

Engaging with IDPs



Young IDPs at water distribution point at M'poko airport site, Bangui, CAR.



With growing numbers of people displaced within their own countries to escape conflict and violence, the challenge of mitigating risks and providing protection and assistance has assumed new and daunting dimensions.

Official estimates from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre put today's number of people internally displaced (IDPs) as a result of conflict and violence at some 33.3 million worldwide, with little prospect of any significant reduction in numbers through solutions in the coming year.

This chapter presents an overview of UNHCR's strategies and plans for bolstering IDP protection and assistance in 2015. More details on specific operations can be found in the relevant country chapters in the digital version of this appeal. ●●●

With its expertise in protecting and assisting forcibly displaced people fleeing conflict and persecution, UNHCR is heavily involved in situations of internal displacement worldwide, and committed to strengthening this engagement. UNHCR's action on behalf of IDPs takes place primarily through the inter-agency cluster

approach (see also *Working in Partnership* chapter). It leads the Global Protection Cluster and co-leads the global clusters for shelter and camp coordination and camp management. Within this collaborative framework, UNHCR's priority is to support effective coordination and operational delivery at the field level, while contributing to the development of global policy on internal displacement.

Centrality of Protection

Three principles are at the heart of engagement with IDPs: the primary responsibility to protect and assist the internally displaced lies with States; the rights and freedoms of all IDPs must be ensured without discrimination; and humanitarian organizations have a collective responsibility to ensure that their work does not undermine individual and community protection mechanisms and avoids exposing IDPs to further risk, exacerbating discrimination and negative practices.

UNHCR's primary concern is to ensure that protection informs humanitarian action, notably in situations of internal displacement caused by conflict. This was the message behind the December 2013 statement on the centrality of protection by the IASC Principals, which urges a more strategic relationship between protection clusters and UN Humanitarian

Coordinators. In response, UNHCR is working with field partners to assist Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams to develop and implement comprehensive protection strategies that build on the complementary roles and responsibilities of humanitarian actors. The Office is also fully engaged in a system-wide review of protection in humanitarian crises, which is due to publish recommendations relevant to the centrality of protection in March 2015. A complementary study focusing specifically on IDP protection, carried out by the Brookings Institute in coordination with UNHCR and OCHA, is scheduled to be issued at the end of 2014.

Some specific examples of areas where UNHCR will focus on delivering protection and seeking durable solutions for IDPs in 2015 are presented in the matrix.

**AREAS OF INTERVENTION
ANTICIPATED IN 2015**
EXAMPLES

Favourable protection environment	
Law and policy developed or strengthened	
Advocate for the development or promotion of a normative framework on IDPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Technical support to States in developing national legal frameworks will be intensified, alongside efforts in Africa to facilitate the domestication of the Kampala Convention. ■ The handbook for parliamentarians <i>Internal Displacement: Responsibility and Action</i> published by UNHCR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2013 will be produced in more languages and used to provide training, enhance capacity and raise awareness on IDP protection. ■ Findings of a study in 2015 will help strengthen strategic engagement with national human rights institutions in responding to and finding solutions for internal displacement.
Durable solutions	
Adopt a progressive approach to solutions for IDPs in close collaboration with partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greater attention will be given to promoting legal aspects of solutions, e.g. the rights to live and work freely; to register to vote; and to have lost or destroyed documents replaced without having to return to unsafe areas. ■ Comprehensive strategies at the national level will be prepared in accordance with the Secretary-General's Policy Committee Decision on Durable Solutions. ■ Building on lessons learned in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan and Mali, more joint strategies with development actors will be pursued. ■ Contextual engagement with integrated missions will be informed by adequate analysis and inter-agency consultations particularly at the field level. Best practices concerning engagement with integrated missions will be identified. ■ Active engagement in inter-agency consultations will be ensured.
Improve livelihood opportunities for IDPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Livelihood opportunities will be pursued to enable IDPs to exercise all of their rights while feeling part of the community they live in. ■ Building on lessons learned in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan and Mali, more joint strategies will be developed with development actors. ■ Comprehensive strategies at the national level will be prepared in accordance with the Secretary-General's Policy Committee Decision on Durable Solutions.
Support and management	
Coordination and operations management strengthened	
Build field capacity for a stronger and more targeted operational response, notably in emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Further guidance will be issued in 2015 to strengthen UNHCR's programme delivery in IDP situations. ■ Learning programmes, including an e-learning course for which 1,000 staff have already enrolled, will continue to bolster UNHCR's coordination, leadership and operational capacity in IDP situations. ■ A web-based interactive information management toolkit will be accessible to protection clusters.

Global Protection Cluster

Under UNHCR's leadership, the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) will continue to contribute to developing inter-agency policy, protection standards and guidance at the global level. Other ongoing tasks include guiding coordination at field level, developing strategy, engaging in advocacy, and supporting the design and implementation of programmes by protection clusters. To fulfil its functions, the GPC will rely on a Support Cell, based at UNHCR Headquarters, as well as on operational partnerships with its members.

There are currently 32 active protection clusters or other protection coordination mechanisms covering various locations worldwide, of which 20 are led by UNHCR. Direct and regular exchanges support these clusters and mechanisms, as well as frequent missions, including through the Protection Standby Capacity (ProCap). In 2015, the GPC expects to continue its partnership with ProCap and other GPC partners to reinforce the capacity of field protection clusters.

With support from ECHO, UNHCR has bolstered the overall capacity of the GPC, particularly in terms of protection mainstreaming, information management and training. The recently finalized GPC Protection Mainstreaming Training Package will be rolled out more widely in 2015. The Protection Cluster Coordination Learning Programme will also be implemented in key locations for the benefit of country-level protection clusters and relevant stakeholders, to enhance their commitment and effective participation. To improve

information management capacity, the GPC will also deploy dedicated staff and provide relevant training opportunities and tools.

In support of the IASC's protection priority, the GPC will pursue its global campaign to promote the centrality of protection, and to provide Humanitarian Country Teams with the tools and guidance needed to develop and implement effective strategies that contribute to protection outcomes. In this context, the results of the independent whole-of-system review of protection in humanitarian crises, anticipated in the first quarter of 2015, will be informative. The GPC will likewise remain committed to the ongoing processes of the IASC's Transformative Agenda, contributing as needed to revising related policy and guidance.

The GPC is in the process of reviewing its own support and operational structures, as well as updating its multi-year strategic framework, aligning them with current global priorities and rapidly evolving needs of country-level protection clusters and mechanisms. Implementation of the framework is due to begin in 2015.

With a view to ensuring constant interaction with the field, the GPC will continue to update its website and issue a newsletter, sharing best practices and facilitating information sharing between operations. GPC thematic roundtables will take place regularly in 2015, to stimulate exchange among practitioners, academics and experts on relevant, cross-cutting issues with a direct impact on field operations and global policy development.

Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

Co-led by UNHCR (in conflict situations) and IOM (in natural disasters), this cluster supports field operations in various ways. At present, UNHCR leads camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) clusters in the Central African Republic, Chad, Iraq, Myanmar, Pakistan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/Federally Administered Tribal Areas regions), South Sudan and Yemen.

As part of an ECHO-funded capacity-building project, rapid response teams and experts provide timely and predictable operational support, including coordination and training. Field support is also strengthened by regular updates and dissemination of relevant tools, as well as through close synergies with cluster members. A recent desk review by the Norwegian Refugee Council, commissioned by the Global CCCM Cluster, has explored community-based responses to urban and out-of-camp internal

displacement, and recommends an approach that involves centres for coordination and community management. This approach will be piloted in 2015.

The Global CCCM Cluster is also developing a communications strategy to enhance the visibility of its services and products, including through more regular updates of its website and social media platforms. New information management systems, such as the Cluster Performance Monitoring Tool and the OCHA Indicator Registry, will improve the monitoring of evolving situations, outstanding needs, and CCCM cluster responses.

Continued ECHO funding in 2015 will enable the Global CCCM Cluster to invest more in various components of its capacity-building programme, including improved access to information and resources; managing expert deployments for coaching, mentoring and technical advice; and coordinating learning initiatives.

UNHCR'S PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO ENSURE THAT PROTECTION INFORMS HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN SITUATIONS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT CAUSED BY CONFLICT

Global Shelter Cluster

As the co-lead of the Global Shelter Cluster for conflict-induced humanitarian crises, UNHCR works closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the co-lead for natural disasters. Today, 10 out of the 24 country-level shelter clusters are led by UNHCR.

Over the past year, the Global Shelter Cluster has made important progress in implementing its multi-year strategy (2013-2017), notably by strengthening its preparedness and response capacity in support of country-level clusters. With ECHO backing, the Global Shelter Cluster's surge capacity has grown to 13 members from 10 different organizations that assist field-level coordination, communication, advocacy and information management. In 2014, a total of 19 missions were undertaken to 10 countries, including the Central African Republic, Chad, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. In addition to the expertise they provide to country operations during emergencies, Global Shelter Cluster

focal points work closely with country-level clusters to develop and update tools, advise on policy guidance and support training and capacity building initiatives.

UNHCR co-chairs the Global Shelter Cluster's Strategic Advisory Group with IFRC. It also participates in the Global Shelter Cluster's five working groups, including one dedicated to accountability where UNHCR has contributed to a common methodology to evaluate shelter cluster responses, and measure the impact of assistance on affected populations. This methodology was piloted in Mali and will be finalized by the end of 2014 following two additional pilots, one by IOM in Pakistan and the other by UNHCR in Somalia.

Throughout 2015, the Global Shelter Cluster will continue to enhance its communication and advocacy activities, notably through its website, while striving to maintain the support provided to country-level clusters through its surge capacity. ■

Annual report shows a record 33.3 million were internally displaced in 2013

This article is an adapted version of a UNHCR news story

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GENEVA, May 2014 | *An annual report on forced displacement released on Wednesday says that a record 33.3 million people were internally displaced at the end of 2013 due to conflict and violence, up a staggering 4.5 million from a year earlier.*



Tens of thousands of internally displaced people in the Central African Republic (CAR) found shelter at the airport in Bangui.

The *Global Overview 2014*, published by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) covering internal displacement in 2013, reported that 63 per cent of internally displaced people (IDPs) were from just five countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Sudan. With the inclusion of figures for Nigeria for the first time, the report documents that 3.3 million Nigerians have been displaced by conflict.

“This record number of people forced to flee inside their own countries confirms a disturbing upward trend of internal displacement since IDMC first began monitoring and analysing displacement back in the late 1990s,” said Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, of which the IDMC is a part.

“The dramatic increase in forced displacement in 2013, and the fact that the average amount of time people worldwide are living in displacement is now a staggering 17 years, all suggest that something is going terribly wrong in how we are responding and dealing with this issue,” said Egeland, who attended the launch of the report.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said people should “be concerned

about these numbers and the continuing upwards trend. We have a shared responsibility to act to end this massive suffering. Immediate protection and assistance for the internally displaced is a humanitarian imperative.”

By the end of last year, 8.2 million people were newly displaced, an increase of 1.6 million compared to the year before. Some 43 per cent of all people newly displaced in 2013 were in Syria.

“The IDMC report reveals a frightening reality of life inside Syria, now the largest internal displacement crisis in the world,” said Egeland. “Not only do armed groups control the areas where internal displacement camps are located, these camps are badly managed, provide inadequate shelter, sanitation and limited aid delivery.” Further to this, the IDMC report reveals how large concentrations of IDPs have been particularly targeted by artillery bombardments and airstrikes.

With 9,500 people a day – about one family every 60 seconds – being displaced inside Syria, the country remains the largest and fastest evolving displacement crisis in the world.

The three countries experiencing the worst levels of new displacement were Syria, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which together accounted for 67 per cent of the 8.2 million people newly displaced in the year.

“That these three countries appear top of the IDMC list reveals an alarming reality,” said Alfredo Zamudio, director of IDMC. “They account not only for those fleeing from relatively new crises, as in Syria and the Central African Republic, but are also reflective of the horrendous situations still faced by innocent people stuck in the midst of protracted conflict, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has suffered persistent turmoil dating back to the mid 1990s.”

Egeland said the trends shown in the report did not bode well for the future. “We have to sit up, listen up and act up by working more closely together to end this misery for millions; humanitarians alone cannot make this happen,” he said, adding: “We all have a role to play.”

UNHCR, which helps millions of IDPs, works closely with the Norwegian Refugee Council and the IDMC. ○