

# OPTIONAL MODULE

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)



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### Summary

This module was developed by **the Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) Global IDP Project** in response to a request by NGOs to address the need, identified by the Reach Out project, to provide content on the commonalities and differences between the regimes for the protection of IDPs and refugees.

This module is divided into **three sections**. Section 1 explores **the UN definition of internally displaced persons (IDPs)** and also examines the differences between this definition and that of refugees. Section 2 explores **the roles and responsibilities in relation to IDPs**, and Section 3 outlines the genesis, structure, and status of **the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP)**.

In an effort to integrate this module into the Reach Out curriculum on refugee protection, each section concludes with a **comparison between what applies to IDPs and to refugees**.

This module **assumes an understanding of the concept of protection**.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Outline the key components of the IDP definition;
- Outline who has a role and responsibility in relation to the protection of IDPs;
- Describe how the GP can be used as a framework for protection;
- Compare the protection frameworks for refugees and IDPs.

### Key Messages

- IDPs should enjoy the same rights as other citizens in the country;
- IDPs may have specific needs or vulnerabilities as a result of their displacement;
- National authorities have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to IDPs;
- No specific agency has a mandate to protect IDPs, unlike in a refugee situation, so a collaborative response is advocated;
- The GP provide standards for the protection of, and assistance to, IDPs;
- Whilst the GP are not a legally binding document, they are derived from existing international legal standards;
- IDPs have the right to seek asylum in another country.

### Use This Module To

- Introduce the definition of IDPs and how that differs from the definition of refugees;
- Highlight the potential vulnerabilities that can arise from displacement;
- Discuss the challenges related to categorising IDPs;
- Introduce the GP as a protection tool;
- Introduce the concept of the collaborative approach to the protection of IDPs;
- Discuss the scope and origins of the displacement crisis in-country;
- Discuss the key protection issues for displaced people in the country context;
- Introduce the role of the Norwegian Refugee Council's Global IDP Project.

### Research

- Research prior to delivering the module should attempt to answer the following questions: **How many people** are displaced in-country? **Why** are people being displaced? **What** are the trends in displacement (from where, to where, all the time or "commuting", for how long, is the nature of displacement voluntary or involuntary)? What is **the structure of the UN response** to the IDP crisis in the country: Who is doing what? Who is coordinating?;
- Check whether there is **national legislation for IDPs**, which national institution is in charge of IDP protection, and what the role of the international community is with regard to IDPs;
- Check for **any recent developments** in the country situation that have affected or might affect the protection and assistance needs of IDPs.

Visit the following web sites for **country-specific IDP facts and figures** and **general updates**:

- The Global IDP Project: [www.idpproject.org](http://www.idpproject.org);
- ReliefWeb: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

If there is a **humanitarian information centre** in the country, it would be useful to visit it.

**Preparation prior to the session**

- Obtain copies of the **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** (one for each participant);
- Check whether there are copies available in the local language ([www.idpproject.org/training.htm](http://www.idpproject.org/training.htm));
- **Check and update Slide 3 - Refugee and IDP figures** and **Slide 11 - Contact UNHCR branch office in your country for an update on UNHCR IDP policy**;
- Photocopy a **handout of the slide show** (three slides per page, one copy for each of the participants).

<b>Optional Module IDPs Breakdown</b>			
<b>Timing</b>		<b>Method</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>
Activity 1 - Who Is an Internally Displaced Person?	20'	Presentation and discussion	Optional Module IDPs.ppt Handout 1 - Who Is an Internally Displaced Person?
Optional Activity 1 - IDP or Not?	15'	Group work	
Activity 2 - Who Is Responsible?	20'	Presentation and discussion	Handout 2 - Optional Activity 1 - Internally Displaced or Not?
Optional Activity 2 – Actor-Mapping	35'	Group work	Trainer Guidance 1 - Optional Activity 1 - Internally Displaced or Not?
Activity 3 - The Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons	20'	Presentation and discussion	Handout 3 - The International Response to Internal Displacement Handout 4 - The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
Optional Activity 3 - The Guiding Principles by Topic	25'	Group work	Handout 5 - The Global IDP Project
<b>Total: 90 minutes</b>			Handout 6 - Optional Activity 4 - Answer Guide
<b>60 minutes for the three main presentations with slides, plus one or two selected optional activities</b>			Actor Maps from Module 4 - Refugee Protection: Actors and Roles

**Note to trainer**

- ✓ *This module is mainly based on a **presentation from the facilitator**. It is recommended to use the attached PowerPoint presentation to guide the attention of the participants when going through the presentation.*
- ✓ *It is also required to **break the presentation with participative activities**. Suggestions for such **optional activities** are proposed in each of the three sections.*
- ✓ *Since the presentations for the **three sections** take approximately **60 minutes**, facilitators are recommended to select only **one or two optional activities** to ensure that the session does not exceed **90 minutes**.*

Activity 1 - Who Is an Internally Displaced Person?			
Timing		Method	Resources needed
Presentation of slides	20'	Presentation in plenary with interactive discussion	Optional Module IDPs.ppt
Optional Activity 1 - IDP or Not?	15'	Exercise, group work	Handout 1 - Who Is an Internally Displaced Person? Handout 2 - Optional Activity 1 - Internally Displaced or Not?
Total: 20 minutes plus 15 minutes for optional activity 1			Trainer Guidance 1 - Optional Activity 1 - Internally Displaced or Not?

**Presentation of slides (20 minutes)**

**Slide 1: Internally displaced persons (IDPs)**

**Slide 2: Objectives**

- Outline the key components of the IDP definition;
- Outline who has a role and responsibility in relation to the protection of IDPs;
- Describe how the GP can be used as a framework for protection;
- Compare the protection frameworks for refugees and IDPs.

**Slide 3: IDPs outnumber refugees**

The figures provided in this graph are taken from the NRC Global IDP Project web site ([www.idpproject.org](http://www.idpproject.org)), where there is access to a database with country-specific information on **internal displacement caused by armed conflicts and violence**. Internal displacement caused by natural disasters and development are not included in these figures.

A series of **armed conflicts in the early 1990s** (Sudan 1989, Iraq 1991, and Somalia 1992) triggered large-scale internal displacement. Since then, **IDPs have outnumbered refugees**.

**Slide 4: Who is an internally displaced person?**

**Ask this question** to the plenary group and record their answers on the flip chart.

**Explain** that the UN definition of an internally displaced person will now be examined.

**Slide 5: The UN definition**

There are two essential components of the definition:

- **An element of coerced or forced movement:** Displacement is the result of circumstances that leave no other choice to people but to leave or flee, such as war, ethnic tensions, disasters;
- **The fact that the victims have not crossed an international state border:** IDPs remain within the country of their habitual residence. Most IDPs are generally citizens of the country in which they are displaced.

There are several ways of describing who would be considered an internally displaced person. The definition presented in **the Guiding Principles** is generally acknowledged to be **the current UN definition**, but it is **a descriptive definition rather than a legal definition**. It does not assign special rights to IDPs under international law. IDPs, as citizens of their country, should enjoy the same rights as other citizens.

In certain countries, **national legislation** has been developed to protect and assist IDPs. These definitions sometimes differ from the one in the Guiding Principles. National IDP legislation generally affords **specific legal rights to assistance and protection** for those who fall within the definition, whilst the Guiding Principles simply use the definition to identify groups and individuals who may need special attention by the national and international community.

**Discuss in plenary:**

- Do you agree?
- Should there remain a special category for IDPs?
- Why?

**Allow** some discussion and then move on.

**Ask participants:** What are the special vulnerabilities of IDPs?

**Slide 6: A special vulnerability**

Although all persons affected by conflict, human rights violations, and/or violations of international law suffer, displacement from one's place of residence may make IDPs especially vulnerable:

- Internally displaced persons may be **in transit** from one place to another, may be in hiding, may be forced towards unhealthy or inhospitable environments, or may face other circumstances that make them especially vulnerable. They may be displaced to areas where local inhabitants are of different groups or are inhospitable;
- The **social organisation** of displaced communities may have been destroyed or damaged by the act of physical displacement; family groups may be separated or disrupted; women may be forced to assume non-traditional roles or face particular vulnerabilities;
- Internally displaced populations, and especially groups like children, the elderly, or pregnant women, may experience profound **psychosocial distress** related to displacement;
- Removal from sources of **income and livelihood** may add to physical and psychosocial vulnerability for displaced persons;
- Internal displacement may well disrupt **schooling** for displaced children and adolescents;
- Internally displaced persons may lack **identity documents** essential to receiving benefits or recognition before the law; in some cases, displaced persons may have jettisoned such documents in fear of persecution;
- Internally displaced persons may be **deprived of access** to international assistance by their government. Internal displacement is often seen as an internal matter by governments, which refuse any external interference, based on the principle of sovereignty.

**Ask participants** to highlight the vulnerabilities that apply to IDPs in their country.

Are there **additional vulnerabilities** not mentioned here?

**Slide 7: Comparison: refugee and IDP definitions**

**Ask participants** to list the differences between the definition of refugees and IDPs.

- Refugees leave their country of origin to seek protection abroad. IDPs remain within their own country;
- There are more causes of displacement in cases of internal displacement. According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, persecution is the only grounds for conferring refugee status on a person;
- Refugees lose the protection provided by their own country and therefore need the protection of the international community. This special protection is granted to them through the special status created by the 1951 Refugee Convention, which provides for a special regime for refugees;
- Whereas the status of refugees entitles the individual to certain rights, the status of internal displacement does not entitle anyone to additional rights other than those they have as a citizen of their country. As citizens in their own countries, IDPs are still under the protection of their government (at least legally). Therefore, no special status has been created for them under international law. They should enjoy the same rights as the rest of the population.

Refer to the quote by Walter Kälin in “**Handout 1 - Who Is an Internally Displaced Person?**”.

**Note**

The refugee definition referred to here is the refugee definition according to the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. It should be noted that, in Africa, “the term ‘refugee’ shall also apply to every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality” (OAU Convention governing specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, 1969).

**Optional Activity 1 - IDP or Not? (15 minutes)**

**Distribute** a copy of “**Handout 2 - Internally Displaced or Not?**”

**Ask participants to read** the testimonies contained therein.

**Allow five minutes.**

**Divide the plenary** into four or five groups and **ask them** to discuss the following for each case study: In your opinion, are these people internally displaced according to the definition of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement?

**Allow 10 minutes.**

**Take feedback** in plenary, taking the first answer from Group 1, the next answer from Group 2, and so on.

**Correct the participants**, where necessary, and **give indications** as detailed in “**Trainer Guidance 1 - Optional Activity 1 - Internally Displaced or Not?**”

You can work on **other testimonies** that illustrate other situations that are especially **relevant in your country**.



Activity 2 - Who Is Responsible?			
Timing		Method	Resources needed
Presentation of slides	20'	Presentation in plenary with interactive discussion Exercises	Actor maps from Module 4 Handout 3 - The International Response to Internal Displacement
Optional Activity 2 – Actor-Mapping	35'		
<b>Total: 20 minutes plus 35 minutes for Optional Activity 2</b>			

**Presentation of slides (20 minutes)**

**Slide 8: Who is responsible?**

Ask the plenary who they believe is responsible for ensuring that the rights of IDPs are respected.

**Slide 9: Guiding Principle 3**

Providing protection and humanitarian assistance to nationals, including internally displaced persons, is a primary responsibility and duty of the state. Sovereignty remains the building block of the international system. It implies that citizens are under the direct responsibility of the state, and this applies to citizens displaced within their country.

**Ask participants:** What are the possible difficulties with this principle?

- State unwilling to provide protection: in many situations, state authorities are the cause of the displacement of their people;
- State unable to provide protection: internal displacement affects countries with limited capacities;
- It is therefore also the duty of state authorities to turn to the international community to get the necessary support to fill the gaps that the country is unable to face or to accept the offer of services made by the international community and provide international humanitarian organisations with free and rapid access to IDPs.

**Ask participants: ... and where does international responsibility lie?**

There are many misconceptions about who, from the international community, is responsible for IDPs. By asking these questions, the facilitator will have the opportunity to evaluate the understanding of the group.

**Slide 10: The collaborative response**

**Assistance and protection** have been provided to **IDPs as a vulnerable population** under the mandates of UN agencies or, in the case of the UNHCR, on a case-by-case extension of its refugee mandate.

However, no agency has a comprehensive global mandate to assist IDPs. Nor is it considered feasible that an existing organisation will expand its mandate to lead in this area in future. In the absence of an agency with a specific mandate for IDPs, **international agencies** contribute to the assistance and protection of IDPs based on their **mandates and expertise**.

**Comment on the graph:** Displaced people have needs for health care (to be addressed by the WHO), human rights protection (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), shelter (for example,

the UNHCR can provide plastic sheeting or a camp setting), education (UNICEF), food (WFP), agriculture (FAO), water and sanitation (for example, UNICEF).

- The scale and multifaceted nature of displacement crises have led the international community to recognise that an effective and comprehensive response to the protection and assistance needs of displaced persons necessitates a collaborative response, which is the management model for assistance and protection in situations of internal displacement;
- Rather than a single-agency approach, a collaborative response is one that involves not only UN agencies but also government officials, other international organisations, and international and local NGOs;
- This approach also necessarily entails effective coordination mechanisms, aimed at guaranteeing a comprehensive response, covering emergency as well as longer-term solutions and recovery needs, avoiding gaps and overlaps, and providing clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

**Brief participants** about the pattern of **UN response in the country**.

### Slide 11: The role of the UNHCR

- UNHCR has a predisposition to protect IDPs;
- The UNHCR mandate does not include those who have fled from natural or man-made disasters;
- In 2004, only 5.4 million IDPs were of concern to the UNHCR out of a total of 25 million IDPs worldwide;
- UNHCR leads protection effort of UN Country Team as part of collaborative response.

#### **Note:**

The facilitator should provide **up-to-date figures** (check [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) for statistics on IDPs of concern to the UNHCR, annual statistical bulletin).

The bullets above reflect the agreement reached within the UN in 2005. UNHCR policy on IDPs is also likely to evolve further. **Contact the UNHCR branch office in your country for an update.**

### Slide 12: Comparison: The protection regime for refugees and IDPs

In both cases, **state authorities are in charge** of protection and assistance.

However, things differ with regard to the structure and format of the international response to the needs of refugees and IDPs. There is a single agency with a global mandate for the protection of refugees: the UNHCR. For IDPs, all agencies, including the UNHCR, should help provide the necessary assistance and protection, complementing the state's capacity.

The UNHCR is in charge of IDPs, as a lead agency, in selected situations of internal displacement. As of the end of 2004, 5.4 million IDPs were of concern to the UNHCR.

**Contrast this** with the total IDP figure in the world. **Refer to Slide 3: IDPs outnumber refugees.**



**Optional Activity 2 – Actor-Mapping: Compare IDP and Refugee Actor Maps (35 minutes)**

Groups should review the actor maps drawn for the protection of refugees, as proposed in Module 4. (20 minutes)

In particular, groups should review the following questions:

- Are the actors that can contribute to enhanced protection of IDPs the same as for refugees?
- Which actors are likely to play a major role?
- Which actors that have not been mentioned as relevant for the protection of refugees should be involved in IDP situations?

**You can ask participants** to use a pen of a different colour to highlight on the actor maps what the differences or similarities are between IDP- and refugee-related actors.

**Ask groups** to present their modified actor map to the plenary (15 minutes in total).

**During the feedback, discuss:**

- The primary role of state authorities towards their displaced citizens: Is there one body in charge of IDP protection and assistance? What about the national human rights commission?
- Non-state actors (secessionist forces or rebel groups) are *de facto* responsible for the protection of IDPs in areas under their control;
- Development agencies in protracted displacement situations or in return phases are required to support the integration of IDPs;
- The NGO presence: Are more NGOs working with IDPs than with refugees? Why?
- Is there sufficient coordination/consultation between actors and in particular between NGOs and state institutions?
- Are IDPs consulted? What are the existing mechanisms to make this consultation possible?

**Give each participant “Handout 3 - The International Response to Internal Displacement.**

Activity 3 - The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement			
Timing		Method	Resources needed
Presentation of slides	20'	Presentation in plenary with interactive discussion	Handout 4 - The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement Handout 5 - The Global IDP Project Handout 6 - Optional Activity 3 - Answer Guide
Optional Activity 3 - The Guiding Principles by Topic	25'	Exercise	
<b>Total: 20 minutes plus 25 minutes for Optional Activity 3</b>			

### Presentation of slides (20 minutes)

#### Slide 13: The guiding principles

**Ask participants** whether they have heard of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP).

**Ensure** that each participant has a copy in their language.

The size of the internal displacement crisis changed drastically **in the early 1990s** with large-scale humanitarian emergency situations in places such as Somalia, Sudan, and Iraq. A response from the international community was required.

**In 1992**, after the Commission on Human Rights requested that the Secretary-General of the United Nations appoint a Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, **Dr Francis Deng**, a respected Sudanese scholar and former diplomat, was selected.

Amongst other things, Dr Deng was asked to **review international legal protection of IDPs**. He found that existing international legal instruments provide sufficient protection for IDPs but were not specific or clear enough. He therefore **compiled all relevant norms** into one single document giving guidance on how existing international law should be understood and applied in situations of internal displacement.

The result was **the GP**, which were presented to the UN Human Rights Commission in **1998** (Resolution 1998/50).

#### Slide 14: The Guiding Principles - objectives

The GP address **the specific needs of IDPs** by identifying rights and guarantees relevant to their protection in all phases of displacement;

The GP are **not binding** as such, but they reflect, and are **consistent with, international human rights law and international humanitarian law**.

They restate the **relevant norms** applicable to the internally displaced, which are widely spread out in existing instruments, clarify any grey areas that might exist, and address gaps in protection.

In terms of their use, the GP are intended to **provide guidance** to the representative of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs in carrying out his **mandate**, to assist states when faced with the phenomenon of displacement and to guide intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations when addressing internal displacement.

The GP are also intended to be **a persuasive instrument** that not only provides practical guidance but also acts as an instrument **for public policy education and consciousness-raising**.

### Slide 15: The Guiding Principles - content

Browse the GP booklet with the participants and comment on the following:

- **Section I - Principles 1-4:** Key principle that IDPs should not be discriminated against because of their displacement;
- **Section II - Principles 5-9:** Highlight Principle 5 on prohibition of arbitrary displacement;
- **Section III - Principles 10-23:** The longest section. Note that IDPs keep their right to seek asylum in another country (GP 15);
- **Section IV - Principles 24-27:** Restate the importance of humanitarian access;
- **Section V - Principles 28-30:** Durable solutions. Note that the word "resettle", in the context of the GP, only means relocation within one's own country. IDPs are generally not entitled to resettlement in third countries.

### Slide 16: Comparison: the legal framework for refugees and IDPs

The legal framework for the protection of refugees is primarily based on the 1951 Refugee Convention.

**The only sources of rights for IDPs are international human rights law and humanitarian law.**

The GP are not a source of law. They are not binding as such. They merely restate binding standards and provide guidance on how these standards should be applied to the specific needs of IDPs.

Refugee law has been used by the drafters of the GP. Although not directly applicable to the situation of IDPs, refugee law has been used by analogy to suggest rules relevant to the protection of IDPs.

**Facilitators can mention** Principle 15, which prohibits forced return to areas where safety is at risk. It is drawn from the prohibition of *refoulement* under refugee law but applied in a national context, thus sometimes called the prohibition of *internal refoulement*.

**You can ask participants** if they have any questions.

**You can also distribute** "Handout 4 - The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement".

### Slide 17: Conclusions

**The Guiding Principles restate the rights of IDPs and responsibilities.**

They are **consistent with** international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law by analogy.

**States** have increasingly used the GP as a **reference tool**.

### Slide 18: Further training

This module is **an introduction to a more comprehensive training programme** on the GP and the protection of IDPs, developed by the Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

**Distribute** "Handout 5 - The Global IDP Project".

**Optional Activity 3 - The Guiding Principles by Topic (25 minutes)**

**Prepare** sheets of paper with one of the following bullets on each sheet.

**Ask** the plenary who is interested in rights related to:

- Freedom of movement;
- Non-discrimination;
- Participation of IDPs;
- Displaced women;
- Displaced children.

When a participant expresses an interest, **hand them** the relevant sheet of paper. When all the sheets are assigned, **ask the sheet holders** to come to the front, and, on the word “go”, ask all the others to run and join the group they would most like to work in.

**You can limit** the numbers in any one group.

**Ask the groups** to find the principles that relate to the right they have been assigned.

**Allow 20 minutes** for the exercise.

**Give out** answer sheets (see “**Handout 6 - Optional Activity 3 - Answer Guide**”) rather than taking feedback in plenary.

## Handout 1 - Who Is an Internally Displaced Person?

### The definition of an internally displaced person

Internally displaced persons are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border." (Guiding Principles, Introduction, para. 2)

### The status of the IDP definition

"It is important to stress that paragraph 2 is not a legal definition of internally displaced persons. Becoming displaced within one's own country of origin or country of habitual residence does not confer special legal status in the same sense as, say, becoming a refugee does.

"This is because the rights and guarantees to which internally displaced persons are entitled stem from the fact that they are human beings and citizens or habitual residents of a particular state.

"Those rights and guarantees emanate from the peculiar vulnerability and special needs that flow from the fact of being displaced.

"By locating the description of 'internally displaced persons' in their introductory section rather than in their main body, the Guiding Principles seek to highlight the descriptive and non-legal nature of the term 'internally displaced persons.' Internally displaced persons need not and cannot be granted a special legal status comparable to refugee status. Rather, as human beings who are in a situation of vulnerability they are entitled to the enjoyment of all relevant guarantees of human rights and humanitarian law, including those that are of special importance to them. This does not rule out the possibility of administrative measures such as registration on the domestic level to identify those who are displaced and need special assistance. However, lack of such registration would not deprive internally displaced persons of their entitlements under human rights and humanitarian law." (From Walter Kälin, "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Annotations", *Studies in Transnational Legal Policy* 32, [www.asil.org/pdfs/study\\_32.pdf](http://www.asil.org/pdfs/study_32.pdf))

### Why are IDPs particularly vulnerable?

Although all persons affected by conflict and/or human rights violations suffer, displacement from one's place of residence may make the internally displaced particularly vulnerable. The following are some of the factors that are likely to increase the need for protection:

- Internally displaced persons may be in transit from one place to another, may be in hiding, may be forced towards unhealthy or inhospitable environments, or may face other circumstances that make especially vulnerable;
- The social organisation of displaced communities may have been destroyed or damaged by the act of physical displacement; family groups may be separated or disrupted; women may be forced to assume non-traditional roles or face particular vulnerabilities;
- Internally displaced populations, and especially groups like children, the elderly, or pregnant women, may experience profound psychosocial distress related to displacement;
- Removal from sources of income and livelihood may add to physical and psychosocial vulnerability for displaced people;
- Schooling for children and adolescents may be disrupted;
- Internal displacement to areas where local inhabitants are of different groups or inhospitable may increase risk to internally displaced communities; internally displaced persons may face language barriers in their location of displacement;

- The condition of internal displacement may raise the suspicions of, or lead to abuse by, armed combatants or other parties to internal conflict;
- Internally displaced persons may lack identity documents essential to receiving benefits or recognition before the law; in some cases, displaced persons may have got rid of such documents in fear of persecution;
- Internally displaced persons may be deprived of access to international assistance by their government. Internal displacement is often seen as an internal matter by governments, which refuse any external interference, based on the principle of sovereignty.

**A comparison of the IDP description and the refugee definition**

A refugee is a person who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country" (1951 Refugee Convention, Art. 1A(2), 1967 Protocol).

The requirements to become a refugee according to the 1951 Refugee Convention are precise and limited: there has to be a "well founded fear of persecution", and this fear must be linked to one of the enumerated grounds. The IDP definition is much broader and includes, for instance, natural and man-made disaster.

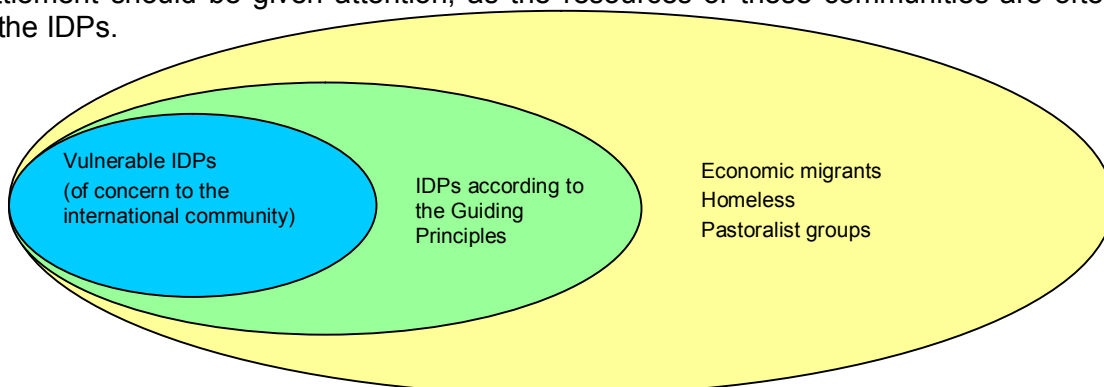
A person becomes a refugee only when he or she crosses an international border, whereas an internally displaced person remains within his or her country. The legal status of refugees is conferred in accordance with international legally binding documents. No similar binding document defines internally displaced persons.

The status of refugee entitles the individual to certain rights. Being internally displaced does not confer any additional rights; instead, internally displaced persons have all the same rights as other citizens within the country.

**Categories of persons that have left their homes**

As highlighted above, displacement exposes its victims to serious risks of discrimination, abuses, and neglect. Displacement should therefore be used as an indicator of the potential vulnerability of the civilian population. IDPs are often a neglected group. Internal displacement needs to be assessed based on the IDP definition to ensure that no displaced group falls through the gaps. IDPs' needs should be assessed on a regular basis at all phases of displacement (emergency, post-emergency, return, or resettlement).

However, the IDP definition cannot always be used as a means of defining target groups for assistance or protection programmes, as IDPs are not a homogenous group (see graph below). Based on assessment, it is recommended that those IDPs be targeted who have a special vulnerability because of their ethnic origin, their access to assistance and services, their socio-economic status, etc. Also, the needs of host populations in areas of displacement, return, or resettlement should be given attention, as the resources of these communities are often shared with the IDPs.





**Handout 2 - Optional Activity 1 - Internally Displaced or Not?**

1. The military evacuated our village early this year after fighting erupted in the area. Intense fighting was going on in the area. A neighbouring village was under shelling. We were given shelter in evacuation centres, but my brother offered me a place to live with my children.
2. My family and I left our village before the conflict between governmental forces and rebel groups started again last year. I felt that things would go wrong again, and I preferred to move my family to a safer place. Also, I was afraid of being recruited into the rebel armed forces. When the fighting between the armed forces and the rebels started, I was already away with my family in the provincial capital.
3. My husband was arrested by the armed forces, as they believed he was supporting the rebel groups. Visits to our villages by the military and the rebels were becoming more frequent, and male villagers were often arrested or forcibly enlisted. I was afraid for my sons and moved to the nearest town. Luckily, I can still go back to my land to cultivate and harvest crops. But I still prefer to go back to town and sleep there with my children.
4. I left my ancestral area when a mining company decided to exploit the soil and look for gold there. We were offered land elsewhere in the province, but we did not want to go there, and we received very little assistance to build our homes. We were evicted from our land by paramilitary groups hired by the company. There is still no school for our children in the area where we were relocated. We have lost everything, and we are forced to go to cities to find low-paying jobs.
5. I left my village three years ago. I first moved with my family to an evacuation centre in the nearest town. I moved to the capital to look for a job there. My family has since returned to our home, but I have decided to stay in the capital. I have a small salary as a port worker here, but I can send some money to my wife. If I return to my village, there is nothing there for me. Life for my family would be very difficult without my support. My son would not be able to go to school without my money.

### Trainer Guidance 1 - Optional Activity 1 - Internally Displaced or Not?

1. *The military evacuated our village early this year after fighting erupted in the area. Intense fighting was going on in the area. A neighbouring village was under shelling. We were given shelter in evacuation centres, but my brother offered me a place to live with my children.*

This case illustrates a genuine situation of internal displacement because of armed conflict. IDPs hosted by relatives, friends, or local people are less visible than those living in camps. Therefore, they tend to be ignored, although they often need assistance, as do their host families.

2. *My family and I left our village before the conflict between governmental forces and rebel groups started again last year. I felt that things would go wrong again, and I preferred to move my family to a safer place. Also, I was afraid of being recruited into the rebel armed forces. When the fighting between the armed forces and the rebels started, I was already away with my family in the provincial capital.*

IDPs can leave their homes in anticipation of danger, as suggested in the IDP definition in the Guiding Principles ("to flee or to leave" and "in order to avoid the effects of etc.").

3. *My husband was arrested by the armed forces, as they believed he was supporting the rebel groups. Visits to our villages by the military and the rebels were becoming more frequent, and male villagers were often arrested or forcibly enrolled. I was afraid for my sons and moved to the nearest town. Luckily, I can still go back to my land to cultivate and collect crops. But I still prefer to go back to town and sleep there with my children.*

Human rights violations, such as arbitrary recruitment or arrest, can be causes of displacement. Internal displacement can take various forms, such as daily displacement to safe areas, when security conditions do not allow for a permanent stay in home areas.

4. *I left my ancestral area when a mining company decided to exploit the soil and look for gold there. We were offered land elsewhere in the province, but we did not want to go there, and we received very little assistance to build our homes. We were evicted from our land by paramilitary groups hired by the company. There is still no school for our children in the area where we were relocated. We have lost everything, and we are forced to go to cities to find low-paying jobs.*

This case illustrates displacement for development or economic projects. These projects are often implemented in violation of human rights standards, such as property rights, and affect vulnerable groups, such as indigenous communities. Displacement because of development projects that are not justified by "compelling and overriding public interests" is prohibited (Guiding Principle 6). Relocation of people affected should be done in compliance with minimum standards highlighted in Guiding Principle 7.

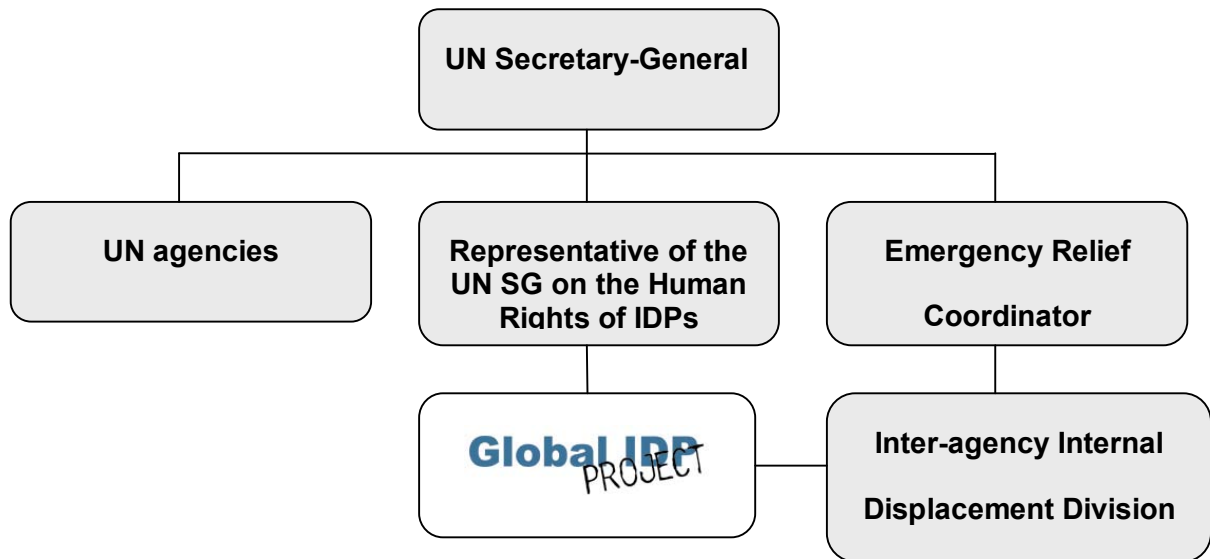
5. *I left my village three years ago. I first moved with my family to an evacuation centre in the nearest town. I moved to the capital to look for a job there. My family has since then returned to our home, but I have decided to stay in the capital. I have a small salary as a port worker here, but I can send some money to my wife. If I return to my village, there is nothing there for me. Life for my family would be very difficult without my support. My son would not be able to go to school without my money.*

Economic migrants are not internally displaced, as defined in the Guiding Principles. However, the rights of economic migrants are the same as for IDPs and other citizens in the country, but the Guiding Principles do not address their specific protection needs. People forced to flee their homes because of economic injustice and marginalisation tantamount to systematic violations of economic rights would come under the IDP definition.

**Handout 3 - The International Response to Internal Displacement**

Whilst the UNHCR is the UN organisation responsible for assisting and protecting refugees, there is no single organisation responsible for IDPs at the operational level. Given the scope and the nature of internal displacement, the UN has opted for a **collaborative response**, noting that the needs of IDPs are beyond the needs of a single agency. A *collaborative response* is one in which a broad range of actors, including governments, the UN, and NGOs, work together to respond to the needs of IDPs on the basis of their individual mandates and expertise.

Roles and responsibilities at headquarters



**Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)**

The ERC ensures the inter-agency coordination of protection and assistance to IDPs amongst UN agencies.

The ERC is responsible for global advocacy on protection and assistance, resource mobilisation, global information on IDPs, and for ensuring that field arrangements are adequately supported.

When necessary and appropriate, the ERC brings issues concerning IDPs to the attention of the UN Secretary-General and the UN Security Council.

For more information on the ERC, see: <http://ochaonline.un.org>.

**Inter-agency Internal Displacement Division (IDD)**

The IDD was established to support the ERC in promoting a predictable and concerted response to internal displacement. The IDD provides assistance to international organisations at the field level in developing and refining IDP strategies and ensuring their effective implementation, including an appropriate division of labour. The IDD is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and is a small entity of about twenty professionals.

For more information on the IDD, see: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/idp/index.htm>.

**Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs**

The Representative holds a dialogue with governments in countries with a situation of internal displacement, NGOs, and other relevant actors to improve the human rights situation of IDPs, in particular during country visits.

The Representative organises regional seminars to exchange experiences related to the protection and assistance of IDPs and to advocate for durable solutions for IDPs.

The Representative undertakes research on particular topics linked to internal displacement, in collaboration with the Brookings Institution’s Project on Internal Displacement based in Washington, DC.

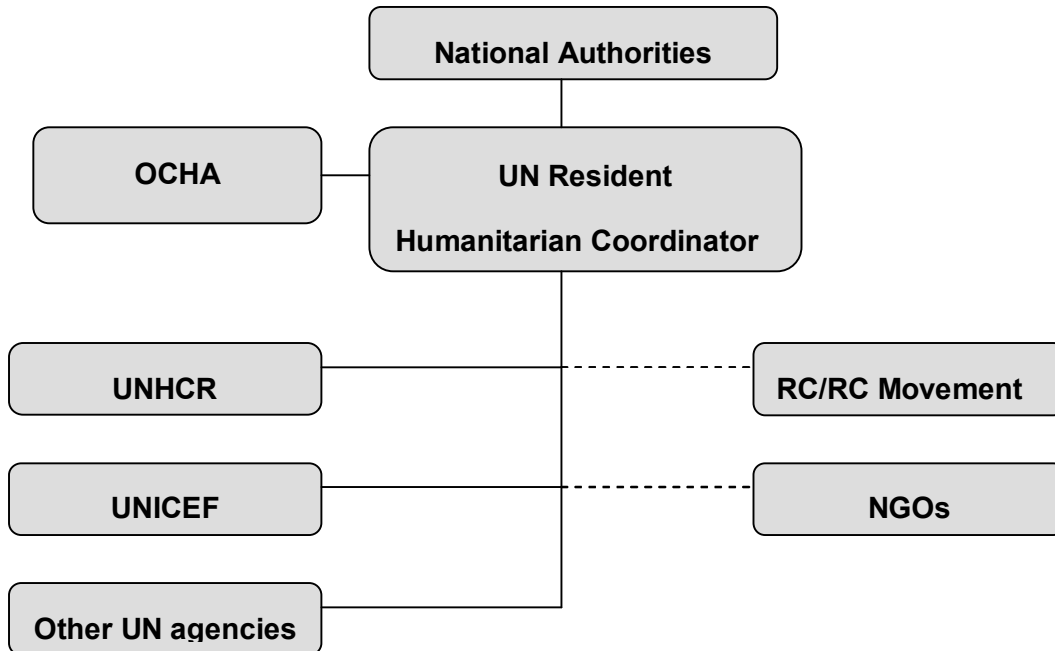
The Representative reports to the UN Commission on Human Rights and works closely with other UN actors, such as the IDD.

For more information on the Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs, see: <http://www.reliefweb.int/idp>.

**Global IDP Project**

The Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council supports the work of the Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Inter-agency Internal Displacement Division by collecting information on all IDP situations worldwide and conducting training workshops to strengthen the capacity of UN actors in the field. For further information on the Global IDP Project, see “**Handout 5 - The Global IDP Project**” and/or see: <http://www.idpproject.org>.

**Roles and responsibilities at the field level**



### Primary responsibility of the state

Primary responsibility for protecting and assisting civilians in internal displacement crises lies with the national authorities of the affected countries. However, the capacity and/or willingness of the authorities to fulfil their responsibilities is often insufficient or lacking. In such circumstances, the international community needs to support and supplement the efforts of the government and local authorities. The scope and complexity of internal displacement call for a multifaceted response and the active involvement of organisations both within and outside the UN system that possess special expertise and resources, including displaced and host communities and civil society.

### Humanitarian and/or resident coordinator (HC and/or RC)

The HC and/or RC (one or two persons, depending on the country) is responsible for the strategic coordination of protection and assistance to IDPs and for negotiating unimpeded humanitarian access. This includes ensuring that humanitarian requirements are adequately addressed before, during, and after an emergency, and advocating for assistance to, and protection of, IDPs.

### Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

To support the HC and/or RC and the country team, an OCHA field presence is usually deployed. The OCHA's support functions with regard to IDPs include:

- Providing support for humanitarian diplomacy or other negotiations, such as on gaining access to IDPs and other vulnerable groups;
- The collection, analysis, and dissemination of IDP-relevant information;
- Supporting the development of coordination tools, such as the Common Humanitarian Action Plan and the Consolidated Appeal, and ensuring the inclusion of IDP concerns;
- Organising and participating in interagency needs assessments, and convening coordination forums.

### Country team

The country team brings together a broad range of UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, including UN humanitarian agencies, the International Organisation for Migration, relevant international NGOs, etc.

The country team should also consult with the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement represented by the ICRC and the IFRC.

### International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, impartial, and independent organisation that has a specific mandate to provide protection and assistance to persons affected by armed conflicts, internal disturbances, and tensions, including IDPs. In general, the ICRC's mandate is discharged in close cooperation with national societies of the Red Cross/Red Crescent supported by their International Federation.

The national societies are mandated to assist the most vulnerable within their own countries, including IDPs, and are often the first and only organisation present at the inception of a disaster.

**Non governmental organisations (NGOs)**

NGOs respond to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs and other vulnerable people, based on their mandate and expertise. They can also play a valuable role in supporting the implementation of the collaborative response.<sup>1</sup>

They can, for example:

- Collect and provide information on protection and assistance needs of IDPs in areas where NGOs operate, as well as NGOs' response capacity to the UN RC/HC, other relevant agencies in the country team, and donors;
- Participate in consultations on IDP issues under the leadership of the UN RC/HC and contribute to the development of a national IDP strategic plan, if possible through an inclusive coordination forum for national and/or international NGOs;
- Support the implementation of a national IDP strategic plan when in line with humanitarian principles and codes of conduct, as well as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- Monitor the implementation of the collaborative response by the UN HC/RC and the country team, including the commitment of country team agencies and the effectiveness of planned activities;
- Advocate for the participation of IDPs at all stages of the international response, including planning, implementation, and assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> Text adapted from *Implementing the Collaborative Response to Situations of Internal Displacement: Guidance for UN Humanitarian and/or Resident Coordinators and Country Teams*, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2004, [www.reliefweb.int/idp/docs/references/IASC%20Policy%20Package%202004r1.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/idp/docs/references/IASC%20Policy%20Package%202004r1.pdf).



## Handout 4 - The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

### Rationale and genesis

The need for international standards for the protection of IDPs became apparent in the 1990s when the number of persons uprooted within their own countries by armed conflict, ethnic strife, and human rights abuse began to soar. When first counted in 1982, there were only 1.2 million IDPs in 11 countries. By 1995, there were an estimated 20 million to 25 million in more than 40 countries, almost twice as many as refugees.

IDPs, like any other people, benefit from the legal protection of international human rights law and, in situations of armed conflict, from international humanitarian law. However, whilst IDPs continue to benefit from the legal protection of all of the international human rights and humanitarian law instruments, they do not benefit from the specialised protection of international refugee law because they have not crossed an international border. The fact of being displaced from one's home places IDPs in a situation of vulnerability to human rights abuses, including from their own government, normally in charge of their protection.

Concern for the vulnerability of IDPs led the UN Commission on Human Rights to ask the Representative on IDPs, Dr Francis Deng, to prepare an appropriate framework for protection and assistance for IDPs. Accordingly, the Representative, with the support of a team of international legal experts, formulated the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which were presented to the Commission in 1998.

### Content

Reflecting, and consistent with, international human rights and humanitarian law, and with refugee law by analogy, the 30 principles set forth the rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of IDPs in all phases of displacement, providing protection against arbitrary displacement, protection and assistance during displacement and during return or internal resettlement and reintegration.

They provide guidance to all relevant actors: the Representative in carrying out his mandate; states when faced with the phenomenon of internal displacement; all other authorities (including *de facto* authorities), groups, and individuals in their relations with IDPs; and inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations. The principles establish that IDPs must not be discriminated against simply because of their displacement, or because of their race, sex, language, religion, social origin, or the like.

The principles restate the right not to be arbitrarily displaced and prohibit displacement on ethnic, religious, or racial grounds.

The principles reaffirm that national authorities have the obligation to ensure that IDPs' basic rights for food, water, shelter, dignity, and safety are met. They should accept the assistance of the international community if they do not have the capacity to provide assistance and protection to IDPs. IDPs have also the right to seek asylum in another country.

In the return phase, the principles emphasise the importance of voluntary and safe return, as well as the need to assist the displaced to recover their property and possessions.

### Non-binding but based on hard law

The Guiding Principles are not binding on states like a treaty (such as the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to Status of Refugees), but:

"[A] closer look at the Guiding Principles might reveal that this very soft instrument might actually turn out to be much harder than many well-known soft law instruments. The reason for this is that

the Guiding Principles are very well grounded in international law. It is possible to cite a multitude of existing legal provisions for almost every principle,<sup>2</sup> which provided the drafters with strong normative guidance. Even where language was used that was not to be found in existing treaty law, no new law in the strict sense of the word was created in most cases. Instead, similar to a judge who has to decide to what extent a human rights guarantee invoked by an IDP does provide protection to that person, Dr. Deng's legal team tried to deduce specific norms from more general principles that are part of existing international law. One example of this technique is Principle 6 on "the right to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced". No existing instrument mentions such a right explicitly. However, humanitarian law prohibits displacement in some specific and limited situations and human rights law, in a more general sense, guarantees not only freedom of movement but also the right to choose one's own residence, and thus, a right to remain<sup>3</sup>. A right not to be displaced can also be found in instruments on the rights of indigenous peoples<sup>4</sup>. From this it can be inferred that a right not to be arbitrarily displaced is already implicit in international law.

"[...] Th[is] and other examples show that the drafters of these guidelines have been very careful not to go beyond what can be based on existing international law. Thus, it is justified to claim, as is stated in paragraph 3 of the Introduction, that "these principles reflect and are consistent with international human rights law and international humanitarian law". (in Water Kälin, *How Hard is Soft Law? The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Need for a Normative Framework*, 2001).

### International bodies

In 2004, the **Commission on Human Rights** expressed "its appreciation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important tool for dealing with situations of internal displacement", welcomed "the dissemination, promotion and application of the Guiding Principles", and encouraged "the continued dissemination and promotion of the Guiding Principles".

The **UN Security Council** noted that, "the United Nations agencies, regional and non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with host Governments, are making use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, inter alia, in Africa" (Resolution 1286(2000) on Burundi).

The **UN General Assembly** welcomed "the fact that the Representative of the Secretary-General continues to use the Guiding Principles in his dialogue with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, and requests him to continue his efforts to further the dissemination, promotion and application of the Guiding Principles" (Resolution 58/177, 2004).

The **UN Secretary General** urged states "to accept the Guiding Principles prepared by his Special Representative as the basic international norm for protection of such persons, and to commit themselves to promote the adoption of these principles through national legislation" (Report of the UNSG *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All*, 21 March 2005, para.210).

**Inter-governmental agencies**, such as the UNHCR, the UNDP, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UNICEF, have incorporated the Guiding Principles into their policy with regard to internal displacement and have disseminated them amongst their staff.

**UN treaty bodies**, which monitor the implementation of UN human rights conventions by state parties, such as the Human Rights Committee or the Committee on the Rights of the Child, have referred to the Guiding Principles in their observations to states.

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<sup>2</sup> You can consult "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Annotations", *Studies in Transnational Legal Policy* 32, 2000, which highlights in detail the legal basis of each of the Guiding Principles, [http://www.asil.org/pdfs/study\\_32.pdf](http://www.asil.org/pdfs/study_32.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See article 12(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Articles 49 and 147 Geneva Convention IV, Articles 51(7), 78(1), and 85(4) of Protocol I, and Articles 4(3)(e) and 17 of Protocol II.

<sup>4</sup> Article 16 of ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.

**Regional organisations** have made use of the Guiding Principles in their work and have further encouraged their dissemination. References to the Guiding Principles can be found in resolutions, recommendations, and reports adopted by the following organisations: the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (Horn of Africa), the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Council of Europe.

### Individual states

- **Angola:** the government incorporated the Guiding Principles into its law on resettlement in order to guide IDP returns after the civil war;
- **Colombia:** the Constitutional Court cited the Guiding Principles as a basis for judgements in support of IDPs;
- **Peru:** the Congress in 2004 adopted a law based on the Guiding Principles that provided for material benefits for IDPs;
- **US:** USAID, the US foreign aid agency, issued a policy document to guide its assistance to IDPs, referring to the Guiding Principles as a "framework for response";
- **Other governments (Burundi, Colombia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uganda)** have developed national policies based on the principles.

### How NGOs can use the Guiding Principles

- Disseminate the Guiding Principles and information about the Guiding Principles, especially in languages used by IDPs and relevant authorities;
- Advocate widely for the application of the Guiding Principles by national authorities and international organisations;
- Support training on the Guiding Principles and on international humanitarian and human rights law for staff, for the displaced themselves, and for relevant authorities and partner organisations;
- Monitor and disseminate information on compliance with the Guiding Principles;
- Support the collection of data that provides accurate information on the numbers of IDPs and their condition, taking due note of requirements for security, protection, and privacy.

### Resources

- **The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** can be downloaded from the website of the Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council:  
[www.idpproject.org/training.htm](http://www.idpproject.org/training.htm)
- **Articles and reviews of the Guiding Principles** can be found on the website of the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement:  
[www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/articles/index.htm](http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/articles/index.htm)
- **The Handbook for Applying the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 1999,  
[www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/LGEL-5CTJBU?OpenDocument](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/LGEL-5CTJBU?OpenDocument)
- **Guidance on the monitoring of IDPs' human rights** can be found in: *Training Manual on Human Rights Monitoring*, Professional Trainings Series No. 7, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2001. See Chapter X:  
[www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/train7\\_d.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/train7_d.pdf); and Chapter XI:  
[www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/train7\\_e.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/train7_e.pdf)

## Handout 5 - The Global IDP Project

The Global IDP Project is an international non-governmental body working for better protection and assistance of people who have been displaced within their own country by conflict or human rights violations. Established by the Norwegian Refugee Council in 1996, it aims to improve responses to the needs of, and to increase respect for the rights of, millions of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, as well as to find solutions that ultimately lead to their safe return or resettlement and integration.

Its main activities are the dissemination of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement amongst all relevant actors through training, and the collection and dissemination of information on the condition of IDPs –through the Global IDP Database.

### Training on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

This module on IDPs was developed by the Global IDP Project. Its objective is to present in a short session some key aspects of the legal and operational framework applying to the provision of protection and assistance to IDPs. These aspects, and others, are detailed and discussed comprehensively in the full training package on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the protection of IDPs, which the Global IDP Project has developed with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Training workshops provide participants with an overview of the main features of the Guiding Principles and trigger a dialogue about their status and implementation at the country level, including the following topics:

- The definition of an internally displaced person;
- The legal background of the Guiding Principles;
- Standards applying to the protection from and during displacement;
- Durable solutions;
- Gender aspects of internal displacement.

The two- or three-day training agenda also gives participants the opportunity to reflect on how to operationalise the Guiding Principles in humanitarian assistance programmes and protection activities. Through group work and other activities, the training focuses on how the protection needs of IDPs can be addressed concretely with due consideration to the country context, by:

- Reviewing protection activities and best practices relevant to situations of internal displacement;
- Mapping the actors in charge of the protection of IDPs;
- Identifying their role and possible contribution to an improved response to the protection needs of IDPs.

The outcome of the workshops is documented in reports prepared by the Global IDP Project, which include conclusions and recommendations for future action and follow-up activities agreed upon by the participants.

Institutions and actors targeted by this training programme include:

- National authorities: key staff members within state or provincial authorities in charge of assistance to, and protection of, IDPs;
- International and national NGOs dealing with IDPs at the country level;
- Leaders/representatives of displaced communities;
- Field staff of UN organisations and other inter-governmental agencies.

The Global IDP Project's training team can be reached for any further information or for requests relating to its training activities at [idpproject@nrc.ch](mailto:idpproject@nrc.ch). Information on the Global IDP Project's training programme and modules is also available at: [www.idpproject.org/training.htm](http://www.idpproject.org/training.htm).

### The IDP Database

The IDP Database was created in 1999 following a request of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (a humanitarian coordination forum under the leadership of the United Nations Emergency Coordinator). It features comprehensive and regularly updated country profiles of all situations of conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide. Each country profile includes an overview of the displacement situation in a given country and provides direct access to virtually all publicly available IDP information. The profiles are tailored to meet a diversity of information needs by offering access to all data included at different levels of detail and depth.

Each country profile covers the following topics: background and causes of displacement; population profiles and figures; patterns of displacement; physical security and freedom; subsistence needs; access to education; issues of self-reliance and participation; documentation needs and citizenship; issues of family unity, identity, and culture; property issues; patterns of return and resettlement; humanitarian access; national and international response.

The country profiles can be accessed directly from the drop-down menus at the top of the **Global IDP Project's homepage**: [www.idpproject.org](http://www.idpproject.org). Access is easy and free-of-charge.

By making relevant information and analysis available to decision-makers, humanitarian practitioners, and the general public, the project seeks to enable key actors at the international, national, and local levels to make timely and informed decisions on responses to the needs and rights of IDPs, in line with international standards such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Global IDP Project  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
7-9 Chemin de Balxert  
1219 Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: + 41 22 799 07 00  
Fax: + 41 22 799 07 01  
Website/Global IDP database: <http://www.idpproject.org>  
[idpproject@nrc.ch](mailto:idpproject@nrc.ch)

**Handout 6 - Optional Activity 3 - Answer Guide****Freedom of movement**

- Protection against arbitrary displacement (GP 6);
- IDPs should not be arbitrarily interned or confined in camps (GP 12);
- Freedom of movement and freedom of choice of residence (GP 14);
- Right to seek safety elsewhere in the country, to leave the country, to seek asylum, to be protected against forced return (GP 15);
- Responsibility of authorities to support the return or resettlement of IDPs (GP 28).

**Non-discrimination**

- Guiding Principles should apply to IDPs without any discrimination based on displacement (GP1);
- Prohibition of discrimination of any kind against IDPs (GP 4);
- Protection of IDPs against discriminatory arrest or detention (GP 12);
- Protection of IDPs against discriminatory recruitment into armed forces (GP 13);
- Prohibition of discrimination against IDPs in the enjoyment of political, civil, and social and economic rights? (GP 22);
- Right to humanitarian assistance without discrimination (GP 24);
- Prohibition of discrimination against IDPs upon return or resettlement (GP 28).

**Participation of IDPs**

- Right of IDPs to request assistance and protection (GP 3);
- Provision of information to those to be displaced and involvement in the planning and management of relocation (in non-emergency situations) (GP 7);
- Participation of women in the planning and distribution of basic supplies (GP 18);
- Right of IDPs to participate in community and public affairs (GP 22);
- Participation of IDPs in the planning and management of return or resettlement (GP 28);
- Right of IDPs to participate in public affairs upon return or resettlement (GP 29).

**Displaced women**

- Prohibition of discrimination against IDPs because of gender (GP 4);
- Consultation of displaced women in planning and management of relocation (GP 7);
- Protection against gender-specific violence (GP 11);
- Full participation in the distribution of basic supplies (GP 18);
- Special attention to the health needs of women (GP 19);
- Equal rights of women and men to obtain documentation (GP 20);



- Full and equal participation of women and girls in education programmes and access to education and training facilities (GP 23).

**Displaced children**

- Prohibition of discrimination against IDPs because of age (GP 4);
- Prohibition of restriction of liberty, including forced labour, sexual exploitation, etc. (GP 11);
- Prohibition of recruitment, participation or permission of displaced children in armed hostilities (GP 13);
- Right of family unity and responsibility of authorities to facilitate reunification (GP 17);
- Displaced children should be provided with education at primary level (GP 23);
- Access to educational and training facilities, particularly for adolescents (GP 23).