



Engaging
with
IDPs



Internally displaced people in South Sudan waiting to collect relief items at the Maridi distribution centre.

The number of people displaced within their own country as a result of conflict and violence continues to climb at an unprecedented rate, reaching 38 million in 2014. Alongside record levels of new displacement, the number of people now living in protracted displacement is also on the rise. The Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement estimates that 80 per cent of the world's internally displaced people (IDPs) have been uprooted from their places of origin for more than five years.

This chapter provides a general overview of UNHCR's ongoing efforts within an inter-agency framework to anticipate and respond to the growing protection and assistance needs of IDPs, and to facilitate solutions to their plight. More details on specific operations can be found in the relevant regional chapters of this appeal, and on the [Global Focus website](http://GlobalFocus.unhcr.org) reporting.unhcr.org. ●●●

The centrality of protection in forced displacement

UNHCR's expertise in protection and humanitarian assistance has enabled the organization to have an effective, longstanding engagement in situations of internal displacement, as acknowledged in General Assembly resolutions, most notably A/RES/48/116 of 20 December 1993.

The organization's work on behalf of IDPs takes place primarily through the inter-agency cluster approach (see also *Working in Partnership* chapter). UNHCR leads the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and co-leads the Global Shelter Cluster and the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster. Within this collaborative framework, UNHCR's priority is to enable and support effective leadership, coordination, advocacy and operational delivery at the field level, while driving and influencing global-level policy development on internal displacement.

A priority objective for UNHCR in 2016 is to reinforce ongoing efforts to place protection at the centre of humanitarian action, including through clear guidance

and tools, coupled with accessible and appropriate technical and expert advice, resources, support missions and webinars.

Global adherence to UNHCR's internal programme guidance, issued in 2014 and updated in 2015 to strengthen its operational engagement in IDP situations, will be closely monitored. Operations will receive targeted support to fulfil the Office's protection leadership, coordination and advisory roles in complex humanitarian crises involving significant internal displacement.

The year 2016 will also see the roll-out of inter-agency guidance on Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) strategies for protection, developed by UNHCR and partners under the auspices of the GPC. So far, HCT protection strategies are being introduced in South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), with other operations such as Chad and Yemen planning to follow suit in the near future. The capacity of national protection clusters will be further strengthened through learning initiatives by the GPC Task Team on Learning, co-led by UNHCR.

IDP law and policy

The absence of, or non-compliance with, frameworks aligned with international or regional standards can perpetuate conditions where the basic human rights of IDPs are not respected, and protection needs arising from displacement are not systematically

recognized or adequately met. As part of a wider effort to promote the responsibility of States in preventing, responding to and finding solutions to internal displacement, UNHCR is forging strategic global partnerships to advance the development of national IDP laws and policies.

In 2016, UNHCR will co-lead the GPC Task Team on Law and Policy. One of the key objectives of this team is to galvanize interest and harmonize efforts to engage and assist States, civil society and national protection clusters in developing IDP laws and policies. In Africa, this will include support for the development of domestic laws guided by the Kampala Convention (see *Glossary*).

UNHCR will also continue to make maximum use of the expertise

of the task team to map national and regional progress in establishing and implementing normative and policy frameworks for IDPs. This will facilitate the delivery of targeted and coordinated technical advice and expert assistance on the development of internal displacement law and policy in a number of countries including the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Nigeria and the Philippines.

Solutions

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's *2014 Global Overview*, protracted displacement is largely linked to a failure to anchor solutions for IDPs in broader development and peace-building programmes. In one in five cases, governance failures by weak or failed States are also a major factor of protracted displacement. UNHCR will strengthen efforts to promote the inclusion of IDPs in national development planning in 2016, including at the outset.

There will also be focus on reaching out to and engaging

non-traditional partners. In 2015, UNHCR's annual High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges will focus on the root causes of forced displacement. In 2016, UNHCR will actively pursue the development of comprehensive solutions strategy for IDPs in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, the DRC, Somalia and Sri Lanka. Strategic links will be made with UNHCR's work on IDP law and policy, as a means of removing legal barriers to, and establishing the legal foundation for, solutions.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION ANTICIPATED IN 2016

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETED

Favourable protection environment

Law and policy developed or strengthened

Advocate the development or promotion of a national or regional normative framework on IDPs

- National, sub-national and regional-level developments in relation to IDP law and policy will be mapped to identify trends and best practices.
- Technical support to States and regional intergovernmental organizations in developing national and regional legal frameworks for internal displacement will be scaled up.
- A comprehensive training package on IDP law and policy will be finalized and piloted to assist efforts to develop national IDP law and policy.
- The GRC Task Team on Law and Policy will serve as a forum of experts on IDP law and policy, contribute to joint strategic initiatives by partners, and provide timely technical support and guidance.

Durable solutions

Adopt a progressive approach to solutions for IDPs in close collaboration with partners

- Governments, civil society and the private sector will be supported to remove legal and practical barriers to self-reliance.
- Legal aspects of solutions will be promoted e.g. the right to live and work freely; to register to vote; and to have lost or destroyed documents replaced without needing to return to unsafe areas.
- In accordance with the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee Decision on Durable Solutions, comprehensive national strategies will be explored together with development actors.

Coordination and operations management strengthened

Build field capacity for a stronger and more targeted operational response, notably in emergencies

- UNHCR will contribute to the development of the GPC's new multi-year strategic framework to better respond to multiple simultaneous crises and protracted situations.
- Learning programmes will be promoted and enriched to bolster field-level capacity of UNHCR and partners in IDP protection and coordination.
- UNHCR's operational engagement in IDP emergencies will be supported through technical and expert advice, guidance and field missions.
- Dialogue between the GPC and donors on protection will be strengthened.

Global Protection Cluster

Under UNHCR's leadership, the GPC will continue to promote protection as central to humanitarian action. It will contribute to the development of inter-agency policy, protection standards and guidance globally, while also strengthening the role of field protection clusters in strategy, advocacy, and the design and implementation of programmes.

UNHCR is leading 23 of the 28 current protection clusters or other

inter-agency protection coordination mechanisms worldwide, alongside OHCHR (3) and UNICEF (2). Close cooperation will continue in 2016 with UNFPA, UNICEF, UNMAS and the Norwegian Refugee Council as the lead organizations of the GPC areas of responsibility for: child protection; gender-based violence; mine action; and housing, land and property to ensure a more coherent protection response. In 2016, the GPC and its partners will also continue to strengthen the capacity

and coordination of field protection clusters, providing both direct and remote support.

A significant contribution from ECHO will bolster the overall capacity of the GPC and field protection clusters, particularly in developing laws and policies related to internal displacement, protection mainstreaming, protection information management, protection cluster coordination, and HCT protection strategies.

The GPC will continue its collaboration with the IASC Working Group in following up on recommendations from the independent whole-of-system review of protection in the context of humanitarian action, as well as in

developing a policy framework on protection. In 2016, the GPC will continue to support field missions to emerging crises to provide technical guidance to field protection clusters to develop robust protection strategies.

Finally, the GPC will start 2016 with a new multi-year strategic framework, which will reflect the evolution of the humanitarian response system highlighted by the IASC Statement on the Centrality of Protection, Human Rights Up Front and the Transformative Agenda, and will see the GPC adapting its working methods to respond to multiple simultaneous crises and protracted situations.

Global Shelter Cluster

The Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) is led by UNHCR for conflict situations, and by the IFRC for natural disasters. In addition to its role as GSC lead agency, UNHCR is currently leading 11 of the 25 activated shelter clusters worldwide.

Entering the second phase of the *Global Shelter Cluster Strategy 2013-2017*, the GSC is focusing on strengthening capacities to support country-level clusters as well as to sustain these core services.

Thanks to support from ECHO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and other key partners, the deployment of surge capacity in the short and medium-term is being enhanced to ensure the continuity and predictability of

country-level cluster coordination. This strengthened model has been used in the CAR, Chad, Iraq and Ukraine, among other countries.

The GSC will also reinforce integrated systems to improve practices, foster innovation, deliver functional tools and systems, and promote consistency and accountability of shelter coordination. Closer links will be established between assessments, monitoring and evaluation. Lessons learned from these responses will be recorded nationally and disseminated globally, allowing the GSC to better explain the situation on the ground and undertake evidence-based advocacy through the network of cluster partners.

Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

The Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, led by UNHCR in conflict situations and by IOM in natural disasters, offers various types of field support. At present, UNHCR leads nine of the 12 activated CCCM clusters worldwide.

The CCCM Cluster manages and develops tools and technical guidance, information management systems, and training packages for operations teams on assignment. A commitment to improving CCCM Cluster surge capacity and field support is achieved by rapid response teams and technical experts who provide timely and predictable operational support, including coordination and training.

As a cross-cutting sector, the CCCM Cluster works closely with other actors such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), OCHA, international NGOs and other global

clusters, in particular the protection and shelter clusters.

Throughout 2016, the CCCM Cluster will continue to improve its preparedness to respond to new and existing emergencies; build on lessons learned from capacity-development initiatives; establish new and strengthen existing partnerships; and expand the network of CCCM Cluster members and stakeholders.

A mission to the DRC is planned in order to follow up on the CCCM urban displacement and out-of-camp (UDOC) initiative. This involves establishing community coordination centres as part of community-based responses to urban and out-of-camp internal displacement.

The revised camp management toolkit will be updated on an ongoing basis. It has become an important resource for cluster colleagues and other stakeholders in various operational contexts. ■

UN refugee agency opens two new camps for displaced Iraqis in Baghdad

This article is an adapted version of a UNHCR news story

25 September 2015



BAGHDAD, Iraq, September 2015 | UNHCR, its partners and local authorities have opened two new camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Baghdad province, providing shelter for 3,500 Iraqis who have had to flee Anbar province due to recent fighting.

UNHCR/N. MICEVIC

The newly-opened Yusufiya camp for IDPs in Baghdad.

Sadr Al Yusufiya camp opened on Tuesday (22 September), six kilometres from Bzeibiz bridge, the main access point between the Baghdad and Anbar provinces, will accommodate some 2,000 people.

Meanwhile, in Baghdad's Ghzaliya neighbourhood, Scout camp, which opened on 16 September, will provide shelter to some 1,500 internally displaced Iraqis who had been staying in unfinished buildings, with the host community or with relatives in the city.

Naima, 66, fled Anbar's capital, Ramadi, when it fell to the control of armed insurgents in April.

She moved into Scout camp along with her son, his wife and their new-born child. "It's a big relief. We'd been living in an unfinished building ever since we arrived. Although the host community has been generous, providing us with cash, food and household items, it feels good to have a space that is ours", she added.

Scout camp has 250 tents, all connected to electricity, and its new residents have also

received essential household items and summer assistance, including mattresses and kitchen utensils, as well as rechargeable fans, cooler boxes and water coolers, to aid their new move. The camp features innovative shaded areas that will be used as communal kitchens, and a 250 KV generator to supplement the power supply when it goes off.

Sadr Al Yusufiya camp has 325 tents, each provided with one electric lamp and a socket outlet connected to two 350 KV generators powering the camp. Public lightning is provided by 36 pole lamp posts across the camp.

"UNHCR, the authorities and partners are working hard to ensure that the shelter needs of internally displaced Iraqis are being met and to relieve the pressure on the local community", said Bruno Geddo, the UNHCR Representative in Iraq. "While the majority of those who have been forcibly displaced would prefer to return home, a secure shelter will provide them with protection and a sense of dignity until it is safe for them to do so." ○