



01 July, 2018 Democratic Republic of Congo © UNHCR/Natalia Micevic
Twenty-year-old mother, Divine, fled the village of Rule in Djugu territory with her family last year. She is staying in a makeshift shelter with seven relatives, at a displacement site near the hospital in Bunia, Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). She has not seen her husband since they first fled.

**NEWS BRIEF
APRIL–OCTOBER 2018
GP20 PLAN OF ACTION**

#GP20 #PreventProtectResolve

An update on some activities carried out in implementation of the Plan of Action for Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People 2018–2020 to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20)

GP20 PLAN OF ACTION MILESTONES

- **Sept 2017** - Priorities for the focus of the 20th Anniversary of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were determined at a stakeholder meeting convened in Geneva by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs
- **Nov 2017—April 2018** Development of the GP20 Plan of Action around the determined priorities through consultations with UN member states, UN entities, NGOs, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and key experts on internal displacement
- **17 April 2018** - Launch of the GP20 Plan of Action in Geneva at a stakeholder meeting convened by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and hosted by Austria, Honduras and Uganda
- **24 May 2018** - The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator called on governments to reaffirm their commitment to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the international community to bring forth renewed action to address internal displacement
- **31 May 2018** - Endorsement of the GP20 Plan of Action by Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals in New York at a session devoted to internal displacement with agreement to support its implementation and engage in collective action
- **Oct 2018** - GP20 focal points established in 20 Resident Coordinator offices

NATIONAL ACTION

AFRICA

Central African Republic: Moving forward with a law on protection and assistance to IDPs

In September 2018, the Minister for Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation led a workshop to validate the draft law on protection and assistance to IDPs together with the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNHCR. Over 50 people attended, including representatives of various ministries, authorities from regions affected by displacement, the humanitarian team, NGOs, civil society and IDPs. The draft bill was validated with recommendations and will be presented to the Commission of Official Texts before submission to the Council of Ministers. In parallel, IDPs and others affected by displacement were brought together in games competitions, traditional dance performances and male and female football tournament to raise awareness on internal displacement under the local GP20 theme “Resolve and reduce displacement in CAR through prevention, protection and durable solutions.”

Niger: Multi-faceted and multi-stakeholder action on internal displacement

In cooperation with the authorities, the Protection Cluster led a multi-stakeholder process with regional and national consultations of IDPs and others to develop a GP20 Plan of Action adapted to the local context, which has been validated. The Niger government, through an Inter-Ministerial Committee created in December 2017, is advancing developing a draft law on internal displacement which includes national consultations with IDPs and other stakeholders. Ahead of those efforts, government officials, defense and security forces, cluster members and UN staff were trained on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in collaboration with the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs. To reach the broader public, radio messages on the Guiding Principles and their importance in Niger are being disseminated in multiple languages. A training module on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displace-

ment was approved by the Commander of the Special Forces and included in the official training curriculum for 7,000 Nigerian Defense and Security Forces.



Regional multi-stakeholder workshop in Diffa contributing to development of national GP20 Plan of Action, June 2018, Niger

South Sudan: Pushing forward to address internal displacement through GP20

A national High Level Panel on National Legislation on Internal Displacement in South Sudan in early September 2018 brought together government officials, eminent experts on internal displacement, the World Bank, private sector, donors as well as development and humanitarian actors and the African Union to discuss a draft law to address internal displacement. The event was preceded by training of government officials and UN staff on IDP law and policy making, drafting of a national law on internal displacement, activities for ratification of the Kampala Convention, dialogue and consultations with IDPs on the form and substance of a national IDP law, consultation with government officials and a desk review and gap analysis of national legislation and policy relevant to internal displacement.

AMERICAS

Colombia: Symbolic event in solidarity with IDPs

A round table discussion with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Colombian government officials and civil society organizations in October highlight strong solidarity with IDPs. Conclusions were that with significant new internal displacements in 2018, addressing the needs of IDPs in Colombia still requires collective action, and government institutions and civil society organizations need to continue efforts on prevention and protection of IDPs with a differentiated approach for Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities. Furthermore, as national and international attention is focused on arrivals from Venezuela, attention to IDPs should not diminish as the risk of ignoring IDPs is increasing xenophobia towards Venezuelan migrants and asylum seekers.

Honduras: Raising awareness of internal displacement through art

The National Institute of Migration and UNHCR convened the #RefugiaArte exhibition, an initiative in which more than 40 Latin American artists participated to sensitize states, the international community and general public about the situations faced by those seeking protection as a result of conflict and persecution. Participants included the Migrant Child Task Force, relevant state institutions, civil society organizations and UN agencies. Further events are planned for the rest of 2018 focusing on milestones reached for IDPs during 2018 including approval of the law on forced displacement, government assistance to IDPs, IDP consultations, and the update to the IDP profiling exercise. UNHCR will also raise awareness on impact of violence in schools through presentation of the results of its consultations.

Mexico: Acknowledging internal displacement in Chihuahua

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the government of Chihuahua committed his state government to recognize internal displacement at an international forum on the issue. Among the audience were around 30 IDPs, one of whom was one of the opening panel speakers in addition to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs.



The Governor of Chihuahua opening an International Forum on internal displacement in the state of Chihuahua, September 2018, Mexico

ASIA

Myanmar: Framing solutions for IDPs

Building on the momentum and visibility generated by the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, UNHCR is conducting awareness-raising activities on the Guiding Principles with IDP communities and has drawn attention to displacement and disability through a photo exhibition at the Yangon Photo Festival. A Core Group of government and UN agencies has also been established to work on the development of a Government National Strategy on Closure of IDP Camps and its work is ongoing with recommendations to the government based on the Guiding Principles.

EUROPE

Ukraine: Rolling ahead to address protracted displacement with a multi-stakeholder approach

Following the publication of the OCHA-commissioned study 'Breaking the Impasse: Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement as a Collective Outcome' in 2017, OCHA and UNHCR have been working with the government of Ukraine and a range of partners to address protracted internal displacement in the country. This has included a high-level workshop with the Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs and the RC/HC, adoption of the National Strategy on IDPs and development of the related action plan, development of collective outcomes by the Humanitarian Country Team, and the preparation of local workshops on practical measures to address protracted internal displacement through collective outcomes to be held in October 2018. A UN MAPS mission in February 2018 also supported the government on designing measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including to ensure that IDPs are not left behind.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq: Guidance on IDP electoral participation

Ahead of Iraq's parliamentary election on 12 May 2018, the humanitarian community supported IDPs to exercise their right to vote, including in camps. The Humanitarian Country Team developed a note on the elections and protection of displaced voters, and the Protection and CCCM Clusters issued operational guidance for their partners. The Protection Cluster also compiled an election incidents tracking matrix used by partners to document incidents channeled to Governorate Electoral Offices. The Iraq Independent High Electoral Commission also prepared voter information materials, including for IDP voters, and humanitarians posted these materials in camps and other humanitarian spaces to increase IDP access to electoral information.

