly important reflection of national responsibility and a vehicle for its fulfilment.⁴¹ Legislation serves as a form of legal recognition, and paves the way for the state to protect IDPs' rights and assist them in overcoming vulnerabilities linked to their displacement. A clear institutional mandate makes this all the more likely to happen, but protection also requires the allocation of financial and institutional resources.

SHARED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The lack of a shared conceptual framework of internal displacement was also identified as a significant impediment to systematic data collection. The phenomenon has become increasingly visible in the region and some key civil society organisations have a solid understanding of it, but this is not widespread. There is no clear and shared understanding or definition of internal displacement,

its triggers and drivers or how it differs from economic and cross-border migration. Instead different stakeholders apply different definitions and there is confusion about how to identify and characterise it.

This lack of a shared understanding also applies to society more broadly. Many displaced people are unaware of what constitutes internal displacement or their rights as IDPs. If they do not identify themselves as internally displaced, they are hardly likely to seek any assistance they may be entitled to as such, and their displacement victimisation is likely to remain invisible.

For state institutions and civil society organisations, the process of collecting data begins with the detection of displacement events. Without a shared understanding of what constitutes a displacement event, some will not be counted. This point came up in consultations with stakeholders that provide services to survivors of violence in the NTCA. The same people are very often also IDPs, but information about their displacement is not recorded so their vulnerabilities are not fully addressed. Because of the lack of a common understanding, many organisations fail to understand the complexity of displacement, its many interlinked causes and how it interacts with or aggravates vulnerabilities such as those associated with childhood, access to education and healthcare and gender-based violence.

Even when data is recorded, the lack of shared terms and criteria can severely limit the type of data collected, leading to incomplete understanding. Displacement rarely has a single cause. Rather there tends to be a buildup of underlying factors over time, which in the NTCA may include increasingly dire threats or violence, before a tipping point is reached when it is triggered.

Without a common understanding of these interlinked and often overlapping drivers and triggers, cases are overlooked or mislabelled as voluntary migration, and much of the key data required to understand issues such as the underlying factors that make people more vulnerable to displacement will not be systematically collected. This challenge was raised by civil society organisations and state institutions in all three NTCA countries, which record just the main or most obvious trigger of displacement.

A shared conceptual framework would also ensure that any data collected is easier to compare and contrast between locations and organisations, cross-reference and even aggregate. This is particularly important when different institutions record different information that may relate to displacement, such as the education ministry monitoring school desertion and the police recording crimes.

COORDINATION BETWEEN DATA COLLECTORS

A number of civil society organisations in the NTCA collect and analyse diverse types of information on internal displacement, but their data exists in isolated pockets. These pockets could be aggregated and used to extrapolate information about IDPs who have not yet been documented, but to do so would require clear communication and coordination among data collectors. This does not currently happen, even among organisations that have a shared understanding and approach to monitoring.

Local civil society organisations said this lack of communication and coordination has to do with a culture of individualism and a history of mistrust. In a region where those advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups have often been targeted by the state or powerful interest groups, there is a tendency to be insular and protective of one's work and information. The same organisations, however, were quick to say that the issue was not insurmountable, but that it would require a concerted effort and support from donors and the international community.

Lack of coordination between state institutions, UN agencies and international NGOs is also a concern, and governments have been reticent to share data that might reveal the magnitude of displacement in their country. The internal mobility and profiling exercises carried out by the governments of El Salvador and Honduras in 2016 and 2018 respectively are good examples. El Salvador's final report was published without a final estimate of the extrapolated results, and Honduras's latest exercise was completed in March 2019 but the results and analysis have not been published. It is not only important to be transparent about results and analyses, but also to share the raw data, anonymised for protection reasons.

The ombudsman's offices in El Salvador and Honduras have taken the lead in publishing the number of the cases related to displacement that they attend each year. They have also revised files from previous years to detect displacement if it had not been looked originally, but not all of the data shared has been clear and disaggregated. In its trends for the first six months of 2019 in Honduras, for example, CONADEH aggregated people displaced and those at risk of displacement, making it impossible to break the figure of 1,985 down and determine how many people had actually been displaced.⁴²

UN agencies and international NGOs are well placed to promote coordination and data sharing and to lead by example, given their funds, operational capacity, interaction with civil society organisations and influence with governments. They do not, however, always take advantage of their position. UNHCR, for example, collaborates with and funds several organisations in the NTCA to implement projects for people affected by violence and displacement in the framework of Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) applications, but it only aggregates the information its partner organisations collect on people assisted rather than those affected by displacement. The same culture of wariness and protectionism identified by civil society organisations is also an issue here.

Donors and the funding they provide also have an influence. If funding for a given area is limited, organisations are less likely to coordinate and share information in an effort to ensure that their work is funded. When there is competition for funding, data becomes a highly valuable and carefully guarded resource. When different donors fund similar initiatives without either coordinating among themselves or insisting that the recipient organisations do so, there is a risk of efforts being duplicated. Several organisations in the NTCA said a few donors that fund work on internal displacement had recently requested data collection initiatives, but without encouraging let alone insisting on coordination among collectors.

The lack of coordination and information sharing not only impedes the aggregation of data as a means of drawing broad conclusions. It also affects the quality of evidence, because it prevents organisations from sharing lessons learned and refining their data collection efforts. It also undermines the effectiveness of programming and means vital insights into trends, patterns and links between different population movements are missed.

METHODOLOGIES OF DATA COLLECTION IN INSECURE ENVIRONMENTS

There are significant security risks associated with recording information on internal displacement and being identified as an IDP in the NTCA. These risks inhibit the collection of comprehensive data, particularly on displacement caused by threats and violence. No single methodology has yet been established and used widely to capture all of the data necessary to fully understand the phenomenon and its patterns.

Many people who have fled threats and violence are often too afraid to report their plight to civil society organisations let alone the authorities, either for fear of being tracked down by the perpetrator or discrimination or other repercussions. This is grounded in the fear that state institutions are corrupt and sometimes even co-opted by criminal groups. As such, by reporting their displacement or denouncing those who forced them to flee, IDPs risk having their identity or location leaked to those who are looking for them or risk retaliation by those who do not want a report filed against them. Fear of retaliation is particularly prevalent in cases where criminal groups are seen to work in concert with local authorities, or when state institutions themselves perpetrate the violence that triggers displacement. Even in the absence of such concerns many see little point in reporting, given the widespread feeling that the state and its security forces are either unwilling or unable to protect people from criminal groups and their violence.

Data collectors also put themselves at risk by trying to record information about displacement, and particularly if their questions concern the perpetrators of violence. Criminal groups often threaten those they perceive as trying to record their activities with violence or expulsion from areas under their control. A number of civil society organisations said they simply did not ask for or record this type of information as a result.

These well-founded fears can make the crimes people suffer invisible and skew survey results if participants decline to respond. The profiling exercise carried out in El Salvador is a clear case in point. DYGESTIC noted that many community members and local authority officials had refused to answer questions they felt might pose a risk to them and their communities.

DATA PROTECTION CONCERNS

Given such concerns, data protection is also an important consideration when collecting and reporting information on internal displacement in the NTCA. This means ensuring that any data gathered is confidential and secure, and that it remains so even if it is aggregated or shared with partners and state institutions, with the aim of protecting those providing the information from harm.⁴³

Even when data seems to be confidential and not to reveal individuals' personal details, there is a risk of re-identification if data matching or similar techniques de-anonymise it. Those at risk may be identified and tracked down simply by revealing certain identifying characteristics, such as location of origin or refuge, religion or specific vulnerabilities.⁴⁴

Data security concerns have impeded the collection and analysis of information on internal displacement in the NTCA, because organisations are very aware of the risks that leaks pose, and they tend to lack the technology and resources to guard against them. This means they may not record important but risky data such as identifying characteristics, or avoid sharing and aggregating information that could inform a better understanding of the phenomenon in the region.

Children look through the gates of a school that was used by the mara 13 in Tegucigalpa (Hato en el Medio, sector), Honduras. The military presence seeks to regain control of the school. Photo: European Union/ECHO/A. Aragon, 2016



4

RECOMMENDATIONS

These following recommendations for governments, state institutions, civil society organisations and UN agencies that work on internal displacement in the NTCA are based on consultations with key stakeholders in country and the challenges identified above.

They aim to advance a shared understanding of the phenomenon and improve estimates of its scope and scale by setting out a series of tangible steps toward establishing a roadmap for the comprehensive and accurate capture of robust data on the number and characteristics of IDPs in the region.

The steps involve a range of stakeholders, according to their degree of responsibility and accountability to those affected, their capacity to act, their expertise on the issue and their proximity to it.

TO RECOGNISE INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

It is fundamental that state authorities formally recognise the phenomenon of internal displacement, regardless of its causes, triggers and drivers. Doing so is a vital first step toward a wide range of actions and processes to frame the issue, develop tools and methodologies with which to characterise and understand it, and inform policies and programmes to address and prevent it.

Recognition should lead to the design of legal and policy frameworks in line with the Guiding Principles and other established standards and which take into account the specific characteristics of the phenomenon in each country. Governments should lead the process with the support and expertise of civil society and international organisations.

Each government should also appoint an institutional focal point to be responsible, as custodian of the legal frameworks, concepts and principles, for the develop-

ment, implementation and constant improvement of tools and practices for the collection, storage, aggregation, analysis and dissemination of non-sensitive data and information products. Such data should inform legislation, policies and practices of the institution or focal point with the responsibility to prevent and provide assistance to internally displaced persons.

TO INTEGRATE AND COLLABORATE

The selection of a focal point should be based on existing institutional capacity and expertise. Governments elsewhere have established them in their justice, solidarity, interior or social affairs ministries or their national statistics office. Roles and responsibilities should be clearly assigned and delineated; and reporting and accountability obligations set out to ensure maximum transparency and efficiency. EGRIS's international recommendations include guidance on the development of concepts, tools and practices aimed at National Statistical Offices.

Collaboration between the various departments tasked with specific responsibilities is also vital to ensure efficiency and transparency. The existence of systems and databases, for example, which may contain different forms of information on vulnerable populations, means strong and effective integration between platforms and their owners and users is required. This applies at both the national and international level, so that affected countries can also share information.

TO ESTABLISH COMMON DEFINITIONS, CONCEPTS AND INDICATORS

Defining and framing internal displacement in the context to each country in turn enables the definition of populations and groups in scope of those defini-

tions, and subsequently, the official statistical categories and their indicators. There are commonly agreed criteria that define internal displacement - its involuntary or forced nature, its origin at the habitual place of residence and its permanence within internationally recognised borders - but it is important to adapt the definitions, concepts and frameworks to national and local situations. This may also be possible at the regional level in the NTCA, given the similarities between the three countries in terms of the triggers and drivers of displacement, and the fact that a significant number of IDPs eventually cross borders.

EGRIS's international recommendations refer to the populations that should be covered in monitoring and reporting on internal displacement, but these should also be adapted to national and local situations because the vulnerabilities related to displacement may extend to different groups in different settings.

Particular care should be taken in how returning refugees are categorised and their vulnerabilities addressed. It is IDMC's view that they return to a situation of internal displacement if they have not overcome the vulnerabilities related to their displacement, regardless of whether they face new triggers or not once back in the country.

A model should be designed for each country and at the regional level that reflects the affected populations and how they relate to each other. It should include the various interconnected stocks and flows that enable an accurate depiction of vulnerable populations across the whole displacement continuum, be they displaced internally or across borders or returnees.

TO DEVELOP DATA TOOLS AND PROCEDURES

Once concepts and indicators have been defined and framed, tools and methods for collecting, aggregating and sharing of data in line with them should be identified and developed taking into account data protection mechanisms needed and responsible data management to avoid the dissemination of sensitive or personal data. Context-specific characteristics of displacement and the limitations these can generate should be taken into account in doing so, because not all tools or methods are effective in all settings.

Individual registration, for example, raises data protection and confidentiality concerns if people mistrust certain authorities or agencies. Surveys can provide more information on the people's characteristics, needs and vulnerabilities in a shorter time span, but can raise security risks to both data collectors and respondents in the context of generalised criminal violence. EGRIS's technical report on statistics on IDPs provides extensive information on the various tools and methods available and in use by governments and international organisations, and their limitations.⁴⁵

Consideration should also be given to the security risks associated with collecting data in areas affected by generalised violence. Data collectors and the people they gather information about are at a higher risk of being targeted, which also leads to the already mentioned issue of mistrust and fear for the safety of victims and claimants when they seek assistance or report crimes. To mitigate such risks and ensure the reliability of the data collected, measures should be put in place to guarantee the safety of all parties. Any data collection activity should avoid exposing data collectors and participants of these processes to be targeted of physical violence or social marginalisation.⁴⁶

An opportunity exists to build on systems and platforms already developed by civil society organisations, such as Cristosal's regional forced displacement monitoring system. Doing so would allow to more efficiently identify the technical and financial investments needed to standardise and harmonise practices across the region, building on the strengths of this and similar platforms. It would also help to identify affected populations and ensure greater coordination in the collection, aggregation and dissemination of data.

TO DEVELOP BASELINE DATA AND PROFILING

Governments should invest, with the support of civil society and international organisations, in efforts to establish a comprehensive set of baseline data as a solid reference point from which to conduct all future endeavours. The identification of affected populations the subsequent collection of data on them would help establish such a baseline, assess people's vulnerabilities and identify human and operational needs. This helps to properly allocate resources to address them, develop the relevant policies and determine roles and responsibilities on the long-term.

Internally displaced people from La Anémona community in El Salvador. In many cases, internal displacement associated with violence leads to families settling in areas with higher exposure to natural hazards, increasing their likelihood of further displacement. Photo: Cristosal, 2009.



More thorough and extensive profiling exercises should be carried out to ensure that the baseline data is accurate and comprehensive, and to develop a common in-depth understanding of the various forms and causes of forced displacement and the vulnerabilities of those affected. This would also allow for the production of historical time-series data in the longer term, and with it a more thorough and accurate analysis of trends and patterns over time.

TO COORDINATE DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND SHARING

Governments should be the main focal point when it comes to data collection, but there are numerous actors that can provide important support. In El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, a significant number of civil society organisations and institutions, such as universities and research centres, have worked for years in characterising forced displacement due to violence, as well as on the provision of legal and other forms of support to

victims and vulnerable populations. These hold a strong expertise and knowledge of the phenomenon and how it affects populations and have developed over the years their own knowledge management systems, databases and tools to store that information. At international level, major organisations specialised in migration matters, such as UNHCR, IOM, ICRC, the International Crisis Group (ICG) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), amongst others, also have the expertise to provide assistance in developing and implementing all the necessary tools and methodologies required to define, address and ultimately prevent forced population movements. Also, given the transnational nature of displacement, particularly in this region, coordination is all the more essential. Civil society organisations can play a fundamental role in bridging the trust gap between state institutions and internally displaced persons.

This makes coordination and alignment in terms of concepts and indicators, and the tools and procedures to capture, share and disseminate data essential, particularly in a region where cross-border movements are common. Coordination is vital to prevent the duplication of efforts

at all levels, given that various organisations may be collecting data on the same populations and their characteristics and needs, and to ensure the entire displacement continuum is covered, within and across borders.

If data is to be collected and aggregated at the regional level, systems and processes should be fully integrated. Data collection, analysis and sharing procedures should be clearly defined and agreed by all stakeholders to ensure consistency, predictability and accuracy by preventing conflicting or overlapping schedules that might reduce data quality.

Given the nature and magnitude of forced displacement associated with criminal and other forms of violence in the NTCA, careful consideration should be given to data protection and confidentiality to allay the fear and mistrust many of those affected feel toward certain authorities and entities based on a long history of targeted violence. Ethical considerations are essential to any form of data collection. Thus, data collection and the dissemination of data products should guarantee the right to be counted and heard; the right to dignity and respect; the right to make an informed decision; the right to privacy; and the right to not be put at risk of the parts involved in the process. Data collection and dissemination practices should also avoid the compilation or dissemination of sensitive information of personally identifiable data.⁴⁷ This includes when aggregating data and datasets at the national, regional and global level.

Coordination is also necessary among civil society organisations, international organisations and UN Agencies working on humanitarian and internal displacement issues. A Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for each country or for the region could generate a common understanding of the local and international actors working on the issue, avoiding duplication of efforts, and promoting a more coordinated and efficient response to the situation.

TO COORDINATE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Policies and programmes seeking to address internal displacement require sufficient resource allocation. Underfunded legal and policy plans limit the capacity of relevant institutions to carry out their objectives and result in a failure to prevent, mitigate and understand internal displacement.

Donors' many priorities and resources allocated to numerous projects may lead to competing and overlapping activities, which in turn dilutes their efficiency and effectiveness. Better coordination among donors, and the allocation of resources and support for the development of shared and harmonised data collection, aggregation and dissemination tools would ensure more tangible outcomes and results.

TO INVEST IN CAPACITY BUILDING AND REINFORCEMENT

Application of the required practices, tools and methodologies will require extensive capacity building for each government and civil society entity with responsibilities for capturing and addressing internal displacement. On top of existing recommendations and materials, such as those devised by EGRIS, governments should invest in comprehensive training and learning packages, for which international organisations specialised in data on population movements and migration can provide invaluable support.

Such initiatives would also help to harmonise practices within and between entities at the national and regional level; to overcome data sharing and compatibility challenges. The use of different concepts and indicators between agencies or countries, for example, often causes significant challenges in accurately capturing population movement flows. Along with the aforementioned integration of tools and systems, the alignment and common understanding of these elements between all involved actors is critical to ensure their efficiency.

This emphasis on capacity building is also important to ensure the full accountability and transparency of all stakeholders, particularly that of the three governments of the region in their mission to capture, address and prevent forced displacement.

CONCLUSION

As IDMC highlights in many of its publications, including the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019, monitoring internal displacement is a complex task that requires sound and transparent methodologies to compile and report robust estimates.

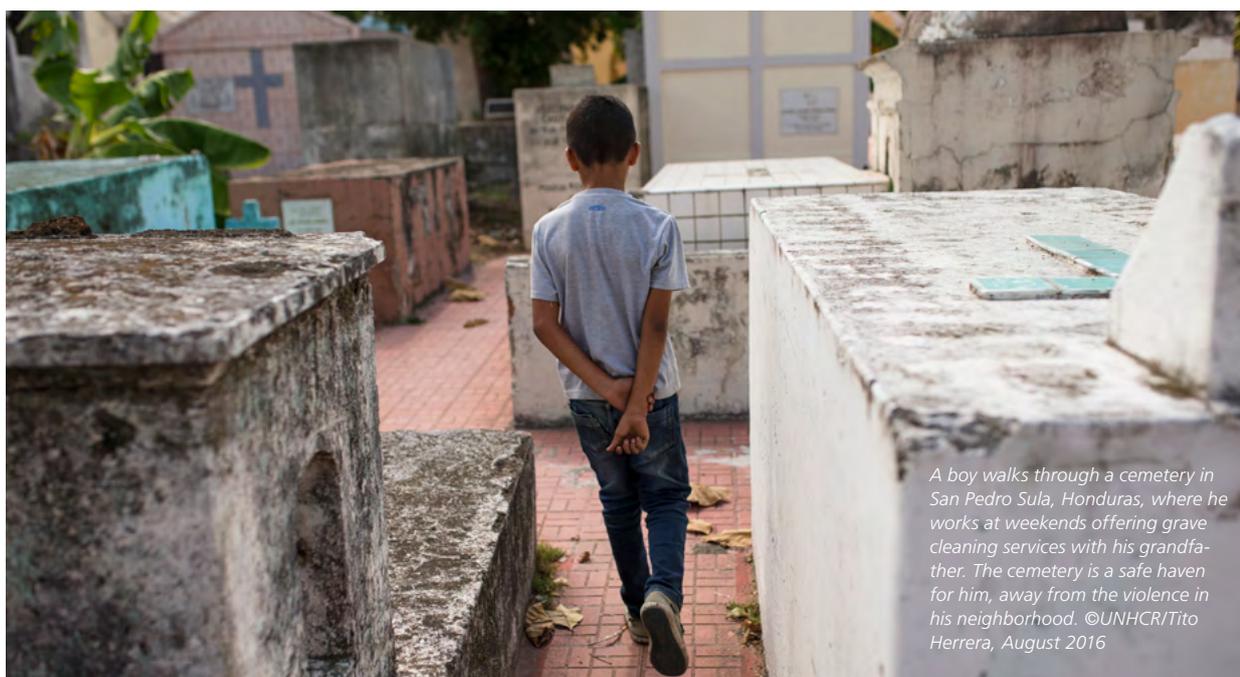
This report presents the current situation in terms of data on internal displacement in the NTCA. Drawing on research and other reports on the topic it highlights the persistent data gaps in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and identifies the data needed to capture and understand the phenomenon and inform policy and programming responses.

It discusses the challenges inherent in filling the data gaps identified and in improving data quality, from a lack of official recognition to the security risks involved in data collection, many of which are specific to the region, and it explains the methodology IDMC has developed to navigate them in detail. It also takes stock of the experience and expertise of local organisations and institutions working on displacement.

In short, the report reveals the challenges that the NTCA governments and the humanitarian and development community face in monitoring and understanding displacement in the region, and draws on all of the above to make recommendations to overcome them.

The undertaking reflects IDMC's commitment to continuously improve the quality and availability of internal displacement data, and to promote and support a better understanding of the magnitude and patterns of the phenomenon, with the ultimate aim of informing effective policy and programming responses from governments, civil society organisations and UN agencies.

Our hope is that this report will serve to advance discussion of ways to improve how internal displacement in the region is measured, understand its complexity and promote a broader approach to the phenomenon.



A boy walks through a cemetery in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where he works at weekends offering grave cleaning services with his grandfather. The cemetery is a safe haven for him, away from the violence in his neighborhood. ©UNHCR/Tito Herrera, August 2016

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ANNEX: STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

Country	Name	Type of organisation	Presence at sub-national level	Type of work related to internal displacement	Information and data collected on internal displacement
El Salvador	Cristosal	Civil Society Organisation	San Salvador Morazán	Strategic litigation Legal assistance Service provision Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy Data collection Community development	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring School desertion, health needs, occupational situation, material losses, expectations.
El Salvador	Dirección General de Estadística y Censos (DIGESTYC)	State Institution	San Salvador	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but in 2018 it carried out a survey on displacement.	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Carried out special survey on the causes of internal displacement and other topics.
El Salvador	EDUCO	Civil Society Organisation	San Salvador La Libertad San Vicente San Miguel	Humanitarian assistance Research Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs
El Salvador	Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho (FESPAD)	Civil Society Organisation	San Salvador	Legal assistance Research Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement
El Salvador	Instituto de Derechos Humanos de la UCA (IDHUCA)	Academia	San Salvador Antiguo Cuscatlán	Legal assistance Humanitarian assistance Protection Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs

El Salvador	Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (IUDOP), Universidad Centroamericana	Academia	San Salvador	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has identified several individual cases. Research Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Needs assessment of the persons displaced
El Salvador	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	United Nations	San Pedro Sula Tegucigalpa	Research Data collection	Includes internal displacement in its research, such as DTM. Does not systematically register data on internal displacement.
El Salvador	Médicos del Mundo	International Organisation	San Salvador	Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy	Needs assessment of the persons displaced
El Salvador	Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)	International Organisation	San Salvador	Advocacy Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Needs assessment of the persons displaced
El Salvador	Plan International	International Organisation	Chalatenango San Salvador La Libertad Cabañas Cuscatlán	Service provision Humanitarian assistance Protection Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced
El Salvador	Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (PDDH)	State Institution	All departments	Strategic litigation coordinated with civil society organisations. Legal assistance Service provision coordinated with civil society organisations Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring

Country	Name	Type of organisation	Presence at sub-national level	Type of work related to internal displacement	Information and data collected on internal displacement
El Salvador	Save the Children	Civil Society Organisation	Ahuachapán Sonsonate La Paz San Miguel Santa Ana	Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy	Cause of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs
El Salvador	Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS)	Civil Society Organisation	San Salvador	Legal assistance Humanitarian assistance Research Advocacy Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring
Guatemala	Asociación Pop No'j	Civil Society Organisation	Guatemala Huehuetenango	Strategic litigation via the Grupo Articulador de Advocacy política contra las violaciones de Derechos Humanos a los migrantes en Guatemala Legal assistance Psychosocial support Research with a focus on migrants from an indigenous groups, children, youth and young women.	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has an alliance with Cristosal to identify a pilot case of young people internally displaced by violence that require protection and resettlement.

Guatemala	Cristosal	Civil Society Organisation	Guatemala	Strategic litigation Legal assistance Humanitarian assistance Research Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring
Guatemala	Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial (ECAP)	Civil Society Organisation	Guatemala City Quiché Baja Verapaz Alta Verapaz Escuintla	Research Advocacy Psychosocial support, training and network building.	Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Analysis of human rights violations
Guatemala	Facultad Latino-americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)	Academia	Guatemala	Research Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring
Guatemala	Fé y Alegría	Civil Society Organisation	Guatemala San Marcos Quiché Huehuetenango Totonicapán Sololá Chiquimula Petén Izabal	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has identified several individual cases. Data collection in partnership with Cristosal and Red Jesuita con Migrantes Education on human rights	Cause of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Inclusion of IDPs in the education system of Fe y Alegria

Country	Name	Type of organisation	Presence at sub-national level	Type of work related to internal displacement	Information and data collected on internal displacement
Guatemala	Instituto de Investigación y Proyección sobre Dinámicas Globales y Territoriales de la Universidad Rafael Landívar y la Red Jesuita con Migrantes de Guatemala	Academia	Guatemala City Quiché Baja Verapaz Alta Verapaz Escuintla	Legal assistance, in partnership with a law firm. Research Protection, via the Red Jesuita con Migrantes-Guatemala Advocacy Data collection Training	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Place of denunciation
Guatemala	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	United Nations	Guatemala City San Marcos Quetzaltenango Tecún Umán	Research Data collection	Includes internal displacement in its research, such as DTM. Does not systematically register data on internal displacement.
Guatemala	Médicos del Mundo	International Organisation	Guatemala City Chiquimula	Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy	Needs assessment of the persons displaced
Guatemala	Mesa Nacional para las Migraciones en Guatemala (MENAMIG)	Civil Society Organisation	Guatemala	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has detected several individual cases. Data collection Referring and follow up of cases	Cause of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Case referral and followup
Guatemala	Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)	International Organisation	Guatemala City	Advocacy Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Needs assessment of the persons displaced

Guatemala	Pastoral de Movilidad Humana	Civil Society Organisation	Delegates in 12 of the 15 dioceses	Legal assistance Humanitarian assistance Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Needs assessment of the persons displaced
Guatemala	Plan International	International Organisation	Jalapa Alta Verapaz Baja Verapaz Santa Cruz del Quiche Escuintla	Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Data collection	Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Internal displacement events monitoring
Guatemala	Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos	State Institution	All departments	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has identified several individual cases. Research Advocacy	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases.
Guatemala	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	United Nations	Guatemala City	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has detected several individual cases. Humanitarian assistance Protection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Internal displacement events monitoring
Guatemala	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	United Nations	Guatemala City Petén Esquipulas	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has identified several individual cases. Legal assistance Humanitarian assistance Research funding Protection Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Needs assessment of the persons displaced

Country	Name	Type of organisation	Presence at sub-national level	Type of work related to internal displacement	Information and data collected on internal displacement
Honduras	Asociación Calidad de Vida	Civil Society Organisation	Copán Ocotepeque Lempira Valle Choluteca El Paraiso Francisco Morazán	Humanitarian assistance Protection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs
Honduras	Casa Alianza	Civil Society Organisation	Francisco Morazán Cortés	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has identified several individual cases. Strategic litigation Legal assistance Service provision Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring
Honduras	Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH)	Civil Society Organisation	Choluteca Valle La Paz Intibucá Comayagua Lempira Francisco Morazán	Strategic litigation Legal assistance Service provision Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring

Honduras	CONADEH	State Institution	All departments	Legal assistance Humanitarian assistance Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring
Honduras	Consejo Noruego para Refugiados (NRC)	International Organisation	Cortés Francisco Morazán	Legal assistance Service provision Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy Data collection	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring Properties left behind
Honduras	Cristosal	Civil Society Organisation	Tegucigalpa Presencia intermitente en Yoro, La Paz, Choluteca y Cortés.	Strategic litigation Legal assistance Humanitarian assistance Research Advocacy Data collection Trainings	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring
Honduras	Cruz Roja Española	International Organisation	Francisco Morazán Cortés La Ceiba	Service provision Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy Data collection Livelihoods restitution, school reinsertion support	Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs

Country	Name	Type of organisation	Presence at sub-national level	Type of work related to internal displacement	Information and data collected on internal displacement
Honduras	Facultad Latino-americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)	Academia	Tegucigalpa	Research	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases.
Honduras	Familias Solidarias de Honduras	Civil Society Organisation	Tegucigalpa	Does not work directly on internal displacement issues but has identified several individual cases.	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases.
Honduras	Grupo Sociedad Civil	Civil Society Organisation	Francisco Morazán Cortes Intibucá Santa Bárbara La Paz	Research Advocacy	Cause of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Internal displacement events monitoring
Honduras	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	United Nations	San Salvador La Libertad La Unión	Research Data collection	Includes internal displacement in its research, such as DTM. Does not systematically register data on internal displacement.
Honduras	Médicos del Mundo	International Organisation	Tegucigalpa - Francisco Morazán	Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy	Needs assessment of the persons displaced
Honduras	Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)	International Organisation	Francisco Morazán	Advocacy Data collection	Does not systematically record data on internal displacement, but has identified individual cases. Needs assessment of the persons displaced

Honduras	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	United Nations	Tegucigalpa San Pedro Sula	Humanitarian assistance Research and financing of the profiling together with government counterparts Protection Advocacy Data collection Technical support in strengthening the judicial capacity, building a political framework and development of public policies to provide protection to IDPs	Assistance of internal displacement cases through implementing partners, and through the identification of returnees to the Returnees Attention Centres (CAMRs) Socio-demographic data from the victim Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring
San Salvador	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	United Nations	San Salvador La Paz (PDDH Office) San Miguel (PDDH Office) Santa Ana (PDDH Office)	Strategic litigation towards the creation of a legal framework on internal displacement Legal assistance Service provision through implementing partners (psychological and legal support, CBI, livelihoods) Humanitarian assistance Research Protection Advocacy Data collection Community strengthening for the prevention of internal displacement and for the host communities through livelihoods and CBI	Collects data on internal displacement through the civil society and state partners. Also attends cases directly in its head office. Socio-demographic data from the victim in the Acuerdos de Traslado por motivos de Protección (PTA) programme. Cause of displacement Perpetrator or agent of displacement Geospatial information (origin/destination) Date of displacement Needs assessment of the persons displaced Services and support received by IDPs Internal displacement events monitoring



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