



# EXPERT ROUNDTABLE ON DISPLACEMENT CAUSED BY DEVELOPMENT

Event summary

AUGUST 2017

THEMATIC REPORT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Nadine Walicki, Senior Strategic Advisor on Development at IDMC.

IDMC would like to thank all roundtable experts for their active participation at the event and for sharing their valuable knowledge and advice.

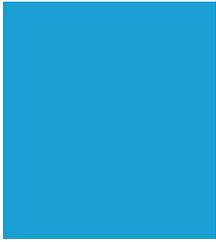
Thanks to Jeremy Lennard for editorial assistance.

Cover photo: Families still awaiting permanent resettlement since their eviction more than eight years ago from the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. The Ganeshnagar interim resettlement site has an estimated 7,500 residents living next to the city waste collection area and under high tension power lines. Credit: IDMC/Marita Swain, March 2016

# **EXPERT ROUNDTABLE ON DISPLACEMENT CAUSED BY DISPLACEMENT**

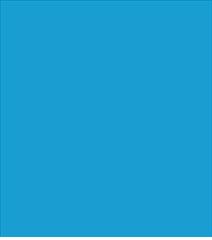
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# INTRODUCTION

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) convened and hosted an expert roundtable meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 7 December 2016. It brought together 13 senior scholars and experts on displacement associated with development to seek strategic guidance and support for its work on the issue. Drawn from the United Nations, civil society, academia and the development finance community in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, they participated in their individual capacity based on their knowledge and decades of experience on issues related to displacement and resettlement.<sup>1</sup> They discussed the available data on people displaced by development work, the human impacts and problems arising from such displacement and subsequent resettlement, and ways of voicing and addressing issues and challenges, including via collaborative work.

IDMC was established in 1998 at the request of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in acknowledgement of the increasing number of internally displaced people (IDPs) fleeing conflict worldwide, and the need for a “comprehensive and coherent system of collecting data” on their situation to inform and shape policy and operational responses. Subsequent UN General Assembly resolutions lauded IDMC’s creation and recognised the importance of a “global information system on IDPs”. They encouraged governments, IASC members, UN humanitarian coordinators and country teams to support and collaborate with it by providing “reliable data on internal displacement situations in the world”.

Since 1998, we have consolidated our role as the world’s leading monitor and analyst of the scale, drivers, patterns and impacts of internal displacement. We have provided evidence and raised awareness of ongoing and emerging displacement crises caused by conflict, violence and disasters across the world, and contributed expertise and recommendations to major global policy frameworks and processes such as the 2015 Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015 to 2030, and the World Humanitarian Summit’s key outcomes on internal displacement. Our unique position as the only entity which has both an integrated view on displacement as well as a central position within the architecture of international humanitarian agencies has facilitated our access to and influence on these processes.

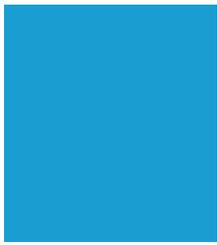
To provide a comprehensive global picture of the scope and nature of displacement caused by development projects, in 2015 we institutionalised our work on the phenomenon. We have gathered information and knowledge on the topic since our founding, but it was formally introduced in our Global Report on Internal Displacement in May 2016 as a type of displacement in need of specific attention. Also in 2016, we published a report on displacement caused by development in India based on field research, and submitted comments on the UN Development Programme’s standards on displacement and resettlement during their revision process.

Our aim is to reveal the global scale of displacement associated with development, and provide evidence on its human, economic, social, environmental and political impacts in order to convince policymakers that the problem requires their urgent attention. The consequences of what is a widespread but unquantified phenomenon are dire, and resettlement and other solutions tend to be inadequate if they exist at all. Given that our only office is in Geneva, our resources are limited and we are one of the newest organisations to engage on the topic, partnerships will be key to painting a global picture. We therefore organised the roundtable with the following objectives:

- To agree on definitions, concepts and methods for the collection and analysis of global data and consistent reporting on displacement caused by development
- To identify strategic policy targets on the issue, and the evidence and research required to put it on the agenda
- To learn about the participants’ work and agree on opportunities for collaboration and partnerships on common goals

The event was held under Chatham House rules, so this report summarises the discussion from IDMC’s perspective without attributing views to specific participants. It does not provide an exhaustive transcript of the discussions or overview of the issue. We have selected what we deem to have been commonly held views, areas of disagreement and constructive recommendations for our future work. The content of this summary does not necessarily represent the views of IDMC or all roundtable participants.

The report begins by outlining the participants’ general views, and then presents the main points raised on the following areas of our work on the issue: monitoring and data collection, human impacts and influencing policy.



# GENERAL PERSPECTIVES

All of the participants welcomed our work on displacement caused by development and the fact that we had organised the meeting. They took part in a constructive, forward-looking manner and acknowledged the potential for improving displacement and resettlement processes in the future by building on what has been done over the last 30 years. They acknowledged differences of view, but there was clear and fundamental agreement that these should not obstruct cooperation and common action. All expressed a desire to collaborate further on the basis that more could be achieved by working together. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and call on others who may be interested to join us.

The participants were united in their aspiration for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development, and their view that the adverse consequences of displacement and resettlement caused by public and private sector development projects is a major concern. These consequences relate to reduced access to adequate housing, food, livelihoods, education, water, healthcare, physical security and social support networks. Displaced women, children, indigenous and older people are often among the most vulnerable and are affected disproportionately. The participants agreed that such impacts are a global challenge which, without proper action, poses a serious threat to the achievement of sustainable development and human rights for all. Displacement for development can be undertaken only under exceptional circumstances and one group should not pay the price for development that benefits another.

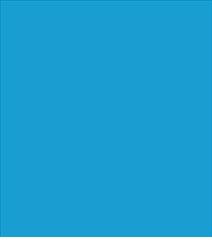
IDMC's work on displacement caused by conflict, disasters and development projects presents an opportunity to, on the one hand, deliberate on each phenomenon separately, and, on the other, examine the synergies between the three. There can be significant benefits to thinking through all causes of displacement together, sharing methods of investigation and comparing findings. Any equivalence drawn between them, however, may invite criticism. Development work that causes displacement generally has beneficial intentions and may be a response to people's demands. This cannot be said of conflict and disasters, which are unequivocally harmful.

There is a risk that our work on displacement caused by development may one day be construed as anti-development. States such as China, India, Brazil, for example, do not accept the label of "internally displaced person" for those compelled to leave their homes by projects deemed to have a national benefit. This may affect our access to data and information, our funding base and the reach of our work to influence policy. That said, our aim is to be courageous; the world needs a place where displacement, whatever its cause, can be documented and understood, in order to ensure that processes of development, however beneficial to wider economies, do not end up creating or perpetuating vulnerability and leaving people and communities behind. We should report on internal displacement globally regardless of the perpetrator, while remaining impartial and responsible. This may require us to diversify our funding strategy, including private foundations.

Reference to state agreements on sustainable development may avoid the perception that we are anti-development, and this can be done in two ways. First, we can present our work as supporting the sustainable development goals (SDGs), which all UN member states agreed upon in September 2015, emphasising that our main objective is to ensure equitable outcomes. Second, a focus on development as a human right may help to present IDMC as pro-development, and an organisation that seeks implementation of the right agreed by all UN member states in the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development and reaffirmed in December 2016 by numerous UN special rapporteurs and independent experts.<sup>2</sup> It should be emphasised that we do not advocate that development should not take place, but rather that there is room for improvement in the way it is approached, carried out and measured.

## IDMC ACTION POINT:

We will report on the global scale and severity of internal displacement caused by development projects, while framing our work as supporting equitable development.



# CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

The participants agreed that displacement caused by development includes physical displacement from one's land, home or habitual place of residence and economic displacement from one's livelihood, and that it has rarely included cross-border flight. Participants from China also introduced the concept of "social displacement," whereby people are displaced from their community, networks and the social goods and services attached to it. Numerous other concepts emerged during the debates which deserve similar and further examination, including compensation, impoverishment risks, durable solutions and rehabilitation.

Participants used a variety of terms to refer to displacement caused by development. These included "involuntary resettlement", "development-caused displacement", "development-forced displacement", "development-based displacement", "development-created displacement," "development-deprived displacement" or "development-induced displacement". The most neutral terms appear to be "development-caused displacement" and "development-induced displacement," though the latter does not sufficiently capture the forced element of the movement.

IDMC and most experts agreed that displacement based on eminent domain is forced upon the owner of the land, not because it involves brutal physical force, which it sometimes does, but because the law has the force to dictate this against the will of the land owners. The threat of unavoidable force in cases of non-acceptance of the eminent domain decree renders legally the expulsion from the expropriated land a process of forced displacement, not a voluntary one. Eminent domain application is and means forced displacement, both when they resist or when they abide out of fear and out of ability to oppose it by other legal means.

Others were reluctant to use the term "forced" for every case either because for them such movements fall at different points along the forced-voluntary continuum or it implies that physical force or violence was used in the process. Still others were reluctant to use the term "involuntary resettlement" because for them the movement is a form of forced eviction, which is a gross violation of human rights and prohibited under international law. The latter group pointed to UN general comment no.7 of 1997 on forced evictions, which does

not include physical force as a criterion for an eviction to qualify as "forced", though it acknowledges that many instances of forced eviction are associated with violence.

The participants agreed that displacement and resettlement are incredibly complex processes. They are not predictable or amenable to standard linear planning. As such, they require an open-ended, participatory approach to planning. Resettlement is not simply physical relocation; it must also include reconstruction and be approached as a development project backed by investment. This is the current theoretical and practical approach in China named 'resettlement with development', as brought to the attention of all participants by the Chinese experts. Recovery from displacement and resettlement does not stop with the construction of the project, and recovery must be measured with economic and non-economic criteria.

## IDMC ACTION POINT:

IDMC will consider displacement as forced when a person has no other reasonable choice than to leave their home, even if it did not involve physical force. IDMC acknowledges that the impacts of displacement differ amongst IDPs and we will endeavour to highlight the situation of the most vulnerable IDPs. IDMC will work towards using terminology, definitions and concepts clearly and consistently.

# NORMATIVE STANDARDS

The participants reaffirmed that the primary responsibility for IDPs' protection and assistance and the achievement of durable solutions to their displacement lies with governments. The onus is on states to prove that displacement is not arbitrary and that it does not amount to a human rights violation, but further guidance is needed on the factors required to make this determination and how this can be done in practice.

In cases where displacement is justified, the participants noted that numerous policy standards were available, including those adopted by development finance institutions, inter-governmental organisations, export credit agencies, UN bodies and national governments. Their views differed on the protections for the displaced in

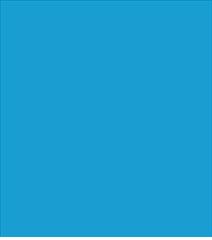
the revised World Bank Environmental and Social Framework issued in 2016, and it was noted that China and India had recently adopted improved laws and policies. Despite the proliferation of standards, progress on understanding their level of implementation is low.

Some participants use World Bank or similar standards as a benchmark for their work, which are not always met. Since 1993 the displaced have filed numerous complaints with the World Bank Inspection Panel, which has deemed in some cases that harm had been done and was linked to violations of World Bank policies. World Bank policies can be an important force since when national legislation is in conflict with the World Bank policy and a credit agreement is signed, then the World Bank's policy and credit agreement prevail over domestic law. This is also true for other international finance institutions.

Others argued that international human rights norms should be the framework of choice since all countries report regularly to the UN on those common human rights standards. Not all participants use the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as the starting point for understanding how displacement caused by development work and its effects should be prevented and addressed. Further dissemination and discussion is required on the content and authority of the Guiding Principles, the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement, and the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, and how they relate to displacement caused by development.



A view of the settlements provided to some of those affected by the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project in Gujarat, India. Photo: IDMC/Marita Swain, March 2016



# MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION

## SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT

We aim to capture all instances of forced displacement caused by public or private development projects, and track the situation of those affected until they have achieved a durable solution or rehabilitation.<sup>3</sup> We do not collect primary data, though as we add new methods to our monitoring strategy we may generate estimates of the number of displaced, for example through satellite imagery analysis. We will not impose our definition of an IDP on other institutions, but rather seek to obtain the data as it is collected, and in some cases may need to interpret it for our own purposes. This requires a thorough understanding of the definitions and accounting methodologies used to compile the data, and of who is counted at different stages of the development project cycle and beyond.

In terms of the scope of development, we recognise that displacement caused by development extends beyond public and private projects. It may include de-development policies as in Palestine, development by non-state militants as in Iraq, and economic models that render certain livelihoods untenable as in Egypt. In terms of which development projects we should focus on, some participants cautioned that it would be difficult and overly ambitious for us to adjudicate on the public interest or arbitrariness of every case. Doing so could also upset states and make it more difficult to work with them on the wider issue of displacement.

## GLOBAL IDP FIGURE

The participants agreed on the importance of international financial institutions, national authorities and others involved in development, including those in the private sector, collecting data on the number of IDPs and the impacts they suffer over time, and that the data should be disaggregated by sex, age and location at a minimum. A global estimate of the number of people displaced by development projects would be a powerful advocacy tool in attracting the attention of policymakers and the wider world to the problem. Compiling such an estimate, however, would be an exercise in pragmatism and imply the neglect of a significant number of IDPs, at least initially.

Participants presented some displacement data. The most recent global estimate of the number of people displaced by development projects was presented as 20 million a year. The figure was extrapolated from the World Bank's 1996 estimate of 10 million displaced by dams, transportation and urban development.<sup>4</sup> The sources to support either of these estimates are not all available.

Extrapolation was used to calculate a figure for India of 70 million people between 1947 and 2010, and for China of around 80 million since 1949. The India figure was compiled in three stages in 16 of the country's 29 states: by studying gazette notifications for private land transactions, analysing district land office files for common property land use changes, and conducting interviews with knowledgeable people. The methodology for compiling the China figure was not explained.

## METHODS

IDMC seeks regular inflows of data from governments, companies and international finance institutions, but such data and analysis of it is limited. Public and private institutions may need an incentive to share their data. Government sources may provide some data, but alternative sources are scarce. In some countries, such as Ethiopia, human rights organisations are heavily monitored and controlled, journalists targeted and civil society increasingly repressed. Ethnographic research may be possible if those displaced still live near the land seized. Given such challenges, the onus is on us to think creatively to identify non-traditional data sources and collection methods and to create incentives where possible.

Cooperation with government institutions is essential for data collection. Experience of expert researchers in India shows that to compile a national figure there is little alternative to searching manually through project files in district land records and conducting interviews with knowledgeable people. Data on how many people received compensation is available, but it is not enough to calculate an estimate of the number of displaced because, as reported during the roundtable event, only around a third of IDPs received compensation.



Sample satellite imagery of a dam construction. ©DigitalGlobe

to engage with local government in selecting a resettlement area or proposing alternative project areas. All volunteers need to know is how to take a photograph with a smartphone and agree to it being sent to the UN's Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) for analysis.

Participants also highlighted the possibility of turning qualitative information into quantitative data using the Habitat International Coalition's eviction impact assessment tool.

India's 2005 Right to Information Act improved access to data, and anyone can file a request, but it would be difficult for international organisations to do so from afar. Some participants suggested that to capture those not included in official reports, extensive field research over long periods may be required to obtain accurate figures. Such an approach is not realistic or feasible for us, but this points to an area of potential cooperation with others interested in such information.

Building relationships with international finance institutions will require a strategy and attention to how we frame displacement. They may not provide us with data if, for example, we equate involuntary resettlement with forced eviction. If they provide numbers that are inconsistent with our definitions, then we must understand their definitions and methodology and work toward cooperation with them.

There is an opportunity to do so in that they are publicly funded institutions which should be held accountable to their donors, and we can support them in implementing their transparency policies. Their failure to provide us with data on the number of people displaced and resettled and their living conditions will show as a gap in our reporting, which may be interpreted either as their limited data collection on displacement and resettlement or a lack of transparency on the part of the finance institution or those implementing the project in question.

The participants agreed that satellite imagery can be a useful tool to corroborate what data is available. It cannot be used to count the number of people displaced accurately, but we can devise a rough estimate by looking at the destruction of buildings and population statistics for a given area. We could also work with local community volunteers via the UN-ASIGN smartphone app, which enables users to take photographs that are uploaded immediately onto a web-based interactive map via the GSM network. These up-to-date images may help to validate our analysis, and could be used

### IDMC ACTION POINTS:

- IDMC is in conversation with participants to receive the data they presented and have access to, along with the definitions and methodologies used to collect it
- Having completed the first phase of global monitoring displacement caused by development, IDMC is developing the second phase which will focus on dam displacement as suggested by several roundtable participants
- IDMC will seek feedback on our monitoring methodology for phase two, including from experts in non-traditional data sources and methodologies
- IDMC will engage with international finance institutions on sharing data on displacement and resettlement caused by their projects, including through the independent accountability mechanism network

# HUMAN IMPACTS

## EVIDENCE

Resettlement action plans for some projects set a low benchmark in terms of restoring the standard of living of those displaced to that prior to their displacement. Even so, displacement and resettlement tend to increase poverty rather than reduce it, according to experts who have conducted decades of field research on the topic. In effect, those affected subsidise the projects that displace them by bearing the consequences.

There may be positive impacts such as increased access to social services, but the adverse effects are often long-term and tend to get worse over time. The losers are not sufficiently identified and their losses not sufficiently quantified. Independent panels of experts are set up in some cases, as in Myanmar, to address IDPs' complaints about the process and conditions of their resettlement. Significant effort and commitment are required, however, to implement the recommendations of such panels.

In India, an estimated 70 per cent of people displaced by development projects have been resettled, but full rehabilitation only takes place when those affected mobilise for their rights and the developers show goodwill. Otherwise, the displaced are left to fend for themselves and face impoverishment, suffering a significant decline in access to work, land, education, food and water. Women tend to be worst affected, a finding corroborated at the global level.

Other global findings suggest that levels of social tension, robbery, divorce, prostitution and mental illness also tend to be higher among those displaced. Host communities lose land for resettlement and can also lose their identity or find it diluted. Losses need to be disaggregated within and between communities to properly understand overall impacts. Few studies quantify these social and other environmental material and non-material impacts of displacement and resettlement.



This road overpass was built to transport cargo from the International Container Transshipment Terminal in Kochi, Kerala, India. Dividing the island of Moolampilly in two, the overpass project affected 326 families, either through loss of their home, part of their land or property, or their livelihood options. Photo: IDMC/Marita Swain, March 2016



A view of the Manwan Dam on the Upper Mekong River, China.  
Photo: Bryan Tilt

In China, 86,000 dam projects displaced ten million people between from 1949 and 1984. A government survey showed that a third of the people affected by the projects were impoverished and a third experienced only a small improvement in their living standards. In acknowledgment of the situation, China's State Council issued national policy no.56 on post-relocation support.

China appears to be the only country to have revisited the situation of displaced people following their resettlement and adopted a policy to improve it accompanied by a thorough monitoring and review process. The criteria to determine when resettlement is complete are not transparent, however, and neither is the monitoring data. With increasing restrictions on civil society, the result is that those not formally involved in the process are unable to draw their own conclusion about the success or otherwise of resettlement in China.

## IMPACTS ANALYSIS

As a global monitor, IDMC's added value is the production of global analysis on the human impacts of displacement caused by development, including on host communities. We need to examine those impacts before, during and after displacement. This could be done convincingly for a number of cases in each region of the world by pulling together testimonies, fact-finding reports and eviction impact assessments. Local research involving civil society and academic partners would ideally corroborate such an approach, particularly in regions such as Africa where there is little or no existing literature. Some participants offered research support to this end.

Long-term impacts are particularly difficult to measure, because there tends to be less longitudinal data available than snapshot analyses. Tracking and exposing human impacts over time, as well as show trends of social and economic indicators over time in the project area, could, however, demonstrate in a compelling way

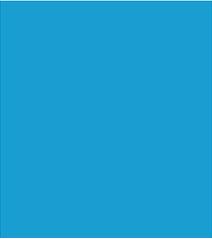
how displacement undermines rather than contributes to development. A summary of the benefits, costs and losses of development projects could also be valuable.

Presenting the material and non-material costs of displacement and resettlement could make for a persuasive non-humanitarian argument that outcomes need to be improved. Revealing the security risks and implications of displacement caused by development projects could also mobilise states' interest.

A macro impacts analysis could feature enough case studies to document the most prominent and fundamental impacts on different groups in a consistent way over time. We would need support on the methodology because significant data sets and possibly control groups would be required for each case. Such a study would also require the whole process from hearing about a project until well beyond its completion to be followed, which could be a matter of decades.

### IDMC ACTION POINTS:

- IDMC will continue to seek analyses from participants that can contribute to a global analysis on the human impacts of displacement caused by development
- IDMC will review documentation on hand for all cases of displacement caused by development projects logged by IDMC and compile a list of material and non-material and short-term and long-term impacts on IDPs, host communities, broader society, economy, environment and polity with analysis and examples for each
- IDMC will design a methodology for a global comparative analysis of the impacts of displacement and resettlement and seek feedback on the methodology and support on conducting the research from experts



# CAUSES

The participants put forward numerous explanations for the adverse human impacts of displacement and resettlement over decades, and some suggested causes for what they saw as a global problem. They include:

- International finance institutions operate on the basis of generating business through credit and therefore lending volumes, rather than equitable development results, are the key criterion for successful programmes and individuals.
- International finance institutions find ways to avoid applying their standards for involuntary resettlement, for example using development policy loans instead of international development association funds. Even on projects where they are applied, they tend to be violated and not properly documented.
- Borrowing states pursue an economic model that benefits the less vulnerable rather than one that prioritises and sufficiently budgets for poverty reduction.
- Borrowing states claim to have capacity and political will to carry out a project, but the lender knows this not to be the case. In some cases, both go ahead regardless for mutual benefit.
- Governments such as China's set low benchmarks for development work abroad. They leave land acquisition and resettlement to national authorities and do not impose standards. Many countries where projects are implemented do not have national laws on resettlement and rehabilitation.
- Corruption dramatically increases the likelihood that resettlement will fail and people will come to more harm. Cash is siphoned off, substandard materials are used, corners are cut and social protection is pushed to the margins. In the absence of legal systems in developing countries, how a government handles the issue of displacement is at the whim of ministry officials who may be bribed.
- Resettlement is difficult to implement, and more knowledge is needed about how to do it well, particularly with respect to the psychological impacts of displacement.
- It is not always deemed to be in the national interest to minimise displacement, because some population movements are undertaken or allowed to happen as a means of controlling certain groups. The state does not always take a rational approach for the good of its people. Some urban development decisions, for example, would appear to be less about social inclusion and more about political gain.

- Countries in which much of the displacement caused by development projects takes place do not have national legal frameworks to adequately protect those affected. Land acquisition is the prime problem, and the solution involves respect for land and other rights, meaningful community participation and accountability. This is where the issue becomes political.
- Governments argue that 'in order to make an omelette, some eggs must be broken', meaning that displacement is an inevitable consequence of development projects and addressing it gets in the way of the smooth running of a project.
- Space for civil society is limited, and being accused of subverting state power and advocating for people's rights is becoming increasingly dangerous. The result is that there is limited information about realities on the ground in large parts of the world, central Asia and large parts of Africa being cases in point.
- The prognosis for the future is grim, given the current fateful combination of large pools of capital chasing few bankable projects. This comes about because of slowing growth and very low interest rates.

## IDMC ACTION POINT:

IDMC will review documentation on hand for all cases of displacement caused by development projects we have logged and compile a list of general displacement driver categories with explanation for each, and add this to IDMC analysis on drivers of internal displacement more generally



# INFLUENCING POLICY

Exposing and tackling the global scale and adverse impacts of displacement caused by development is more important now than ever before, as the world embarks on the biggest infrastructure investment boom in human history. Much of the money will go into projects that benefit the less vulnerable. IDMC's work will provide public scrutiny of the process and may help NGOs advocate with governments and international finance institutions on the issue. The main message is that displacement caused by development is a global crisis that needs to be resolved. What will get governments' attention? Most participants agreed that exposing the economic and security implications of displacement caused by development projects would secure their attention.

Failed resettlement has wider negative economic and security implications for the government and country concerned. It can lead to resistance, increased tensions and violence, projects not being fully realised, decreased productivity and community isolation. It can also lead to disasters caused by natural and man-made hazards if projects are inadequately managed and the environmental risks are not mitigated. This can in turn reinforce the spiral of vulnerability, increase displacement risk and fuel more displacement and migration across borders. Demonstrating the material and non-material costs of displacement and weighing them against the benefits of a project can expose the drag on societies and polities. It can also show how adverse resettlement outcomes undermine development gains. A human rights approach can complement this economic analysis by showing how those displaced lose access to rights and face difficulties in reasserting them. This includes the right to development, as well as civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as well as the principle of non-discrimination.

A global estimate of the number of people displaced by development projects is important to shape public opinion. Politicians and government officials have their own political, social and economic agendas, generating a complex political economy that is not first and foremost driven by evidence. However, public and media attention can help create political pressure that allows for relevant evidence to be seen in a new light. IDMC can generate political support among the taxpaying public. Some participants, however, thought we should

focus our influencing efforts on development finance institutions, because they are the catalysts for much larger flows of capital from the private sector, which has goals that align with those of public sector such as poverty reduction. The World Bank is the most influential of the multilateral development banks, because it is the benchmark by which most other multilateral and bilateral institutions measure themselves.

Potential targets for IDMC's work:

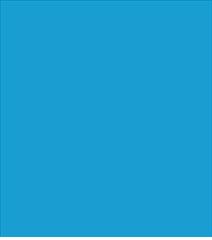
- States: donor and borrowing countries
- International finance institutions: Research and transparency divisions
- General public
- Construction companies
- Corporate financiers, including those who adopted the equator principles

Potential partners for IDMC's work:

- Media: national and international outlets
- UN: Human Rights Council, special rapporteur on IDPs' human rights, treaty bodies
- NGOs: Transparency International, Inclusive Development International, the International Accountability Project, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
- Human rights defenders
- Academic institutes
- SDG secretariat

## IDMC ACTION POINT:

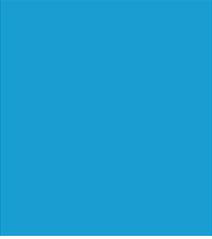
IDMC will investigate the economic and security implications of displacement caused by development projects that are left unaddressed, including how displacement reinforces vulnerability and fuels conflict, disasters and new and onward displacement.



# IDEAS FOR FUTURE WORK

Participants proposed the following ideas to increase awareness of and attention to displacement caused by development projects.

- Identify, train and inform a goodwill ambassador to be a watchdog on displacement and resettlement
- Produce a monthly newsletter on displacement caused by development
- Produce ethnographies of IDPs that chart their lives throughout the entire process of displacement and resettlement
- Conduct presentations and workshops on displacement and resettlement at universities
- Establish a common arena to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of World Bank and other international development finance institution policies with resettlement and social development experts



# CONCLUSION

Tackling the global scale and adverse impacts of displacement caused by development is more important now than ever before, as the world embarks on the biggest infrastructure investment boom in human history. Much of the money will go into projects that benefit the less vulnerable. IDMC's work can provide an evidence base to allow public scrutiny of the process and may help NGOs advocate with governments and international finance institutions on the issue. Given that our only office is in Geneva, our resources are limited and we are one of the newest organisations to engage on the topic, partnerships will be key to painting a global picture of this displacement. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with roundtable participants and call on others who may be interested to join us.

As the sole global monitor of internal displacement, IDMC's added value to work on displacement caused by development projects is twofold. First, the production of global data on the number of people displaced and analysis on the human impacts of displacement caused by development. Second, examining the overlap between displacement caused by development projects, conflict

and disasters, including how displacement caused by development projects reinforces vulnerability and fuels conflict, disasters and additional displacement. While there are significant challenges to accessing data and information on displacement caused by development projects, the onus is on us to think creatively to identify non-traditional data sources and collection methods.

In parallel with this work, it will be important to continue the discussion started at this event. Not all participants agreed with IDMC that all displacement caused by development projects constitutes a form of forced displacement. This might require disaggregation of displacement cases along the forced-voluntary continuum. In addition, the content and authority of the Guiding Principles, the UN Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement, and the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons were not obvious for all participants. Given that definitions and international standards are the bedrock of any common work, such divergence on conceptual understanding of the issue requires further discussion.

## NOTES

1. Participants were Jean-Bosco Bazie, Einar Bjorgo, Michael Cernea, Shaojun Chen, Walter Fernandes, Korinna Horta, Cecilia Jimenez, Miloon Kothari, Christopher McDowell, Noriaki Murase, Joseph Schechla, Guoqing Shi and Masami Tsuji
2. OHCHR, Development agenda at risk unless States honour political and financial commitments, UN experts warn, 2 December 2016, available at <https://goo.gl/FyGqMI>
3. IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement, May 2016, p.59, available at <https://goo.gl/ZreJy1>
4. World Bank, March 1996, Resettlement and Development, The Bankwide Review of Projects Involving Involuntary Resettlement 1986-1993, available at [goo.gl/wnjlck](http://goo.gl/wnjlck)



The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is the leading source of information and analysis on internal displacement worldwide. Since 1998, our role has been recognised and endorsed by United Nations General Assembly resolutions. IDMC is part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), an independent, non-governmental humanitarian organisation.

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