



**PREVENT
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**NEWSLETTER
May–July 2020
www.gp20.org**

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A snapshot of updates and activities carried out in line with 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)

Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement - Principle 5

All authorities and international actors shall respect their obligations under international law, including human rights and humanitarian law, in all circumstances, so as to prevent and avoid conditions that might lead to displacement of persons.



July 2020, Nepal Red Cross Society. Triyuga River breached its embankment and entered a village in Udayapur district in Nepal increasing the risk of displacement. A local response team consisting of trained Nepal Red Cross Society volunteers and local people was quickly alerted to strengthen the embankments and prevent the floodwater from entering the settlements and people being displaced.

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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AFRICA

Niger: IDPs displaced again after site attack



On 31 May, [armed groups](#) [attacked Intikane](#), a site in western Niger where thousands of refugees and IDPs live. Over 8000 refugees, local residents and IDPs, including over 1300 IDPs, fled to the nearby village of Telemces. In June, IDPs and others received assistance from national and local authorities, international organizations and local NGOs, including water, latrines, food, shelter and health assistance.

Somalia: First steps towards domesticating the Kampala Convention

Following the deposition of the ratification instrument of the Kampala Convention at the African Union in March 2020, the Federal Government of Somalia recognized the need for an expert to support the domestication of the treaty. Professor Chaloka Beyani, who is a member of the Expert Advisory Group of the UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and has previously served as UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, has been engaged by UNHCR to support the development of a draft national IDP law in Somalia. Consultations started in June with high-level government representatives and Professor Beyani will next meet with government technical experts and key UN stakeholders.



Somalia: Consultation between Minister of Women and Human Rights Development and Prof. Chaloka Beyani with UNHCR, June 2020

Somalia: Linking humanitarian, development and peace work to address displacement

Since 2018, the introduction of a durable solutions marker has helped the government and donors in Somalia track 90 million USD of assistance by identifying where an intervention targets or is relevant for durable solutions. In May, members of the Somalia Durable Solutions Working Group began a review of the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) projects and data from [Aid Information Management System](#). NRC, Concern Worldwide, UNHCR and UNDP are conducting this exercise with support from OCHA, the UN Integrated Office, the World Bank and the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat. The objective is to identify links between short-term humanitarian interventions and long-term development and peace programmes.

South Sudan: Action plan for durable solutions drafted while IDP bill still under review

In June, South Sudan marked the first anniversary of its accession to the Kampala Convention. Enshrining its protection principles into national law remains critical for nearly 1.7 million IDPs in the country. A costed action plan was drafted in April 2020 for the Government Framework for Return, Relocation and Reintegration that was endorsed in October 2019. The IDP bill, the development of which Professor Chaloka Beyani also led remains under review by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Read more [here](#) in the UNHCR statement released on the anniversary of accession to the Kampala Convention.



South Sudan: IDPs at Mahad camp in Juba, August 2019

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AMERICAS

Colombia: Advancing durable solutions and reducing IDPs' vulnerability

Amidst the pandemic and the quarantine measures established by the Colombian government, local authorities, communities and UNHCR continued work on legalizing informal settlements, including documentation and technical studies. In 2020, IDPs, host communities, Venezuelan refugees and Colombian returnees in 16 informal settlements will benefit from the legalization process. In parallel, IDP participation has been facilitated in the transitional justice mechanisms created under the Peace Agreement - the Special Peace Jurisdiction and the Truth Commission. The non-judicial Truth Commission offers an important opportunity to research forced displacement in border regions of the country as an opportunity for IDPs to seek truth, justice and reparation.

Honduras: Protecting people at risk of displacement

In June, over 140 families negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and living in zones at high risk of displacement as identified in the IDP profiling study received humanitarian assistance from World Vision and UNHCR. Over 6,700 vulnerable families are due to benefit. Teachers are a particular group at risk of violence and displacement in Honduras and in July the Departmental Directorate of Education of Francisco Morazán and UNHCR discussed the transfer of teachers at risk to other education institutions. A process to prioritize the transfer requests of teachers at risk of displacement will be put in place for faster and more effective transfers in 2021.

Mexico: IDP law adopted in state of Sinaloa

In July, the Congress of the state of Sinaloa [passed an IDP law](#) entitled "Ley para Prevenir, Atender y Reparar Desplazamiento Forzado Interno". Although an IDP law is being developed at the national level, the state of Sinaloa joins other states in Mexico such as Chiapas and Guerrero to take legislative measures at the state level. This law provides for the creation of a (i) local register for IDPs; (ii) a special fund; (iii) a state program that will be renewed every three years, (iv) the creation of a cross-sectoral commission, as well as (v) the inclusion of forced internal displacement as a crime. The legislative draft is available [here](#).



NEW video: How are IDPs doing one year after Hurricane Dorian? [All Hands on Deck: IDPs Help Rebuild the Bahamas](#)



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

ASIA

Afghanistan: IDPs struggle in the face of COVID-19

The onset of the rainy season combined with overcrowded living conditions in IDP settlements and limited water and sanitation facilities has increased [IDPs' vulnerability to COVID-19](#). The Municipality of Kabul sanitized an IDP camp in Kabul multiple times to prevent the spread of COVID-19 cases with support from the Jesuit Refugee Service. "We are less concerned about the virus than the lack of food and livelihoods opportunities," said one resident of an informal IDP settlement in Herat. Food rations were provided to over 10,000 IDP, returnee and host families in Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan and Daikundi provinces thanks to multi-stakeholder support.



Afghanistan: Food ration distribution in Kabul, June 2020.

Afghanistan: Continuing assistance to IDPs during COVID-19 restrictions

The work of some organizations assisting and protecting IDPs has been interrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions and consequences. However, awareness raising, protection monitoring and psychosocial support designed to help IDPs cope with the effects of COVID-19 has continued. In addition, students from remote IDP communities in Herat and Bamiyan districts used radio to access education programs organized by local NGOs, community leaders and the Jesuit Refugee Service, and 20 IDP youth benefited from a two-month electrical and wiring training program conducted through Herat Technical Institute.



Afghanistan: Accessing education by radio in the COVID-19 environment

Afghanistan: Making progress towards implementation of National IDP Policy

To further implementation of its National IDP Policy and corresponding Action Plan, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation with Welthungerhilfe developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism and a Complaints Response Mechanism. The Administrative Office of the President as well as the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission have been consulted on these tools. Sectoral ministries, such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education, amongst others, are reviewing the National IDP Policy Action Plan. International stakeholders will be consulted next.



Afghanistan: Consultation at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, June 2020

Philippines: IDP monitoring shows need for water and hygiene items in COVID-19 context

The Commission on Human Rights returned to on-site monitoring of the rights of IDPs, with compliance of health and safety protocols, when the lockdown was lifted in June 2020. Through the UNHCR-CHR IDP Protection Project, the Commission worked in coordination with local government executives, community leaders, and members of community-based IDP networks, which included remote monitoring in Region VIII and Mindanao regions. IDPs reported dwindling humanitarian support, poor risk communication to communities, inadequate access to water supply, and lack of hygiene items in IDP sites.



Philippines: Monitoring IDPs' rights in the context of COVID-19

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

EUROPE

Kosovo: Ensuring no one is left behind in the COVID-19 response

To mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kosovo's disadvantaged communities and domestic violence survivors will receive assistance including medical check-ups, medicine, food, psychological support, small grants and vocational training. This will be complemented with protection monitoring, awareness raising, advocacy, legal aid, shelter safety plans and an online information platform.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Iraq: IDPs returning home

A joint initiative by IOM, UN Women, UNHCR and coordinated by the UN Development Coordination Office, the program is based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development principle “leave no one behind”. COVID-19 responses are coordinated between IOM, UNHCR and other actors based on vulnerability assessments and protection monitoring.

Addressing displacement was also discussed in [a live television program](#) in July 2020 organized by civil society organizations and the media on global priorities. Guests included the United Nations Development Coordinator’s Office, UNICEF, UNHCR and community representatives.

A new Durable Solutions Task Force is advancing solutions for IDPs in line with a Plan of Action endorsed in May. In July, over 50 IDP families [returned to their areas of origin](#) in Anbar Governorate from Amriyat al-Fallujah camp. In Sinjar, the local authorities, NGOs and UN agencies, including IOM and UNDP, are working with the government of Iraq to ensure [returning IDPs are supported](#) and can access services.



Iraq: IDPs returning from Amriyat al-Fallujah camp

Ukraine: First local elections with IDP participation

Beginning from 1 July 2020, IDPs as well as millions of internal migrants and citizens without a registered residence will, for the first time, be able to permanently register to vote where they actually reside. More than 5 million Ukrainians may benefit from these new procedures that de-link the right to vote from Ukraine’s residence registration system. The Central Election Commission and civil society groups launched a broad information campaign to encourage eligible voters to register ahead of Ukraine’s 25 October local elections, and a [public service announcement](#) informs IDPs about the new voting procedures.

Yemen: COVID-19 is an emerging cause of displacement

By mid-2020, IOM recorded more than 100,000 people having been forced to flee – mostly due to fighting and insecurity. However, COVID-19 is beginning to emerge as a new cause of internal displacement across the country. From 30 March to 18 July, the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix recorded [over 10,000 people moving due to COVID-19](#), most typically related to fears of contracting the virus and the impact of the outbreak on services and the worsening economic crisis.



Ukraine: Internally displaced pediatrician, Natalia Bravistova, displaced from Donetsk in 2014



UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement is eager to hear from you

The UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement continues to welcome written submissions. For more details, go to <https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/content/get-involved> or email Caelin Briggs caelin.briggs@un.org

REGIONAL EXCHANGES

AMERICAS

Exchanging lessons learned on internal displacement in the region

On 25 June, authorities and human rights institutions in Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico shared lessons learned on effective governance mechanisms, data collection and analysis, and the development of laws and policies to prevent, address, and resolve internal displacement. Co-convened by GP20 and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the online event had key contributions from the IACHR, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, and Paula Gaviria Betancur, a member of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The final report and recording will be available soon [here](#).

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Exchanging lessons learned on internal displacement in the region

On 7 July, government representatives in Libya, Syria and Yemen exchanged lessons learned on addressing internal displacement. Libya focused on data, coordination, support to municipalities and return, Syria explained their “One Window” project in Homs and Hama assisting IDPs to access housing compensation and other services, and Yemen told how the Executive Unit for IDPs worked with international agencies to relocate IDPs to an IDP camp equipped with services following their eviction from private land. Convened by GP20, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, and Dr. Sama Samir, a member of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement also gave key statements. The final report and recording will be available soon [here](#).

GLOBAL ACTION

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs reports to Human Rights Council

The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs presented a [thematic report on persons with disabilities in displacement contexts](#) at the 44th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in June where she highlighted the importance of [ensuring the](#)

[inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities](#) in protection, assistance and durable solutions.

She also organised a virtual side event on the same topic with IOM and the International Disability Alliance. The Secretariat of the UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, UNHCR and a representative of the Government of Kenya were among the participants.

The Special Rapporteur also presented to the Human Rights Council the [report on her official visit to Iraq](#) undertaken in February 2020, and stressed the [need for justice and reconciliation to address protracted displacement in Iraq](#).

High-Level Discussion on Internal Displacement at 2020 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

In June, humanitarian and human rights leaders convened in a virtual event to explore mobilizing humanitarian assistance and durable solutions for IDPs as well as host communities and governments affected by internal displacement. [OCHA](#), [OHCHR](#) and [IOM](#) statements and [video](#) are available. The event showcased efforts by the international community and national authorities to pursue concrete solutions for IDPs as part of the week-long Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Vatican makes several announcements related to IDPs

The Vatican published [Pastoral orientations on internally displaced people](#) in May, which encourages dioceses and parishes to champion the cause of the internally displaced. Pope Francis also published his annual [message](#) for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, focusing on the plight of IDPs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow-up statements were also made at the local level, including by Parish officials in Iraq and Colombia, and an [IDP family video testimony](#) was also produced.

High-Level Panel, IFRC and ICRC event on prevention of internal displacement

In July, the UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, in collaboration with the IFRC and ICRC, organized a virtual discussion on preventing internal displacement due to armed conflict, violence and disasters. The event offered an opportunity for Panel members, experts and practitioners from around the world to share their views and experiences and

sought to develop recommendations for the High-Level Panel's report. A video recording of the event is available [here](#).

UNICEF global report on internally displaced children

UNICEF's report, [Lost at Home](#), was launched in May during a virtual panel including speakers from Honduras, Afghanistan, a youth delegate from Cameroon and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs. It presents the scale and scope of the internal displacement of children and their families around the world. It calls for investments and united efforts from governments, civil society, private sector, humanitarian actors and children and youth themselves, to find solutions for and with internally displaced children and youth. And for governments to take concrete action to not only protect internally displaced children, but to recognize and help foster their potential.



Syria: Boushra, 9, displaced from east Aleppo, 2017

GLOBAL GP20 ACTIVITIES

GP20 Steering Group: Addressing urban internal displacement in Burkina Faso, Colombia and Iraq

The seventh GP20 Steering Group meeting was held on 17 June online and focused on urban internal displacement. Co-organized with UN Habitat, IDMC, JIPS and ICRC, the event featured government speakers from Burkina Faso, Iraq and Colombia as well as World Bank experts on inclusion and resilience. Over 180 participants attended. The summary of the meeting and country presentations will be disseminated to all participants and soon be available [here](#). The last GP20 Steering Group meeting will be held online in September 2020 and will focus on the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. To join the meeting, please write to gp20@unhcr.org.

GP20 Webinars: Financing to prevent and address displacement and the use of data on internal displacement

In May, the fifth GP20 webinar co-organized with IFRC focused on mechanisms to finance prevention and resolution of internal displacement. Speakers from the German government, World Bank and IFRC shared their experience with anticipatory action and financing ahead of humanitarian crises. The summary and presentations are [here](#). In July, the sixth webinar co-organized with IOM and IDMC focused on the use of data on internal displacement with examples from South Sudan, Cameroon, Afghanistan and the Philippines. The summary will soon be available at www.gp20.org. GP20 is organizing one final webinar in October 2020 on peacebuilding in Colombia.



You're invited!

The Global Protection Cluster invites you to the [2020 Global Protection Forum](#). The Forum jointly hosted by the GPC Strategic Advisory Group and the Child Protection, Gender Based Violence, Housing Land and Property, and Mine Action Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) is composed of a series of webinars and events spread across the last 4 months of 2020. Join us on these [dates](#) as we delve into protection challenges, review the strategic direction of the cluster, and plan activities for the field and global level.

NEW RESOURCES



COVID-19 and IDPs
[COVID-19 and People on the Move](#), UN Secretary General, June 2020

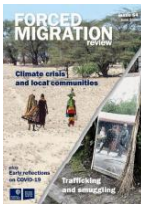
See also: [Reducing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on IDPs](#), IFRC/ICRC, May 2020



Humanitarian, development and peace collaboration at country level
[UN-IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes](#), IASC Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration, June 2020



Aspirations Survey – Somalia
[Listening to Displacement Affected Communities over Time](#), ReDSS-Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, March 2020



Intersecting issues
[Climate crisis and local communities / Trafficking and smuggling / COVID-19: early reflections](#), Forced Migration Review, June 2020



Gender and climate-induced displacement
[Evicted by climate change - Confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement](#), CARE, July 2020



Data and Analysis on Internal Displacement
[The Displacement Continuum: The Relationship between Internal Displacement and Cross-Border Movement in Seven Countries](#), IDMC, June 2020



Recommendations on urban internal displacement
[Working with IDP's realities in an urban world: Submission to UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), UN Habitat, IIED, JIPS, May 2020



Guidance for designing a sampling approach
[Sampling Guide for Displacement Situations & Practical Examples](#), JIPS, June 2020



IDP data recommendations for the High-Level Panel
[The Transformative Potential of Data in Internal Displacement Situations: Submission to UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), JIPS, May 2020

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We invite you to share your activities as well as any feedback or questions by writing to the GP20 Coordinator at GP20@unhcr.org

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