

FOREWORD

Some of the worst ever levels of violence and displacement were recorded in 2017, driven by political instability and conflict, complex humanitarian emergencies, failed peace agreements, urban warfare and disasters. The international humanitarian system delivered assistance and protection to more people on the move than ever. They include tens of millions displaced within their own countries.

Conflict in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen continued to force dramatic numbers of people to flee their homes. Cyclones, violent storms and floods also swept across the Caribbean and South Asia, destroying vital infrastructure and leaving millions of people homeless.

This year's GRID is published as we mark the 20th anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Two decades of investment in improving the lives of internally displaced people (IDPs) have not, however, enabled us to find solutions for the majority of them. Progress in policy development has been made, but this report clearly shows that normative aspirations must be matched with implementation and tangible progress.

There is hope, however. This report lays out our common path ahead. Internal displacement is central to the three core UN functions: ensuring peace and security, promoting sustainable development and protecting human rights. We have become better at coordinating our response to the phenomenon, but this must now be accompanied by investments in preventive action.

Our commonly agreed global sustainable development agenda provides a strong framework for us to address the drivers of future displacement risk and reduce its impact. Countries are also beginning to lead the way in achieving the collective outcomes that displaced communities so desperately need.

As the world finalises coherent approaches to supporting refugees, migrants and host communities, this report is a welcome reminder that we need to support people on the move no matter where they are. We owe this to the millions of IDPs worldwide, and we owe it to ourselves if we are to fulfil our ambition to leave no one behind in making the world a safer place for all.



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