

A record 33.3 million displaced by war worldwide, with Nigeria in the top 5 countries most affected

Press release for immediate release

GENEVA, 14 MAY 2014: 12.5 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have been internally displaced by conflict and violence, says a new report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). With the average displaced person spending 17 years in displacement situations, the report reveals systemic failures at the local, national and international level to adequately respond.

Today IDMC, part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), launched its Global Overview 2014 at the United Nations in Geneva, alongside the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The report, which covers internal displacement occurring in 2013, highlights that with both new and prolonged episodes of conflict and violence, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region hosting the highest number of IDPs in the world since 2003.

The region saw a 55% increase in new displacement compared to the previous year, with the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and South Sudan particularly affected. Says Jan Egeland, the Secretary General of NRC: “While the world’s attention is drawn to Syria’s tragedy, it is easy to forget the horrendous situations still faced by innocent people stuck in the midst of protracted conflict, such as the DRC which has suffered persistent turmoil dating back to the mid 90’s, or by people affected by cruel violence in forgotten corners of the world such as the Central African Republic.”

The High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres added: “These numbers show why it’s so vitally important that the international response to Syria should not be at the expense of displaced people in Africa or elsewhere. The needs of the displaced in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the DRC, as well as of the hundreds of thousands of refugees in the neighbouring countries are immense and growing.”

The number of internally displaced people in Nigeria is included in the annual report for the first time, announcing the country’s place among the top five worldwide for total IDP populations. With Nigeria and DRC now reporting around 3 million each, and Sudan 2.4 million as internally displaced, these three countries alone account for a staggering 70% of the regional total.

“Multiple complex causes trigger displacement, providing significant challenges to governments and humanitarians on the ground,” says Alfredo Zamudio, Director of IDMC. “Violence, abuses, and forced evictions all add to the conflict-mix in many of these situations, while in places such as Nigeria we see

how challenging life becomes for those already displaced by conflict when they are struck down again by severe floods and storms.”

The report also highlights the number of countries in Africa demonstrating their commitment to the rights and well-being of their internally displaced people by adopting the African Union’s Kampala Convention; the world’s first continental treaty which legally binds states to protect and assist their internally displaced people. In 2013, five more countries became legally bound by it: Angola, Côte d’Ivoire, Malawi, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Zimbabwe.

“This commitment is a huge step forward, and as an international community we should work hard to help ensure that these countries have all the support they need to implement it so that it makes real change for those on the ground,” says Egeland. “With displacement figures escalating year on year throughout the world, with no sign of going down, the Kampala Convention, while it cannot solve displacement alone, is something the rest of the world could learn a lot from.”

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To download the full report, summary, maps and charts, [click on this link](#).

Note to editors:

- In 2013, IDMC celebrates its 15th year of monitoring internally displaced people throughout the world. In 1998, there were a reported 19.3 million IDPs worldwide, since then showing a longer term upward trend over the past decade from around 25 million in 2001.
- With over 12.5 million IDPs in 21 countries at the end of 2013, sub-Saharan Africa remained the region with the highest level of displacement brought about by conflict and violence.
- 42% of all the people newly displaced throughout the world in 2013 were displaced within Syria
- The number of internally displaced people in Nigeria is included in the annual report for the first time, with a total 3.3 million IDPs in the country, according to the National Commission for Refugees. Nigeria serves as a good example among governments that have promoted and supported efforts to collect better data in 2013.
- In Sudan 470,000 were newly displaced by armed clashes in the Darfur region and the states of South Kordofan, North Kordofan and Blue Nile; the total number of IDPs in the country now stands at 2.4 million.
- The report covers displacement occurring in 2013 and is based on data provided by governments, NGO partners and UN agencies. It documents the figures and analysis of internal displacement in 5 regions, and in 60 war-affected countries and territories in 2013 – the year that IDMC celebrated its 15th year of global monitoring.
- At the end of 2013, two more countries had signed the Kampala Convention including: Mauritania and South Sudan. Five had ratified including Angola, Côte d’Ivoire, Malawi, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Zimbabwe. For more information, please visit: www.internal-displacement.org/africa/kampala-convention/

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About IDMC

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is a world leader in the monitoring and analysis of the causes, effects and responses to internal displacement. Through its monitoring and analysis of people internally displaced by conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations, and natural or human-made disasters, IDMC raises awareness and advocates for respect of the rights of at-risk and uprooted peoples.

IDMC is part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). For more information, visit our website at www.internal-displacement.org

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