

31,000 PEOPLE A DAY INTERNALLY DISPLACED BY DISASTERS ACROSS ASIA IN 2017

Hazards such as storms and floods displaced 11.4 million people during the year

16 May 2018, London - Around 8.6 million people in East Asia and Pacific and 2.8 million in South Asia fled within their own countries to escape the impacts of disasters in 2017, according to a new report from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Key findings from the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018) show that sudden onset disasters, mostly linked to weather-related hazards like floods and storms, accounted for the vast majority of new displacements in the region. This is with the exception of hundreds of thousands fleeing conflict in the Philippines and Afghanistan, 645,000 and 474,000 respectively.

“The scale of this displacement is dishearteningly familiar,” said Alexandra Bilak, Director of IDMC. “This report shows why we need a new approach to address the huge costs of internal displacement, not only to individuals, but also to the economy, stability and security of affected countries.”

East Asia and Pacific is the world’s most disaster-prone region, and it accounted for almost half of the 18.8 million displacements associated with natural hazards globally.

The Hunan floods in southern China triggered Asia’s largest disaster of 2017, displacing more than 1.6 million people. Tropical storm Tembin displaced 865,000 in Viet Nam and the Philippines, and Kai-tak displaced 765,000 in the Philippines and Malaysia.

“The staggering number of people forced to flee from their homes due to conflict and violence must serve as an eye opener to us all,” said Jan Egeland, NRC’s Secretary General. “We are getting better at providing emergency aid, but we need to put a lot more effort into preventing displacement, protecting people, and finding long-term solutions.”

In South Asia, the worst-affected countries were India, Bangladesh and Nepal, with 1,346,000, 946,000 and 384,000 new displacements respectively, all of them associated with climate-related hazards such as floods and landslides triggered by the monsoon season in the region.

“Internal displacement often heralds the start of broader crises. While we have seen some useful policy progress since the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 20 years ago, it is nowhere near enough to cope with, much less reduce, the scale of the problem,” said Bilak.

Bilak added, “without renewed action, we risk failing millions of internally displaced people worldwide, and holding back the development of the countries which host them. It’s time for an honest conversation on the most effective ways to turn the tide on this global crisis. This conversation must be led by affected countries and receive full support from the international community.”

[NOTES TO EDITORS:](#)

About IDMC:

[IDMC](#) is the leading source of information and analysis on internal displacement globally. We are part of the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#), an independent, non-governmental humanitarian organisation.

IDMC was set up in 1998 at the request of the international community to fill an important knowledge gap on the global scale and patterns of internal displacement. Since then, tens of millions of people become internally displaced each year as a result of conflict, violence and disasters. While the numbers are rising and the needs of millions go unaddressed, internal displacement continues to receive insufficient political attention and commitment.

For interviews please contact:

Sian Bowen, Head of Communications, IDMC

Email: sian.bowen@idmc.ch

Office: + 41 22 552 36 12

Mobile: +41 78 630 16 78

Frankie Parrish, Media Coordinator, IDMC

Email: frankie.parrish@idmc.ch

Office: + 41 22 552 36 45

Mobile: +44 79 77 41 25 60

NRC media hotline: +47 90 56 23 29

Email: info@nrc.no

Landing page:

Visit <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/> to access GRID 2018 and a media pack, containing all global and regional press releases, translations in French, Spanish and Arabic, a highlights document with facts and figures, and b-roll.

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