

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IDMC's work and achievements are made possible through the generous contributions received from our funding partners. We would like to thank them for their continued support in 2017. We extend our particular thanks to the following:

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT), Sweden's International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Commission, Liechtenstein's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and Charities Aid Foundation.



Kamarkala IDP settlement on the outskirts of Herat city. Most of the families are nomads or Kochi's, but after losing their animals and grazing fields, they have now been settled on public land on the road to Turkmenistan. Photo: NRC/Enayatullah Azad, May 2017

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

JULY 2018

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Last year, IDMC recorded the highest levels of internal displacement by conflict and violence in a decade. We documented heart-breaking accounts of families escaping attacks and insecurity from Syria to the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan. As always, this displacement took place against a backdrop of chronic poverty and political instability, and was compounded by weak governance and response capacities, complex needs and vulnerabilities, and difficult humanitarian access.

Sadly, conflicts were not the only trigger of displacement in 2017. Disasters, particularly floods and tropical storms, continued to displace unacceptably high numbers of people inside their own countries, especially in regions suffering from high levels of vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards. South and East Asia were the hardest hit, as well as some of the smaller and poorer islands of the Caribbean, struck by an intense Atlantic hurricane season.

Faced with these persistently high figures, IDMC has been relentless in pushing the issue of internal displacement higher up on both national and international agendas. Throughout 2017, we continued to argue that the failure to address internal displacement as an integral part of national planning and response, and as both a cause and a consequence of crisis, would come at great cost to future peace, development and stability.

IDMC plays a unique role as the world's authoritative and independent source of data and analysis on internal displacement. In 2017, we obtained data on displacement driven by conflict and violence for 68 countries and territories, and data on nearly 900 new incidents associated with disasters in 181 countries. We also estimated the risk of disaster displacement in more than 200 countries. Our ability to cover new situations continues to grow as we employ new and innovative tools and approaches that help improve the scope of our monitoring. In 2017, we made significant improvements to our database, adding new interactive features that enable users to tailor their analysis by geographical and thematic interests.

Our expertise is also critical to informing some of the world's major global policy agendas. In 2017, we developed an ambitious new research agenda around four main themes: internal to cross-border displacement, economic impacts of internal displacement, internal displacement in



the context of drought and urban internal displacement. The evidence that we are starting to build will help measure countries' progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and other goals under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the new Urban Agenda and the two Global Compacts for Refugees and Migrants.

Looking ahead to 2018, which will mark 20 years since the publication of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and since the establishment of IDMC, we plan to work closely with national governments to find new and innovative ways of preventing and reducing internal displacement. We want to support governments so that they can lead the way in reaching sustainable solutions that integrate both humanitarian and development approaches to this complex phenomenon.

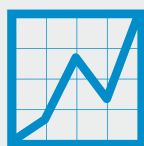
This annual report is a reflection of our activities and achievements in 2017. We are proud of how far we have come since 1998, and take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their loyal and generous support over the years. None of what we have accomplished and of what we are today, would have been possible without your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra Bilak".

Alexandra Bilak  
Director of IDMC







# DATA

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Monitoring internal displacement is at the very heart of what we do, and is the foundation of all our analysis and policy influencing work.

We monitor displacement situations caused by conflict and violence, disasters and development projects globally.

We work closely with partners on the ground to obtain and validate data on the scale, scope and patterns of displacement, and we try to identify new incidents of displacement and track them as they evolve over time.

When possible, we collect data on the age, sex and location of internally displaced people (IDPs), their shelter type and the duration of their displacement. We also aim to identify how many IDPs cross borders and when, and how many refugees become internally displaced when they return or are deported to their countries of origin.

We obtained data on displacement associated with conflict for 68 countries and territories in 2017, and on displacement associated with disasters for 181. We also estimated the risk of disaster displacement in more than 200 countries and territories, and our ability to cover new situations continues to grow as we employ new tools and approaches that help improve the scope of our monitoring.

We have also started to expand our efforts to examine displacement associated with development projects. Our initial research turned up data for 36 case studies around the world. The lessons learnt from this exercise will allow figures for this type of displacement to form part of our global dataset in the future.



Data Scientist Leonardo Milano presents the key concepts behind a risk model, January 2017

## GLOBAL INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DATABASE (GIDD)

All of our data is freely available on our open online platform, the [global internal displacement database \(GIDD\)](#). This is where we capture information from sources and partners and map it onto our internal displacement data model.

We made significant improvements to our database in 2017, adding new interactive features that enable users to tailor their analysis by geographical and thematic interests. Our displacement risk platform and displacement data exploration tools also allow correlations to be made between the number of IDPs in a country and more than 1,500 World Bank indicators. “How to” videos are available on our website to help users get the most out of our database.

We have also begun to automate the way GIDD receives data from our partners and populates our website and country pages, and external platforms and initiatives such as the INFORM risk index and the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) operated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). By the end of 2017, we had signed data-sharing agreements with the Colombian government, Facebook, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), OCHA/HDX, the Pacific Disaster Center and the World Bank. We also share our data with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and the US government’s Congressional Research Service. Via our own website and these platforms, users accessed our data around two million times, and over 4,000 people downloaded our full dataset.

We will expand GIDD’s capacity in 2018 so that others can upload their information directly and securely for review, analysis and publication, and compare their indicator data with our displacement data to identify correlations, trends and patterns.

## RISK NEXUS INITIATIVE

We co-founded the [Risk Nexus Initiative \(RNI\)](#) in 2017, establishing a new partnership among leading institutions with a long track record of innovative and effective approaches to risk, risk management, sustainability and resilience. IDMC is RNI’s interim secretariat, and other members include the Arab Water Council, the Faculty for Social Sciences in Latin America (FLACSO), Florida International University, the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, the International Centre for Environmental Monitoring (CIMA), the International Centre for Numerical Methods in Engineering (CIMNE)-Ingeniar, Kyoto University’s Earth Literacy Programme, the

UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Margareta Wahlström, the former Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) also participates in RNI in a personal capacity.

The RNI is engaging with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the New Development Bank and potential donors to explore more comprehensive ways of assessing risk and resilience in countries with high disaster risk. As part of this engagement, RNI members have provided risk management advice to the governments of Costa Rica, India and Peru. The objective of new partnerships with members of the RNI, the UN system and member states is to more concretely link international frameworks on risk management, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and sustainable development, such as the SDGs.

## EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE AND IDP STATISTICS

During the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission held in March 2016, member states established the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS), made up of representatives from national authorities, international statistical organisations and technical experts, and tasked it with taking stock of official statistics and assessing key gaps and challenges.

We saw value in co-developing guidelines for the collection of data on IDPs and joined EGRIS as one of its main contributing members and co-leader of its report on internal displacement statistics. The report was submitted to the commission for review, approval and publication at the end of 2017, and was presented at its 49th session in March 2018, in which we played an active role.

Following a review of the initial stocktaking report, EGRIS is planning to draft a set of follow-up guidelines for producing statistics on internal displacement, and a manual for national statistics offices. Given that not all data on IDPs is published as official statistics, we continue to work on parallel guidance for the collection of related data for other purposes, such as assessing displacement risk and measuring the duration, severity and socioeconomic impacts of displacement. We will develop our guidance with our data collection partners, including national governments, and then pilot it in certain countries.





Data and analysis staff answer questions concerning the GIDD at the IDMC innovation event, October 2017.

## ENGAGING GOVERNMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS TO BUILD THEIR CAPACITY TO COLLECT INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DATA

We have already met and conducted an initial workshop with 14 African Union member states and eight governments in the Asia and Pacific region. We have also signed a data-sharing agreement with the Colombian government, which details the data its victims' unit (UARIV) needs to collect, and we are in the process of signing similar agreements with other governments.

## EVENT: APPLYING INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES TO TRACK DISPLACEMENT

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

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

## ICT4D CONFERENCE - FROM INNOVATION TO IMPACT: HARNESSING THE POWER OF DATA FOR THE SDGS

Our senior data scientist, Leonardo Milano, was in India from 15 to 18 May for the Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) conference in Hyderabad. The event brought together public, private and civil society organisations from across the humanitarian and international development community to explore how technological innovation is making a measurable difference to people's lives, using data to accelerate achievement of the SDGs. Leonardo gave a presentation - Monitoring migration and internal displacement: filling the data gaps with innovation - and took part in a panel discussion on leveraging the power of geospatial visualisation and analytics for development.

## UNISDR'S WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Milano was also in Kenya on 26 and 27 September for the 11th session of UNISDR's Africa working group on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Mombasa, where he presented our thematic report entitled Reducing displacement risk in the Greater Horn of Africa. More information about the report can be found in the research and analysis section below.





# ANALYSIS, RESEARCH AND POLICY INFLUENCING

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We research and analyse the drivers, patterns and impacts of internal displacement across many different situations, providing evidence, expertise and tools to influence global and regional policy processes.

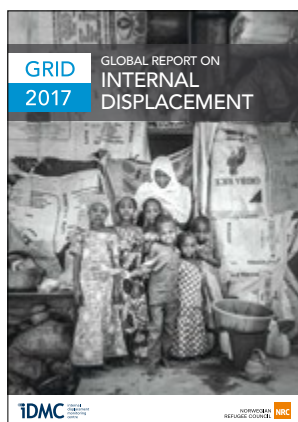
This work complements our core data collection and monitoring function by providing conceptual clarity and framing the key research challenges and questions. In-depth qualitative and quantitative research conducted in partnership with leading academic institutions, experts and international organisations ensures that we continue to consolidate our reputation as the world's authoritative voice on internal displacement.



IDMC Director Alexandra Bilak concludes the high level panel discussion at the GRID 2017 launch on May 2017.

## GLOBAL REPORT ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT 2017

We launched our flagship annual publication, the [Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\)](#), in New York on 22 May. The decision to launch the report in the US was largely in response to the fact that the phenomenon was all but excluded from the 2016 UN summit on refugees and migrants. The US launch mobilised wider interest in and support for IDPs and paved the way for better policy and action on internal displacement.



GRID 2017 revealed that there had been 31.1 million new internal displacements associated with conflict, violence and disasters in 2016, roughly the equivalent of someone being forced to flee their home every second.

As of the end of 2016, 40.3 million people worldwide were living in internal displacement as a result of violence. Just ten countries accounted for more than three-quarters of the total headcount. This figure was nearly double that recorded in 2000 and has increased sharply in recent years.

GRID 2017 also highlighted the links between internal displacement, cross-border movement and returns. IDPs outnumber refugees by around two to one, but internal displacement has been side-lined in global policy processes and overshadowed by the attention given to refugees and migrants. There is currently not enough research or data on this displacement continuum, and the report reveals the urgent need to gather more evidence on the links between these phenomena to meet the needs of all forcibly displaced people, whether they flee within or across borders.

## AFRICA REPORT ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

As the world focuses on refugees and migrants fleeing Africa, internal displacement on the continent continues at an alarming rate. Our Africa report revealed that 2.7 million people fled conflict, violence and disasters but did not cross an international border in the first half of 2017 alone. That is the equivalent of 15,000 people a day, but their plight goes largely unnoticed.



The majority of IDPs in countries with low coping capacity and weak governance are extremely vulnerable and often at risk of further upheaval and long-term impoverishment. This is the case for many of the 12.6 million Africans living in internal displacement as of the end of 2016.

Conflict caused 70 per cent of new displacement in Africa in 2016, and 75 per cent in the first half of 2017. DRC, Nigeria and South Sudan were among the five countries worst affected, as they have often been over the years. East Africa, where much displacement is driven by protracted and cyclical conflicts such as those in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, bore the brunt of the crisis in regional terms.

The report demands a new approach, in which responses go beyond humanitarian action to address the causes and long-term implications of internal displacement, because every case is much more than a personal tragedy. Displacement threatens to undermine the achievement of Africa's broader development objectives.

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

## MID-YEAR FIGURES

For the first time, we published [mid-year figures](#) which revealed 9.1 million new internal displacements associated with conflict, violence and disasters globally in the first half of 2017.

Conflict led to 4.6 million new displacements, already two-thirds of the total for 2016.

There was also significant displacement associated with disasters in the first half of the year, with more than 350 disaster events recorded by the end of June. The 4.5 million new displacements reported represent only a fifth of the total for the previous year, but the figures were still concerning given that seasonal storms and floods in South and South-east Asia and the Atlantic hurricane season were still to come.

The report, offering more timely data throughout the year, was well received by our partners and supporters.



Our [briefing paper](#) explores the relationship between the six goals and internal displacement across the globe. SDG9 and investments in it are of particular interest. Building resilient infrastructure is vital to broader economic development and can help to prevent and reduce displacement, but projects also regularly force people from their homes and can result in new poverty and marginalisation.

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

## UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

IDMC's director, Alexandra Bilak, joined a high-level panel at a side event on protracted internal displacement at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting in Geneva on 23 July.

The event was part of the meeting's humanitarian affairs segment and was convened to reflect on the results of a new study entitled [Breaking the Impasse: reducing protracted internal displacement as a collective outcome](#), commissioned by OCHA. The topic was in keeping with the broader theme of the humanitarian affairs segment session - Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.

The OCHA study highlights the need for a new approach to reduce IDPs' vulnerability and help them to achieve durable solutions, and provides concrete recommendations to guide governments, humanitarian and development organisations and donors.

## TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK: INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA

Progress against the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development targets was reviewed at a UN high-level political forum in New York in July. The six goals in focus were SDG1 on reducing poverty, SDG2 on reducing hunger, SDG3 on improving health, SDG5 on advancing gender equality, SDG9 on building resilient industry and infrastructure and SDG14 on protecting the marine environment.



All six are relevant to internal displacement because progress toward them will help to prevent the phenomenon and reduce its negative impacts. That said, investments in these areas can also create new vulnerabilities and risks that have the potential to undermine overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The forced displacement of people from their homes and livelihoods is one such risk.



## GLOBAL DISASTER DISPLACEMENT RISK - A BASELINE FOR FUTURE WORK

In partnership with UNISDR, we launched a [global thematic report on disaster displacement risk](#) at the UN Palace of Nations in Geneva to coincide with the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October. Given the scale of internal displacement associated with sudden-onset disasters the phenomenon is a truly global issue, but it is one of the least reported impacts

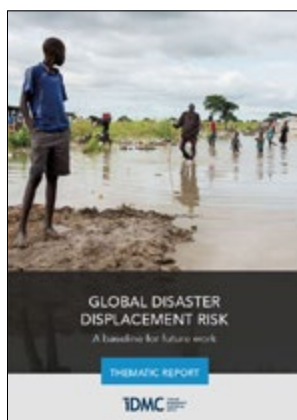
of such events. Its consequences for people's lives, local communities, countries and the international community are rarely considered. Its true scale, trends, patterns and future risks are also poorly understood, which hinders the effective reduction of both displacement and disaster risk.

Our report lays the groundwork for addressing these gaps and presents the first results generated by our global disaster displacement risk model. It looks at displacement through a risk lens, rather than as something to be addressed only after it has occurred.

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

## GUIDANCE ON REDUCING DISPLACEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH DISASTERS

In mid-July, we joined a group of Geneva-based organisations including the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), IOM and UNHCR, in kick-starting the development of Words Into Action (WiA) guidelines on human mobility and displacement in DRR. The WiA process is coordinated by UNISDR to support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The [guidelines](#) provide evidence on good practice and guidance for reducing displacement associated with disasters and improving DRR by considering displacement risk. The guidelines include extensive consultations with government representatives, international organisations and experts, including IDMC.



## POSITIONED FOR ACTION: DISPLACEMENT IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

Displacement is both a major consequence and a driver of disaster risk. Disasters brought on by rapid-onset natural hazards displaced an average of 25.4 million people a year between 2008 and 2015, the equivalent of one person every second.

Our [briefing paper](#) provides policymakers, agencies, civil society and other stakeholders with a summary of how displacement is positioned in the Sendai framework as a critical issue for reducing disaster risk. It analyses the global indicator framework and updated DRR terminology endorsed by the UN General Assembly as tools for measuring progress. It also aims to clarify the terms "displaced", "evacuated" and "relocated" in relation to the framework's priorities for action, targets and indicators, as governments had signalled was needed.

## TASK FORCE ON DISPLACEMENT

IDMC is a member of the Task Force on Displacement, established by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM) upon request by the 2015 Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The mandate of the Task Force on Displacement is; to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. The Task Force has a work plan and IDMC is leading on four key activities in the plan. These are:

- | Synthesizing the state of knowledge to better understand displacement related to slow onset events
- | Providing an overview of data sources, common methodologies and good practice for displacement-related data collection and assessment, as relevant to different contexts and regions.
- | Providing global baseline of climate-related disaster displacement risk, and package by region
- | Analysing available data on disaster-related displacement and its impacts in different regions and groups of countries in specific circumstances related to sudden and slow onset events

IDMC has led on the preparations of these activities, in consultation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN Program for Development (UNDP) and

the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), academic partners including the Hugo Observatory, Science Po in Paris and the University of Neuchâtel, as well as contributions from a broad range of experts and civil society organisations working on the issue of disaster displacement, slow onset events and climate-related displacement.

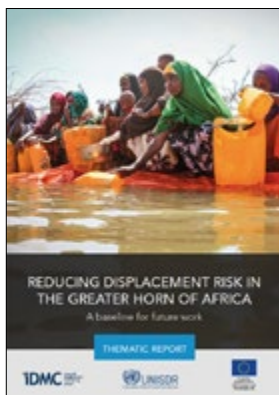
## GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Working in alliance with PDD – of which IDMC is a member of the steering group - and other like-minded partners, our head of policy and research, Bina Desai, and our senior strategic advisor on disasters, Michelle Yonetani, were in Mexico from 22 to 26 May for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun. Through the development of joint messaging, coordinated participation and interventions across various plenary and working sessions and side events, we and our partners succeeded in ensuring specific mentions of displacement in the two conference outcome documents.

The references in the Cancun high-level communiqué and the chair’s summary reflected political recognition of displacement associated with disasters as an issue and referred to the need to keep it on the global policymaking agenda. Numerous participants, including representatives from Germany, the Philippines, Switzerland, the EU, UNHCR, IOM, Caritas International and NRC/IDMC also addressed disaster displacement risk in their official statements.

## REDUCING DISPLACEMENT RISK IN THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

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



The need to address the risk and impacts of displacement associated with disasters is a global and regional policy priority. To do so, however, such risk must be measured.

Governments and other agencies need a baseline against which to gauge their progress, so we have developed a methodology for estimating disaster displacement risk for sudden-onset natural hazards. The result is the first fully probabilistic assessment of the phenomenon for the Greater Horn of Africa.

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

## KAMPALA CONVENTION

The Kampala Convention is a treaty of the African Union that addresses internal displacement caused by conflict, disasters and development projects in Africa.

IDMC played an active role in the first ministerial conference of state parties held in Harare in April 2017. Following the meeting, five countries that have ratified the convention set up a bureau to:

- | Establish a framework for solidarity, cooperation and the promotion of durable solutions between the state parties
- | Establish a policy framework for the prevention, protection and assistance of IDPs at the national level
- | Promote and strengthen regional and national measures to prevent and eliminate the causes of internal displacement and provide durable solutions

This engagement at the policy level builds on work dating back to 2014 when we launched a training package on internal displacement laws and policies at a workshop in Monrovia. The event was organised with the support of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on IDPs and UNHCR for 25 officials from ministries dealing with displacement issues, legislators and representatives of civil society organisations.

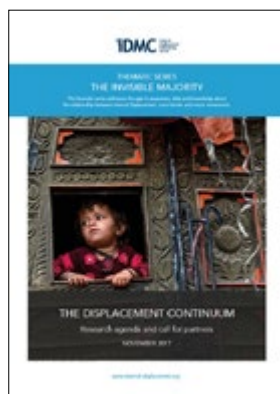
Participants drafted a final communiqué, and the Liberian vice-president, Joseph Boakai, expressed a personal commitment in his closing address to improving his country’s response to internal displacement. His words were turned into action in 2017 when Liberia ratified the Kampala Convention, reaffirming its commitment to addressing and reducing the phenomenon.

## THE INVISIBLE MAJORITY: A NEW THEMATIC SERIES

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

The relationship between internal displacement and the cross-border movement of refugees and migrants, including returnees, is not well understood. This is a major knowledge and data gap which we want to address. To this end, and building on findings in GRID 2017 we launched our new thematic series with a briefing paper, IDPs on the displacement continuum, which introduced our three research and monitoring tracks and provided a list of potential case studies, such as Colombia, Iraq, Somalia and Syria. Since the launch, we published three further papers in the series in 2017: a policy brief on [internal displacement and the Global Compact on Refugees](#); a case study on [returning Syrian refugees](#); and a case study on [returning refugees and IDPs in Afghanistan](#) (more detail below).

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



## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

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

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

Second, we called on member states, UN agencies and their partners to expand and coordinate the collection of interoperable data that covers the entire displacement continuum, from internal displacement to refuge abroad and repatriation and return.

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







Bilak gives the opening speech at the event at an event focused on returnee-IDPs in Afghanistan, December 2017.

## GOING 'HOME' TO DISPLACEMENT: AFGHANISTAN RETURNEE-IDP EVENT

Alexandra Bilak gave the opening speech at a December event focussed on returnee-IDPs in Afghanistan. NRC and the think-tank Samuel Hall were on the ground in Afghanistan in mid-2017, hearing from those affected about their reintegration needs and the obstacles they face in achieving durable solutions. The [broader findings of the research](#) were not published until early in 2018, but we took the opportunity during the week of the high commissioner's dialogue on protection challenges to launch a case study as part of our Invisible Majority thematic series.

## LAUNCH OF A NEW TWO-YEAR CENTRAL AMERICA PROJECT

With financial support from the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, we launched a two-year research and monitoring project entitled A baseline for action: understanding the phenomenon

and estimating the scope and scale of organized crime-induced internal displacement in the Northern Triangle of Central America. The objectives are to develop a shared understanding of the phenomenon, to help paint a more complete picture of it and to inform the operational and policy responses currently being scaled up in the region.

Following a mission to Honduras and El Salvador, we held a partner workshop with participants from Cristosal, a human rights organisation based in El Salvador and covering NTCA, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), IOM and the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs.

## RECOVERY POSTPONED: THE PLIGHT OF PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

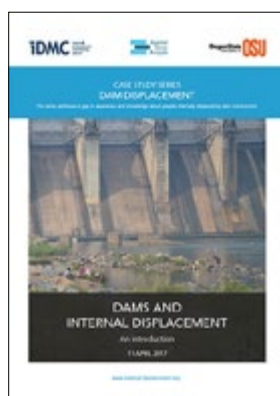
2016 marked the halfway point in the Japanese government's ten-year timeframe for reconstruction following the devastating March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear radiation disaster. Recovery continues for around 134,000 evacuees who remain displaced five years later. [Our case study](#) highlights the importance of addressing

the profound social and psychological consequences of long-term displacement in order to reduce its impacts, particularly for vulnerable older people.

It is the first in what will be a series of case studies addressing a significant gap in awareness and knowledge about people caught up in protracted and chronic displacement associated with disasters and environmental change. The evidence is needed to inform global policy commitments to “leave no one behind” and “reach the farthest behind first” through sustainable development, DRR, climate change adaptation and the protection of human rights.

## CASE STUDY SERIES: DAM DISPLACEMENT

An estimated 80 million people have been displaced by dam projects worldwide. Their fate is largely unknown, but evidence shows that those affected tend to become impoverished and marginalised, and that these impacts are long-lasting. Nor does the rate of dam construction show any sign of abating. Whether the benefits of new dams will outweigh their costs remains to be seen, but the risk of displacement and related impoverishment and marginalisation is clear.



With this [case study series](#), we aim to gradually piece together a global picture of displacement associated with dam projects that covers the drivers and dynamics of the phenomenon, the number of people displaced, their onward movements, the impacts they face, their progress toward solutions and how broader society is affected.

## NRC DISPLACEMENT CONFERENCE

We were in Oslo on 24 April for NRC’s annual displacement conference. Under the title of [Behind borders and walls: ensuring internally displaced people are not left behind](#), the event highlighted the plight of people who flee within international borders in countries such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Experienced field workers, practitioners and decision-makers took part in two panel sessions that explored ways of overcoming the obstacles that hinder IDPs’ access to assistance and protection.



Bilak at NRC’s annual displacement conference, April 2017.

The obstacles they identified included waning attention, insufficient operational responses and weak institutional protection frameworks. The panellists also discussed ways of improving national capacities to address these and other issues. Alexandra Bilak gave a presentation on the “global perspective and displacement trends” in her opening remarks to the conference.

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE INSTITUTE SEMINAR ON THE CAUSES OF HUMAN MOBILITY

Alexandra Bilak was also in Vienna on 9 and 10 May for a seminar hosted by the International Peace Institute (IPI) on the challenges and opportunities associated with the unprecedented numbers of people on the move, regardless of their legal status or their reasons for fleeing their homes or countries. Held under the theme of moving forward together to address human mobility, the seminar gathered insights on potential ways to address the causes of the growing phenomenon, ensure a people-centred response to the short, medium and long-term needs of displaced people and support their countries of origin, transit and destination in the most humane way possible.

## CAMDEN CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION

Alexandra Bilak was also invited to address the [2017 Camden Conference](#) held from 17 to 19 February in the US state of Maine. The theme of the conference was Refugees and Global Migration: Humanity’s Crisis, and the panel of experts was chosen for their first-hand knowledge of the issues involved.

The panellists discussed the many causes of the current refugee and migrant crisis and the unique challenges that come with accepting immigrants from particular countries,



Bilak joins a panel of experts exploring the economic and social rights of Ukraine's displaced population, September 2017.

regions and demographic groups. They also examined the political, economic and social consequences of the crisis for countries of origin in the Middle East, Africa and Central America, and the factors likely to drive migration in the coming decades - from dramatic demographic shifts to climate change, disasters and ethnic, territorial and political conflicts.

Alexandra's presentation - At the heart of the problem: the global scale and patterns of internal displacement - served as a reminder of the extensive links between internal displacement and cross-border migration, and the fact that many refugees begin their journeys as IDPs.

## PUBLIC EVENT ON THE PROTECTION OF IDPS' RIGHTS IN UKRAINE

Alexandra Bilak joined a panel of experts on 19 September to explore the economic and social rights of Ukraine's displaced population and others affected by the country's conflict. The panellists discussed IDPs' protection and assistance needs and highlighted the areas in which the government could make further progress in complying with international standards.

Following the event, Alexandra and our researcher and writer Elizabeth Rushing travelled to Kiev, where they participated in a high-level workshop organised by OCHA and

UNHCR to discuss national-level commitments and a "new way of working" to address protracted internal displacement in Ukraine. The meeting was convened to introduce the results of OCHA's Breaking the Impasse report, and breakout groups brainstormed a set of outcomes to guide government ministries and humanitarian and development organisations and donors.

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





# SERVICE PROVISION

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We continued to provide high-quality data, analysis and expertise on internal displacement in 2017, with the aim of informing policy and operational decisions that reduce the risk of future displacement and improve the lives of IDPs worldwide.

## DETECTING DISPLACEMENT DATA GAPS: IDMC'S IDETECT LEADS THE WAY

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We obtained data on displacement associated with conflict and violence for 68 countries and territories in 2017, and obtained data on nearly 900 new incidents associated with disasters in 181 countries. Despite our best efforts, however, we still do not cover all displacement situations.

Even when displacement is reported, painting a comprehensive picture of the situation can be a serious challenge because the amount of information is often overwhelming. It may also be tainted by significant reporting or media bias. Language barriers can be another impediment to determining the facts on the ground, because we simply do not speak every language in the world.

As part of our drive to address these issues, we launched IDETECT, an internal displacement event tagging extraction and clustering tool, on the UN Unite Ideas crowdsourcing platform on 31 January. This innovative initiative is designed to analyse “big data” to detect displacement associated with conflict and disasters reported in the news and on social media.

After mining one or more huge news datasets, such as [the GDELT Project](#), the [European Media Monitor](#) and social media platforms, we use natural language processing to filter and extract displacement-related data for human vali-

ation and supervised machine learning. By using techniques that have already proven effective in addressing similar challenges, such as disease detection and surveillance, we aim to bring the picture of internal displacement into clearer focus.

IDECT is not only a way to explore how innovative technologies can enhance and improve data collection. It also represents a significant shift in the way we approach projects. The Unite Ideas platform brings together data scientists and innovators from around the world in a crowdsourcing approach that will allow us to evaluate and compare a range of potential solutions rather than just one or two. The open source code will also be accessible to everyone as a public good.

Together with the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology, we announced on 22 June that Data for Democracy (D4D) had won our IDETECT challenge. D4D is an inclusive community-driven initiative for data scientists and technologists to volunteer and collaborate on projects that make a positive impact on society.

IDECT is part of a broader innovation effort we want to engage in. We have already adopted a series of new tools and technologies to estimate future displacement risk, monitor displacement in near real-time and fill current data and monitoring gaps. We will work with our partners and use a range of techniques in the years to come to detect displacement and estimate patterns from proxy indicators when no direct observational data is available.

We have already begun to analyse satellite imagery to estimate the scale of displacement based on the number of homes destroyed or the extent of land inundated by the construction of dams, and we are looking at detecting the scale, scope, patterns and duration of displacement based on the analysis of anonymous mobile phone and financial transaction data.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR DISASTER DISPLACEMENT RISK MODEL

We began work in 2016 on a new and improved version of our disaster displacement risk model. The new model is based on the analysis of hundreds of thousands of reported disasters across 70 countries and territories since the 1970s, complemented with simulated displacement projections across around 190 countries for rare mega-hazards that must be accounted for but for which there is little or no empirical data. By combining the two approaches, we are able to generate a number of metrics that paint a portrait or “displacement risk profile” for individual countries, countries grouped by region or income level and globally.

We presented the new version of our model to experts from our partner agencies on 24 January, including UNISDR, IOM, the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the International Union for Conservation of Nature, PDD, the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) and UNHCR.

## APPEAL 2017-2020

In April, we launched our [Appeal for 2017 to 2020](#), outlining our long-term plans and activities. We invite our partners and supporters to use the appeal as a general framework for our planned work over the next four years.

## KICK-OFF MEETING FOR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

IDMC convened a meeting on 22 September with partners and other organisations to discuss plans for the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles in 2018. The meeting was well attended and generated lively discussion about a potential common political objective for the commemoration activities. Participants included representatives from the permanent missions of Australia, Norway and Switzerland, ICRC, IOM, JIPS, OCHA, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), PDD and UNHCR. We also participated in the Special Rapporteur’s stakeholder consultations and follow-up discussions.

## COUNTRY PAGES

IDMC aims to paint a comprehensive picture of all internal displacement situations. Country-specific analysis is key to achieving this goal. In 2017 we began producing what have now become known as our [country profiles](#). These webpages provide the latest displacement statistics, and additional information on the drivers and patterns of displacement, priority needs and vulnerabilities specific to each country. The goal is to shed light on specific situations of concern and/or progress being made at the national or regional levels in terms of laws, policies or practice that improve the plight of IDPs.

We will in the future move toward a more automated system for updating our displacement figures, including daily updates to our country profiles.





# MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

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The communications department continued to focus its efforts on raising the profile of IDMC and the issue of internal displacement worldwide. We also began the second stage of our website redesign in 2017, starting with a new look and technical backbone. This enables us to provide a much more attractive product to our partners and showcase new features such as our Internal Displacement Updates and improved country profiles.

## WEBSITE

Total website views: 507,917

Top sections:

- | Library: 79,247
- | Country profiles: 65,193
- | Database: 53,180
- | GRID 2017 downloads: 21,307

## IDMC BLOG

Our experts and guest bloggers published [13 posts](#) during the year, discussing a range of issues from painting a picture of displacement with flawed data to Afghan refugees returning home to internal displacement.

## IDMC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We had 7,420 followers on Twitter by the end of 2017, an increase of 37 per cent on the previous year. Influential followers who engage with us from both the humanitarian and media sectors include ACAPS, JIPS, UNICEF and the Thomson Reuters Foundation. GRID 2017, our mid-year figures and our Africa report were all highly successful in terms of impressions and engagement rates.

Our online community continues to grow with hundreds of new fans on our official Facebook page each quarter. By the end of the year, we had 10,700 likes, a 25 per cent increase on 2016.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

GRID 2017 was cited 830 times in the media over a three-week period, reaching a potential readership of 1.6 billion people. Top tier outlets such as Agence France-Presse (AFP), Al Jazeera, the BBC, CNN, Deutsche Welle, the Spanish news agency EFE, the Guardian, Inter Press Service, National Public Radio (NPR), the New York Times, Radio France International and the Washington Post all covered the report.

Our director, Alexandra Bilak, authored two opinion pieces for the Thomson Reuters Foundation on the need to put internal displacement back on the [global agenda](#) and the complex drivers of the phenomenon in the [Horn of Africa](#).





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO IDMC 2017 WITH 2016 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Donors' contributions	2017 (in original currency)	2017 (in USD)	2016 (in USD)	% of 2017 funding
IOM/ECHO (a)	EUR 132,876	146,099		4%
IOM contribution to GRID	USD 25,000	25,000	-	1%
USA's USAID	USD 1,789,371	1,789,371	691,569	48%
Norwegian MFA (b)	NOK 5,779,992	692,472	465,762	19%
Australia's DFAT (c)	USD 424,236	424,236	176,407	11%
German MFA	EUR 70,000	80,746		2%
UNHCR		-	168,200	0%
UK's DFID		-	1,010,469	0%
Sweden Sida	SEK 3,000,000	339,238	356,300	9%
Liechtenstein MFA	CHF 100,000	102,726	94,468	3%
CAF	USD 28,939	28,939	25,418	1%
UNISDR	USD 57,000	57,000		2%
Other income	USD 4,276.24	4,276.24	-	0%
NRC own funds		-	101,223	0%
<b>Total contributions</b>		<b>USD 3,690,104</b>	<b>USD 3,089,816</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Notes to 2017 IDMC contributions

- Contributions are recorded as income when expenses accrued comply with the donors' conditions.
- Contributions received during 2017 are recorded with the exchange rate of the day of receipt, contributions not received are recorded at the exchange of 31 December 2017.
  - IOM/ECHO IOM/ECHO contract totals to EUR352,800 from 01.01.2017 till 31.12.2018. The first instalment of **EUR 141,120** (USD 155,164) has been received in 2017. IDMC spent USD 146,099.46 (EUR 132,876) in 2017, the balance of USD 9,064.28 is carried over to 2018.
  - NMFA 2016-2017 2016-2017 NMFA contract amounting to NOK 5,000,000 runs till April 2017. IDMC spent NOK 3,920,008 in 2016. The balance of NOK 1,079,992 was carried over to 2017 and is now shown as income. A new 2017 contract of NOK 4,700,000 is fully spent, therefore recorded as 2017 income.
  - Australia's DFAT 2016-2017 2016-2017 contract amounts to AUD 499,965 (USD 376,311). In 2016 USD 176,203 was recognised as an income. The balance of USD 199,905 was carried over in 2017 till April 2017 and is now recognised as income for 2017. A new 2017-2018 of AUD 500,000 (USD 375,620) was partly spent in 2017 totalling to USD 224,331. The remaining balance USD 151,289 is carried over to fiscal 2018 and will be utilised till 31.05.2018.

Alexandra Bilak, Director of IDMC  
Geneva, 26 March 2018

## IDMC'S EXPENDITURE 2017 WITH 2016 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Expenditure by department	2017 (in USD)	2016 (in USD)
<b>Data and Analysis</b>		
Staff costs	963,189	759,278
Field missions, advocacy events and research	271,603	102,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234,791</b>	<b>862,015</b>
<b>Policy and research</b>		
Staff costs	648,585	626,875
Field missions, advocacy events and research	161,984	198,473
<b>Total</b>	<b>810,569</b>	<b>825,348</b>
<b>Communicatlons</b>		
Staff costs	533,335	350,411
Publications, website, media	58,626	101,485
<b>Total</b>	<b>591,961</b>	<b>451,896</b>
<b>Management / Finance and administration</b>		
Staff costs	626,643	448,552
Management cost	109,440	141,321
Office running cost	316,700	360,683
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,052,782</b>	<b>950,556</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,690,104</b>	<b>3,089,816</b>

### Notes:

1. Expenditure on purchased goods and services are recorded when they are received.
2. The project financial report is presented in line with NRC's accounting policies for projects.



Alexandra Bilak, Director of IDMC  
Geneva, 26 March 2018



The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is the world's authoritative source of data and analysis on internal displacement. Since our establishment in 1998, as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), we have been committed to offering a rigorous, transparent and independent service to the international community and to informing policy and operational decisions that can improve the lives of the millions of people living in internal displacement, or at risk of becoming displaced in the future.

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