



**PREVENT
PROTECT
RESOLVE**

**NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY–APRIL 2020**

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An update on some activities carried out in line with the [Plan of Action for Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People 2018–2020](#) to mark the 20th Anniversary of the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement \(GP20\)](#)



March 2020, Ukraine- Olga, an IDP and community worker, makes a face mask. In March 2020, Ukraine announced country-wide emergency measures to stop the COVID-19 coronavirus from spreading. People were instructed to wear face masks in public places – a commodity which quickly became scarce.

Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement 18

At the minimum, regardless of the circumstances, and without discrimination, competent authorities shall provide internally displaced persons with and ensure safe access to [...] essential medical services and sanitation.

COVID-19 AND IDPs

A selection of activities targeting IDPs

AFRICA

Chad: New displacement mixed with COVID-19 measures

Over 20,000 people living on the Lake Chad islands were displaced to the mainland following the government's war zone declaration at the beginning of April after an attack by the non-state armed group Boko Haram. All borders and points of entry have been closed to limit the spread of COVID-19, leaving many of the displaced with reduced access to basic amenities and food, and vulnerable to safety and health risks. IOM and others are assisting these and other IDPs.



Adapting operations to

COVID-19

Anticipating an outbreak of the virus in camps and areas hosting IDPs, agencies have adapted their operations and worked to ensure essential services continue to be provided to IDPs and others. See guidance and resources issued and compiled by the [IASC](#), [IOM](#), [UNHCR](#), [OCHA](#), [UNDP](#), [Global Protection Cluster](#), [NRC](#) and [IDMC](#). The Philippines Commission on Human Rights also issued an [advisory on IDP protection](#) during the COVID-19 emergency.

Democratic Republic of Congo: IDPs report their risk of contracting COVID-19

Representatives of IDPs in Ituri and Bahema Nord reported that tens of thousands of IDPs in their communities are at risk of contracting COVID-19. Handwashing facilities and water are lacking and the crowded and sometimes open-air shelter conditions do not prevent the transmission of this virus. The provincial health minister in Ituri responded that the security situation was thus far precarious to dispatch a health team to the IDP sites.

Ethiopia: Including IDPs in COVID-19 guidelines

IOM and other partners supported the Emergency Operations Center and Ethiopian Public Health Institute to develop guidelines for COVID-19 outbreak preparedness and response for refugees, IDPs and returnees in Ethiopia. These are based on guidelines developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in March 2020.

Niger: Helping IDPs to protect themselves from COVID-19 and its effects

Protection actors have adapted their activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the effects on the protection environment. IDPs living in sites and in host families have been made aware of social distancing and hygiene measures to be observed, as well as the protection risks that may result. As part of its support, UNHCR distributed soap to over 1000 IDPs at the Ouallam site in the Tillaberi region in April.



South Sudan: Keeping protection and human rights central during COVID-19

South Sudan has grappled with conflict for many years, with 1.67 million IDPs, as well as devastated infrastructure and health system. Those forcibly displaced are exposed to more risks and disproportionately vulnerable to exclusion, stigma and discrimination. As the government, humanitarian and others create and execute prevention and response plans, it is important to recognize that the right to health is a fundamental part of the human rights framework and of our understanding of the human right to dignity. The Protection Cluster and OHCHR [issued a paper](#) and [a dashboard](#) to ensure the centrality of protection and human rights considerations, which apply to all persons including IDPs, are actualized within these plans.

AMERICAS

Central America: Guaranteeing access to rights during the COVID-19 crisis

Countries that are part of the regional framework to respond to forced displacement in Central America, known as [MIRPS](#), held an extraordinary plenary session on COVID-19. El Salvador and Honduras have implemented restrictions to contain the virus and are striving to guarantee access to certain rights, including healthcare, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. UNHCR's support to IDPs and those at risk of displacement in the region during the COVID-19 pandemic includes providing information on IDPs'

rights and access to assistance through hotlines, Help.org sites and chat groups. Moreover, in collaboration with community leaders in El Salvador and Honduras, UNHCR monitors protection needs, incidents of violence and other factors that may lead to forced displacement.



Did you know?

The Global Protection Cluster has developed a [collection of COVID-19 resources](#) with regular situation reports on affected populations, including IDPs, country-specific measures and protection risks, as well as a community of practice, a data dashboard, webinars and more.

EUROPE

Georgia: [Public Defender continues to monitor the human rights of IDPs](#)

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Defender's Office has adapted its work to continue its focus on the rights of IDPs, including studying individual cases, monitoring and legal consultations through the Public Defender's Hotline. The Office also presented the annual report on the human rights situation in Georgia at the end of March. Chapter 27 is dedicated to IDPs including relocation, living conditions and eco-migration. Read the [general overview of the annual report](#).

Kosovo: [Inclusion of IDPs in COVID-19 activities](#)

After identifying the most vulnerable IDPs and returnees, UNHCR advocated for their inclusion in COVID-19-related assistance programmes with the authorities, UN agencies, international and local NGOs. UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and other organisations have distributed information materials and humanitarian assistance related to COVID-19, and the UN Kosovo team is helping to ensure information materials suit the language needs of IDPs and other vulnerable persons. IDPs living in collective shelters met online to discuss how self-isolation and social distancing is affecting their daily life. Internally displaced children watched a live local theatre play online and presented their drawings on COVID-19 online.

Ukraine

Ukraine [adopted new legislation](#) aiming to counter the negative effects of COVID-19. Included are provisions safeguarding employees, including IDPs, from losing their jobs due to the impossibility to work from home, and prohibition of the interruption of utility services as well as evictions based on the failure to pay utility bills. In addition, IDP certificates will not be revoked for 60 days, and social payments and pensions will not be suspended. Together with its partners, UNHCR has been fighting against COVID-19 through, for example, production and distribution of protective masks, donations of detergent products and awareness-raising campaigns. Learn more [here](#).

ASIA

Afghanistan: [Awareness raising campaigns and food assistance](#)

Together with local NGOs and community leaders in Kabul and Herat, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) conducted awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 with print and audio materials and assisted IDPs and street children with food, soap kits and masks in Kabul and Herat. In Kabul, JRS staff have also been mobilizing local leaders, businessmen and traders to support food insecure households.



MIDDLE EAST

Iraq: [COVID-19 prevention information and psychiatric assistance](#)

Working closely with the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sub-cluster, the Jesuit Refugee Service has shared COVID-19 prevention information with internally displaced children and youth and provided remote child protection training for child protection focal points. JRS staff also remain on call for urgent psychiatric cases and have purchased and distributed psychiatric medication.

NATIONAL ACTION

AFRICA

Ethiopia: Proclamation to ratify the Kampala Convention

The Ethiopian President signed the proclamation to ratify the Kampala Convention in March 2020, following which the Convention took effect domestically with reservations to 3 provisions. Ethiopia will become a State Party to the Convention after depositing it to the African Union.

Ethiopia: Livelihood assistance for returned IDPs

Returned IDPs are rebuilding their homes collaboratively with support from international agencies, local carpenters, and the authorities. They are employing local building techniques with readily available materials such as Eucalyptus tree poles. Moving forward, IOM and other agencies and NGOs will work alongside these communities to support them to find jobs, restore their livelihoods and truly restart their lives in parallel with [Ethiopia's Durable Solutions Initiative](#).



Sudan: Sustaining IDPs' return through education

Click [here](#) to learn how Abdulqader, a returned IDP, is rebuilding his community in North Darfur.

AMERICAS

Honduras: Progress towards registering land abandoned due to forced displacement

The Honduran government, with support from UNHCR, has finalized the registry form to record properties that were abandoned due to forced displacement. This followed a year-long consultation process with relevant authorities, displaced communities and civil society, and several online training modules that were held as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that while the pandemic is ongoing, official registration of abandoned land and housing will take place online.



Mexico: Building national capacity for improved displacement data

Following a series of workshops and discussions in November 2019, which for the first time brought the different actors working on internal displacement in Mexico together, a set of [seven recommendations](#) was agreed upon. The group decided to move ahead with two of them in 2020 with support from the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), namely carrying out a displacement profiling in the State of Chihuahua, and organising an in depth training on the coordination of information management processes related to internal displacement. The timing of both initiatives will depend on developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



ASIA

Afghanistan: Implementation of National IDP Policy

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Afghanistan completed a series of provincial workshops with IDPs and host communities aimed at informing the development of the National IDP Policy Action Plan. Jointly with the Afghan Ministry for Refugees and Repatriation, WHH will facilitate broad consultations with IDPs protection actors to inform and consolidate the drafted Action Plan in the next few months. The Plan intends to accelerate the implementation of the National IDP Policy and to increase awareness amongst IDPs and host communities of IDPs' rights.



Afghanistan: Supporting internally displaced street children

On Street Children's Days in Kabul, Shokofan, Rawashan and Andisha, internally displaced street children shared their struggles and dreams through role-play, songs and personal stories. Internally displaced women displayed their handicrafts and traditional foods while IDP camp leaders, elders, NGOs, and Kabul university students encouraged the children to follow their dreams and to keep studying. "If you work half a day, you should study the next half, so that you do not remain a street child forever," advised Maqbola, a young Afghan Scout and former street child herself. Hussain, a mobile phone repairs trainer, and Homaira, a designer, introduced the children to their trades and offered to help them learn and earn. The events were organized by the Jesuit Refugee Service in collaboration with Kabul University, community leaders, organizations and international organizations.



IDMC's Global Report 2020

The recently launched [Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020](#) presents IDP figures for 2019 and highlights efforts to prevent, respond to and resolve internal displacement in 2019. To learn about the numbers and the most promising developments, download the report [here](#) and watch a overview [here](#)!

Philippines: Human rights monitoring of disaster-induced displacement

The Commission on Human Rights assessed the human rights situation of around 300 IDPs in Balayan affected by the Taal Volcano eruption. The volcano began emitting ash and fumes in early January and has since displaced over 140,000 persons. The Commission's observations included: food provisions assessed as low quality by IDPs; lack of skill-

appropriate livelihood opportunities and sources of income during displacement; limited provision to support specific medical needs; and incomplete information as regards return, relocation, or resettlement of displaced families. Government and non-government agencies, including businesses, provided relief items, medical care, and training opportunities to the displaced communities.



Philippines: Joint analysis of preliminary findings of profiling exercise

The exercise seeks to fill important data gaps on the internal displacement situation caused by conflict and disasters in the islands of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), as well as that of the Sama Bajaus communities at risk of statelessness. Led by UNHCR Philippines and implemented with technical and facilitation support from JIPS, [profiling partners including local authorities are currently jointly analyzing the data.](#)



EUROPE

Georgia: Internally displaced youth submit recommendations on employment for State Programmes

Over 150 youth, including those internally displaced and affected by the conflict, developed and refined a [recommendation package on youth entrepreneurship and employment](#) in November 2019 and February 2020. In April 2020, the package was disseminated to State Agencies, civil society organisations, vocational, educational and training colleges, higher education institutions and the business sector. This was an activity within the EU supported project on youth education, employment and participation in Georgia and Ukraine, implemented by DRC under the EU4Youth programme.



Georgia: Partnership on pre-school education in West Georgia

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) reports that education gaps remain a key issue for IDPs across Georgia, especially where many IDPs reside such as Samegrelo region. Aiming to train pre-school teachers on new methods and techniques which effectively contribute to child development, DRC and the NGO Association Atinati in Zugdidi have developed tailored teaching manuals for parents and teachers. These will be distributed when the kindergartens are re-opened in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.



Kosovo: Taking further steps towards durable solutions for IDPs

The Ministry for Communities and Returns issued an [update](#) on the regional Inter-Institutional Initiative on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons from Kosovo. Known as the “Skopje Process,” it is supported and facilitated by the OSCE and UNHCR, and it includes IDPs. Also working towards durable solutions, housing is being built for IDPs living in collective shelters with support from the EU and the Ministry. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), UNHCR and partners have been organizing community outreach meetings with residents of these shelters to facilitate good information flow.

UNHCR, the UN Mission in Kosovo, IOM, OSCE, DRC, civil society, central authorities and local authorities from 22 municipalities participated in a round table discussion on improving progress towards durable solutions. They discussed the importance of local action, support for inclusion of IDPs in society, adoption of solutions to meet the specific vulnerabilities and protection needs of individuals and certain groups, and the need for ad-hoc cooperation mechanisms for urgent interventions for vulnerable IDPs.



Kosovo: Including IDPs as full participants in society

A high-level event was organized to discuss return and IDPs’ issues with returnee and host community women, the former Kosovo President, UN Resident Coordinator, UNMIK, central and local authorities, and civil society organizations. The meeting called for an open dialogue, joint projects, more capacity building initiatives for women and continuous involvement of relevant entities working for women empowerment.

To support IDP self-reliance, around 40 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian returnees, IDPs and host communities [learned how to program and operate](#) a computer numerical control machine as organized by UNHCR and the business community. Internally displaced youth representatives in collective shelters housing IDPs also [learned about employment opportunities](#) for young people from HELVETAS and UNHCR, with the aim of improving self-reliance of young IDPs.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq: Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs conducts visit

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs visited Iraq in February 2020. About 6 million people were displaced in Iraq between 2014 and 2017 due to conflict. Of these, 1.4 million remain in displacement. The Special Rapporteur looked at their human rights situation, including their assistance and protection needs, prospects and challenges for durable solutions. She consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, including government representatives, UN agencies, civil society, humanitarian and development actors, and met with IDPs. Her preliminary findings are [here](#) and the complete report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2020.

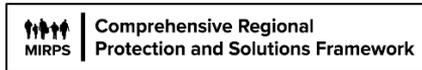


Syria: Worsening of displacement crisis

The intensification of violence in the northwest of the country has worsened the already dire displacement and shelter crisis facing IDPs and others. Idlib, a densely populated area at the epicentre of the most recent attacks, has seen almost [one million Syrians displaced from December until Mid-March](#). Humanitarians continue to risk their lives daily, and there are also increasing concerns about the potentially devastating impact of the spread of COVID-19 that could exacerbate the already strained humanitarian response.

REGIONAL ACTION

AMERICAS



An expert working group focused particularly on internal displacement has been established within the framework of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (known as [MIRPS](#)), a regional version of the Global Compact on Refugees in the Americas. This group will guide upcoming activities and actions necessary for the response to internal displacement in relevant countries.

GLOBAL ACTION

Endorsement of International Recommendations on IDP Statistics by UNSC

The UN Statistical Commission in March 2020 endorsed the [International Recommendations on IDP Statistics](#) and approved the accompanying Compilers' Manual. This shared framework for production of IDP statistics represents a major milestone. The recommendations were promoted at a high-level meeting at the UN in New York, and the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) has been mandated for a third phase, with focus on supporting implementation of the recommendations.



Durable Solutions Analysis: The use of composite measures

Two measures of durable solutions were discussed in a March 2020 webinar. First, the global-level measure proposed by the newly endorsed [International Recommendations on IDP Statistics](#), developed through the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics, designed for statistical purposes to determine whether IDPs have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities and can thus be taken out of the statistical stock. Second, the Local Re-Integration Index developed by the Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium to measure local integration in Somalia for programming purposes. The full webinar, organised by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), and presentations are available [here](#).



GP20 quarterly meeting on internal displacement

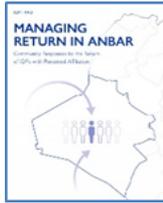
This sixth meeting of the GP20 multi-stakeholder Steering Group co-organised with the Platform on Disaster Displacement focused on internal displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change with examples from Indonesia, Fiji, Mongolia and Ethiopia. The aim was to learn from the experiences of governments who have taken important steps to prevent, address and resolve internal disaster displacement, discuss key challenges and gaps in current responses, and formulate new ideas and recommendations that can inform the deliberations of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The meeting summary and presentations are available [here](#).



NEW RESOURCES



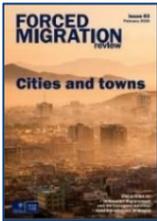
Durable Solutions Strategy
[Moving forward: Finding lasting solutions for urban displacement](#), Mogadishu
Durable Solutions Strategy,
2020- 2024



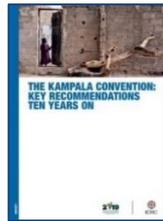
IDP Returns in Iraq
[Managing Return in Anbar: Community Responses to the Return of IDPs with Perceived Affiliation](#), IOM Iraq, 2020



Housing, Land and Property – Somalia
[Understanding Housing, Land and Property in Somalia](#), ReDSS- Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, March 2020



Urban Displacement
[Cities and Towns, Forced Migration Review](#), February 2020



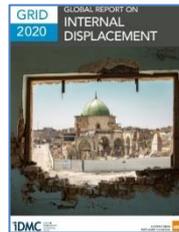
Kampala Convention
[The Kampala Convention: Key Recommendations Ten Years On](#), ICRC, 2020



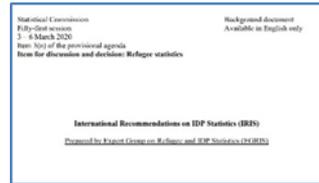
Community-Based Protection
[Community-Based Protection Community of Practice](#), UNHCR, 2020



High Level Panel on Internal Displacement
New **[website](#)** for the UN SG's High Level Panel on Internal Displacement



Data and Analysis on Internal Displacement
[Global Report on Internal Displacement](#), IDMC, 2020



IDP Statistics
[International Recommendations on IDP Statistics](#), EGRIS, 2020

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