

QUARTERLY UPDATE

July - September 2018

FEATURE ARTICLE: IDMC'S MID-YEAR FIGURES

IDMC recorded 8.5 million new internal displacements worldwide between January and June 2018. There were 5.2 million associated with conflict and violence, based on the analysis of data from the ten worst-affected countries, and 3.3 million associated with disasters in 110 countries and territories.



As detailed in [our mid-year figures](#) published on 12 September, East Africa bore the brunt with Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan among the ten countries worst affected by displacement associated with conflict and violence. New conflict in Ethiopia's Gedeo and west Guji zones, combined with continued disputes over the internal border between Somali and Oromia regions, triggered 1.4 million new displacements, more than in Syria or the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The region also accounted for five of the most significant disaster events. Flooding in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and Uganda, and drought in Somalia were made worse by the Indian El Niño weather phenomenon, displacing more than a million people in total.

Government advances on opposition-controlled areas in Syria also triggered more than 1.2 million displacements associated with conflict and violence, and at least 142,000 were recorded in Yemen as the country's humanitarian crisis deepened. The latter figure is thought to be extremely conservative. Conflict also caused significant displacement in Afghanistan and India.

The most significant single disaster event was monsoon flooding in India, which displaced more than 370,000 people in May and June. Unprecedented floods continued beyond our mid-year reporting period into July and August, when according to government reports more than 1.4 million people were displaced to relief camps in the southern state of Kerala alone.

Given the further devastation wrought by events such as the Indonesian earthquake and tsunami in September, and the fact that the hurricane and typhoon seasons are still to take hold, we expect the number of people displaced by disasters to rise dramatically by the end of the year.

IDMC's director, Alexandra Bilak, said: "Our mid-year assessment serves as an important temperature gauge of the state of the world today. Conflict and violence in low-income countries are becoming more protracted and causing ever more people to flee their homes, while vulnerable communities in disaster-prone regions or in areas experiencing the effects of climate change are increasingly at risk and disproportionately impacted by internal displacement."

We launched our mid-year figures for the first time this year with a dedicated [web page](#), containing key findings and graphs. Alexandra gave a series of media interviews to highlight the most affected regions, and our figures were covered by a broad range of media organisations, including Voice of America, Quartz India, the Independent, IRIN and Devex.

ACTIVITIES

I JULY

— MOVING BEYOND CRISES: MAKING CITIES WORK FOR IDPS

We hosted a side-event at the [UN's high-level political forum on the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) in New York on 13 July. The event looked at the challenges involved accounting for internally displaced people (IDPs) in urban planning, financing and delivering basic services, particularly when displacement is protracted. Efforts to achieve SDG 11, to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, will require strategies that account for IDPs' needs and reduce the risk of future displacement.



IDMC hosts the ECJRC's presentation of the new Global Human Settlement Layer. Photo: IDMC, July 2018

— IDMC-JRC WORKSHOP ON URBAN DISPLACEMENT

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre presented the new [Global Human Settlement Layer](#) (GHSL) concept, data and tools to about 10 organisations at our Geneva office on 17 July.

GHSL produces spatial information about human presence on the planet over time, in the form of built-up, population density and settlement maps. The breadth of the data means global phenomena can be analysed at the local level, which is very relevant to the reporting of progress toward the goals of international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

— REFUGEE LAW INITIATIVE WORKSHOP ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Our researchers Elizabeth Rushing and Chloe Sydney were in London on 20 July to attend a [Refugee Law Initiative workshop](#) on revitalising research on internal displacement facilitated by Professor David Cantor. Elizabeth moderated a panel on the relationship between internal displacement and cross-border movements, as part of which Chloe presented preliminary findings from our research conducted among Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Sweden.

— FIELD MISSION TO ETHIOPIA

Our head of data and analysis, Justin Ginnetti, and monitoring expert Ivana Hajzmanova undertook a field mission to Ethiopia between 29 July and 4 August to better understand the year's most significant displacement crisis associated with

conflict so far. They visited an IDP camp in Jigjiga near the Somali-Oromia border, from where Ivana wrote a [blog about their experiences](#). They also discussed data gaps and challenges with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). We will return to Ethiopia in December to hold a workshop that will help to address the issues raised.

— SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK

Our application for membership of the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#), a UN initiative that brings together academics, research institutions and NGOs working to implement the SDGs, was accepted in July.

| AUGUST

— FIELD MISSION TO MEXICO CITY

Our GRID coordinator, Vicente Anzellini, travelled to Mexico City to conduct field work in neighbourhoods affected by the September 2017 earthquake, and to meet data and research partners. He [published a blog post](#) discussing the role of civil society in post-earthquake recovery and addressing the impacts of urban displacement more broadly. He also attended a three-day international conference organised by the [International Network on Displacement and Resettlement](#), which convened experts from academia, NGOs and governments.

— FOSS4G 2018 CONFERENCE

Our monitoring expert Maria Teresa Miranda Espinosa travelled to Tanzania for the [FOSS4G](#) annual conference and Humanitarian Open StreetMap Summit in Dar es Salaam, the world's largest gathering of the open-source geospatial software community. The event brought together data providers, software developers and users to connect and collaborate on community resilience and empowerment projects.



— EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE AND IDP STATISTICS (EGRIS)

Members of the IDP subgroup of the EGRIS process, IDMC, IOM, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) and Stats Norway, and representatives from Colombia and Iraqi Kurdistan, met on 28 and 29 August to kick off the second phase of the group's work. This includes finalising the recommendations for national statistical offices on data collection and analysis practices, and producing a compiler's manual.

— CALL FOR PAPERS: JOURNAL OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

We are collaborating with the Journal of Internal Displacement to produce a special issue in January 2019 that explores how internal displacement issues fit into national and global sustainable development efforts and the UN prevention agenda. We put out a [call for papers](#) in August from a range of disciplines, including migration and mobility, economics, human rights, human geography, health, political sciences, law and area studies.

| SEPTEMBER

— FIELD MISSION TO IRAQ

Our researcher Chloe Sydney was in Iraq from 27 August to 16 September to collect data among IDPs, returning IDPs and returning refugees. She conducted most of her research, for a report that will form part of our [Invisible Majority](#) thematic series, in and around the city of Mosul and elsewhere in Ninewa governorate. She also wrote a [blog post](#) on some of the unexpected urban dynamics her fieldwork uncovered. Her trip complemented research we undertook with Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Sweden earlier this year. More than 300 interviews were conducted in all. The research findings, which shine light on the relationships between internal displacement,

cross-border movements and durable solutions, will be published in November.

— DISPLACEMENT DIGITAL ART CHALLENGE WINNER ANNOUNCED

A digital storytelling platform won IDMC and UN Unite Ideas' global competition to illustrate the issue of internal displacement. [The Displacement Downtown](#) by Brendan Lim uses geolocation to find the viewer's home and combines imagery and displacement data from their neighbourhood with that from global events such as large-scale floods or conflict. The result is an experience unique to each viewer that helps them relate to IDPs and their plight.



— THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

We supported a photography and virtual reality exhibition at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles. With our fellow GP20 partners, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the Council of Europe, we curated images to illustrate each of the 30 principles. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, opened the exhibition on 24 September at an event co-hosted by the permanent missions of Austria, Honduras and Uganda. We have also [created an online gallery](#), where users can see the images on show and sign the GP20 campaign's mission statement.

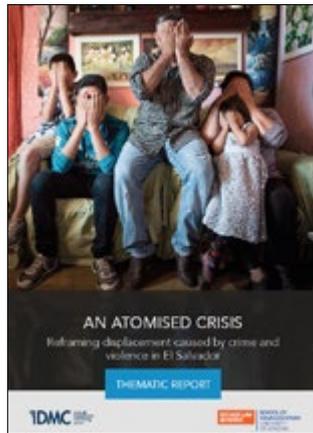
— CRIMINAL VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

We presented the initial findings of our research project to reframe displacement associated with criminal violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA) at a [stakeholder conference and technical workshop in Tegucigalpa](#), Honduras on 25 September. We launched [reports on El Salvador and Guatemala](#) to mark the end of the first year of the two-year project, which is financed by the US government. We and our research partner Cristosal also published [a case study on voluntary and forced returns to El Salvador](#). An event will be held in Geneva early next year to launch our report on Honduras.

PUBLICATIONS

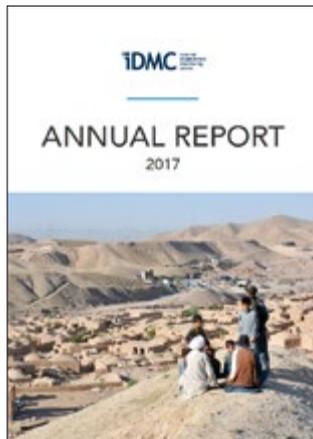
| UNDERSTANDING AND ESTIMATING DISPLACEMENT IN THE NTCA

Organised criminal violence associated with drug trafficking and gang activity has reached epidemic proportions in the NTCA in recent years, but most of the existing evidence on how it affects internal displacement is anecdotal. [Our two-year research project](#) seeks to better understand the drivers, triggers, impacts and patterns of internal displacement in the region, to provide an evidence base for operational and policy responses.



| ANNUAL REPORT 2017

From Syria to Somalia, we recorded the highest levels of internal displacement associated with conflict and violence in a decade. Disasters triggered by tropical storms and floods also displaced people in huge numbers, particularly South and East Asia. Faced with the scale of this global crisis, we worked relentlessly to push internal displacement higher up national and international agendas. [Our annual report](#) summarises our activities and achievements.



EXPERT OPINION

Our blog is a space to engage in the global debate on internal displacement. In the last quarter we published the following posts:

| PARTNER SERIES: NOAH BULLOCK FROM CRISTOSAL

In this new interview series, we find out more about our partner organisations, the work they are doing, the challenges they face and their professional advice. Noah Bullock is the executive director of Cristosal, a human rights organisation working in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. [Read the full post here.](#)

| THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT SIDELINED AT THE UN'S SDG FORUM

As our researcher Christelle Cazabat explains, internal displacement is relevant to all 17 SDGs, and progress toward them has the potential to help reduce the phenomenon and its negative consequences. At the UN's high-level political forum in New York, however, governments failed to consider the issue in their presentations on sustainable development. [Read the full post here.](#)

| IDP DATA AND LANGUAGE BIAS: FROM PROBLEM TO SOLUTION

Obtaining accurate data is vital in assessing IDPs' needs, and effective communication with the people in question is a prerequisite. All too often, however, aid organisations and other service providers do not even have information on IDPs' primary languages and literacy rates. Eric DeLuca of Translators without Borders proposes some solutions. [Read the full post here.](#)

| WHY AREN'T WE TALKING ABOUT THE BIGGEST INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT CRISIS OF 2018?

Ethiopia recorded more new displacement associated with conflict and violence than any other country in the first half of 2018, the result of ethnic clashes that erupted in the Gedeo and west Guji zones in the south of the country and continuing disputes over the internal border between the Somali and Oromia regions in the east. The crisis, however, has received little attention. We conducted a field mission to Ethiopia at the end of July to develop a better understanding of the situation, and our researcher Ivana Hajzmanova blogged about her experiences. [Read the full post here.](#)

| CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN DISPLACEMENT: LESSONS FROM MEXICO CITY

A year after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake displaced more than 100,000 people, many of the worst affected among Mexico City's marginalised communities are still living in makeshift tents in the street. Our GRID coordinator, Vicente Anzellini, visited some of the city's poorest neighbourhoods and found that without the involvement of civil society organisations, conditions would be worse still. He discusses the role civil society can play in addressing the impacts of urban displacement. [Read the full post here.](#)

| DEPORTED BACK TO DISPLACEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Crises of violence, protection and governance grip the NTCA, casting tens of thousands of people into a potentially endless cycle of displacement and danger. As Cristosal's Noah Bullock explains, states' refusal to acknowledge the realities within their own borders, and the ruthlessness of transition and destination countries' in preventing desperate people from entering and deporting those who do get through have not succeeded. Instead, they have created an international humanitarian emergency. [Read the full post here.](#)

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

IDMC was mentioned nearly 180 times in the media between July and September. Highlights include:

- | Al Jazeera: [El Salvador's hidden tragedy: 'I can't take the agony any more'](#)
- | Reuters: [UN pact offers hope to world's climate migrants](#)
- | Handelsblatt: [Climate change refugees – why industrialized countries need to act now](#)
- | Devex: [Ethiopia displacement crisis skyrockets](#)
- | Europa Press: [Conflict and violence cause 5.2 million internal displacements in the first half of 2018 \(Spanish\)](#)
- | Quartz India: [Floods in India have displaced more people in the world than any other disaster in 2018](#)
- | The Nation: [Violence: 5.2m internal displacements recorded in six months](#)
- | Independent: [World leaders are sidelining an extremely important issue at the UN General Assembly, and it affects the lives of millions](#)

WEBSITE FIGURES

A period of adjustment following the launch of our new website means that online metrics were not tracked in the third quarter, but tracking will resume for the fourth quarter.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our Facebook community attracted 389 new followers during the third quarter, and our page had more than 12,300 likes as of the end of September. We also gained 419 new followers on Twitter, bringing our total to 9,045. @IDMC_Geneva received more than 10,350 visits and our tweets more than 307,000 impressions.

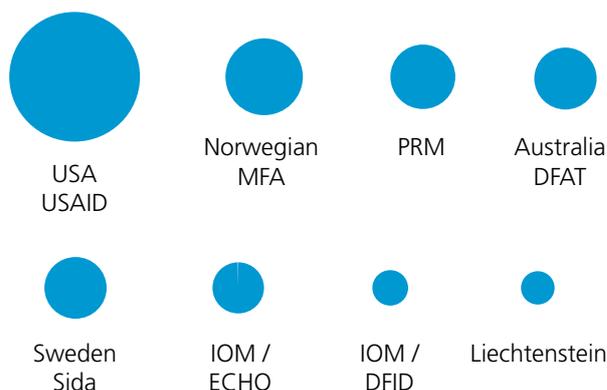
IDMC'S FINANCIAL SITUATION

Financial Situation as of 30 September 2018

Funds received: 3,011,700.40
Expenditure: 3,011,700.40
Actual expenditure against received funds: 100%

THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

We would like to thank our donors for their support in 2018: USAID, NMFA, Australia DFAT, SIDA, ECHO/IOM, Liechtenstein



The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is the world's authoritative source of data and analysis on internal displacement. Since our establishment in 1998, as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), we have offered a rigorous, independent and trusted service to the international community. Our work informs policy and operational decisions that improve the lives of the millions of people living in internal displacement, or at risk of becoming displaced in the future.

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