



As the international community marks the 20th anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, high rates of internal displacement continue to be recorded each year, driven by instability, armed conflict and violence, sudden and slow-onset disasters. In 2017, IDMC reported 30.6 million new internal displacements by conflict and disasters across 143 countries and territories. While the global numbers of conflict-related internally displaced people (IDPs) has doubled over the last twenty years, with 40.3 million IDPs as of December 2017, every year since 2008 an additional 26.4 million displacements take place on average in the context of disasters. Despite these high numbers, there are still many gaps in how we understand and address this phenomenon, and too little international attention on the issue. Given the current global landscape, a strategic approach is required to firmly position internal displacement as one of the key global challenges of our time.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) are joining forces to step up policy and action on internal displacement. This global partnership is a key step in realizing the strategic objectives of IOM's Framework for Addressing Internal Displacement, and will aim at expanding and improving the analysis of data on internally displaced populations in conflict and disaster contexts. The partnership aims to gain a better understanding of internal displacement trends and how they connect to wider migratory patterns and longer-term development challenges. With this, IOM and IDMC plan to advance national and global policy-making and mobilize political will and action for more effective humanitarian and development approaches to this phenomenon.

The partnership brings together the technical and operational capacity of IOM in responding to the mobility dimensions of crises, and IDMC's leading expertise on internal displacement data, analysis and policy development. On IOM's side, the partnership will involve the full scope of the Organization's

structures dedicated to crisis preparedness, emergency response, and recovery, including its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the world's largest source of primary data on internal displacement. As the global authority on internal displacement, IDMC will complement IOM's capacity with expertise in the identification and monitoring of internal displacement trends worldwide, IDP data collection standards, practical research into the drivers, patterns, and impacts of internal displacement, and targeted policy advice to governments, UN agencies and donors. This partnership builds on a strong and long-standing relationship between the two organizations, and will formalize and increase the breadth of the collaboration. It will pursue two key objectives:

1. To improve policy and operational responses through the generation of new data, analysis and research into displacement patterns, drivers and trends.
2. To support national policy development and advance global approaches on internal displacement across relevant humanitarian, development and peace-building policy agendas.

## WHAT THE PARTNERSHIP WILL DELIVER:

As a result of this partnership, governments as well as humanitarian and development actors working on the world's major displacement crises, will have at their disposal:

- Updated timely data analysis of migratory routes from the point of departure to the point of arrival;
- A way of anticipating future movements and displacement crises and the knowledge to prepare accordingly and respond;
- A better understanding of what happens to people once they have left IDP settlements and the conditions upon their return, or once they have crossed an international border;
- Better understanding of the longer-term implications of these displacement crises on local and national economies, and more actionable ways of implementing the humanitarian-development nexus;
- Data and evidence on the drivers, patterns and impacts of these movements, including an understanding of the exact needs of displaced communities for more timely, targeted and effective humanitarian and development responses;
- Tools to plan and prepare for humanitarian response;
- Tools to address protracted displacement and knowledge of who needs to engage, and where the entry points are in order to achieve durable solutions;
- Authoritative recommendations for policies to integrate displacement into broader policy agendas linked to the 2030 SDGs, Climate Change and Sustaining Peace Agendas and efforts to link Humanitarian, Development and Peace action.

## THE PARTNERSHIP

### 1. IMPROVED DATA AND EVIDENCE ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Many improvements have been made over the last decade in the way data on internal displacement is collected. With a wealth of data already available through IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the need now is to invest more in the analysis of this data in order to improve understanding of displacement flows, trends and impacts.

The main analytical gaps come from diverse and often disparate data sets that make it difficult to track dynamic situations as they evolve and to connect recorded data to specific movements on the ground. Addressing these gaps will result in a more comprehensive picture of displacement flows - including new, secondary, repeated movements, as well as returns. This evidence will inform more targeted and effective policy-making by government and other actors in complex crises.

There is also now an urgent need to assess IDP needs and vulnerabilities more accurately and systematically. This is needed to enhance decision-makers' ability to weigh the needs of people in different displacement crises, to understand how IDP needs evolve during the same crisis, to support processes towards ending displacement for IDPs and to provide a better sense of what IDP caseloads mean for a country or region's broader development trajectory.

IOM and IDMC have already begun to address some of these challenges. In Iraq, our collaboration has led to a better understanding of the scale and dynamics of IDP returns, which has enabled us to advocate for longer-term monitoring and support to return processes. In Afghanistan, we have worked to better inform when, why and how returnees may face situations of internal displacement, and where more long-term and sustained monitoring and support were needed. In the context of the recent drought in Ethiopia, IDMC's and IOM's collaborative analysis of the DTM data has led to the first verified drought-related displacement figures included in the 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement; and in several countries our collaboration has helped triangulate displacement data from multiple sources and publish more reliable, evidence-based information.

IDMC will maintain a roster of experts who will deploy to support the analysis of data collected by the DTM teams across new and ongoing displacement crises. IDMC and IOM will also test new tools for identifying and monitoring specific instances of conflict-related displacement, for assessing displacement in hard-to-reach areas, and for forecasting future displacement flows. We will also enhance how displacement data is reported and made available to operational partners and policymakers. This will provide critical new evidence for informing the transition from immediate humanitarian responses towards recovery and development.

In addition to stepping up collaboration on the analysis of internal displacement data, IOM and IDMC will engage in joint quantitative and qualitative analyses on three critically relevant policy issues:

- **Cross-border displacement and returns:** IOM and IDMC play a major role in informing discussions on the links between internal displacement, cross-border movements and returns. Providing interoperable data on both IDPs and returnees is essential to guiding effective policy and response. There is also a need to better understand when internal displacement may produce cross-border movements, and the barriers to durable solutions for persons returning from abroad, sometimes back into situations of internal displacement. Drawing on their respective expertise, IOM and IDMC will work with displacement data collection partners to improve displacement tracking during phases of high return, ensuring that persons returning from abroad and finding themselves internally displaced can be targeted through appropriate assistance mechanisms. This will help ensure that the needs of some of the most vulnerable populations are met. In addition, the partnership will pilot adjustments in DTM to better measure progress towards durable solutions for IDPs and the sustainability of returns, integrating new tools such as IOM's returns index and IDMC's upcoming displacement severity assessment.
- **Displacement in the context of drought:** Significant additional investment is needed to track ongoing displacement and estimate future displacement risk related to slow-onset hazards, particularly drought. By combining IDMC's conceptual and methodological expertise and the DTM's capacity to collect data, this collaboration will ensure more comprehensive, accurate and comparable evidence on drought-related displacement. Other partners will also be included, resulting in a stronger collective understanding of the causal relationships between drought, conflict, food insecurity, livelihoods and displacement. Based on a comprehensive mapping of these factors, IDMC and IOM will develop evidence and tools which will enable decision-makers to explore the impact of climate change, demographic and development trends on future displacement flows, assess the effectiveness of different climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and development policies, and ultimately help reduce future displacement risk.
- **Urbanization and internal displacement:** Despite growing literature and research on urban crises, the scale of internal displacement in urban areas remains poorly understood. This partnership will provide new evidence on the number of people displaced in urban areas, and the specificities, patterns and trends in their displacement. Benefiting from IOM and IDMC's joint expertise in displacement data collection and monitoring, this partnership will produce key knowledge about displacement flows from rural areas into, within, and across urban areas over time. IOM and IDMC will also conduct research in cities affected by internal displacement to enhance the knowledge base on the unique characteristics of urban displacement. In so doing, the research will improve understanding on the average duration of urban displacement and the processes that can lead to the end of displacement, the drivers of displacement risk in cities, the impacts that displacement has on urban development and how best to support local and city governments to address these issues.

## 2. PROGRESS ON NATIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY-MAKING

It is critical that Member States drive policy making to reduce and address internal displacement, making prevention, risk reduction and resilience building an integral part of national development planning. Building on the momentum gained during the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in 2018, IOM and IDMC will continue engaging and supporting Member States to advance collective outcomes for people internally displaced or at risk of becoming so.

To facilitate stronger leadership on internal displacement, it is vital that countries have a space for open dialogue, where they can identify common challenges, share concerns and consider solutions. To enable this, IDMC and IOM will continue to convene their “Displacement Dialogues” throughout 2019-2023 with interested Member States. Through these dialogues we aim to build the case for more political will and financial investment in this issue, and to identify practical steps that states can take to end existing and reduce new internal displacement. Member States’ perspectives and priorities will help shape the formulation of future policies and global discussions on internal displacement.

We will intensify our work in support of efforts by the international community to develop new approaches to internal displacement. As members of the Steering Committee of the GP20 Plan of Action, we will continue to work on improving the evidence base on internal displacement, help Member States develop effective laws and policies, support initiatives aimed at finding durable solutions, and foster IDP participation. Should a High-Level Panel on internal displacement be formed, we will do our utmost to contribute our unique operational, analytical and policy expertise to help deliver a successful outcome. Further, we will work to ensure that these initiatives – and broader outcomes from our collaboration on evidence and analysis – concretely link to, and inform, global policy processes.



To this end, we will work together with key partners in the UN system and with Member States to directly inform international frameworks and policy processes under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda. We will draw on our expertise on understanding the drivers of displacement and overcoming barriers to ending displacement to support progress on the Sustaining Peace Agenda and the Prevention Agenda. We will continue to monitor and inform the implementation of policy frameworks on disasters and climate change. Through our membership on the Task Force on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage of the UNFCCC, we will jointly contribute knowledge and expertise on internal displacement drivers and impacts related to climate change. We will also directly contribute to the multi-stakeholder efforts of the UNISDR, promoting coherence with the policy objectives of the SDGs and targets under the Sendai Framework.

Drawing on the outcomes of our research, along with our joint policy engagement, we will provide technical briefings for Member States, UN agencies and other stakeholders, publish guidelines, policy papers and reports, and contribute evidence, technical advice and guidance to broader policy discussions and debates.

Finally, we will collaborate in the design of the first ever global framework for monitoring progress on reducing internal displacement. Together, we will analyze national and regional efforts and investments made to reduce existing displacement and future displacement risk, generating constructive advice and identifying useful practices for states to address internal displacement.

**In bringing together our two organizations through this partnership, we recognize that only strong and effective cooperation can deliver the impacts and outcomes required to prevent and resolve internal displacement, in support of and partnership with Member States and relevant international organizations. This collaboration will have multiple benefits for states, policy-makers and operational actors, improving the evidence base on this complex and critical issue, and helping to generate the support, political will and concrete action required to address it.**