



THE IDP-INITIATIVE

QUARTERLY UPDATE

JUNE 2020

This Update provides an overview of **UNHCR's rapid emergency preparedness and unfolding response to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on internally displaced persons.** Demonstrated through the example of several country operations, broad themes covered in the Update include – Empowerment imbued from cash assistance; Localization and engagement with national authorities; Advantages of community engagement and the Centrality of protection.

AT A GLANCE



45.7 million
internally
displaced people
worldwide in 2019*

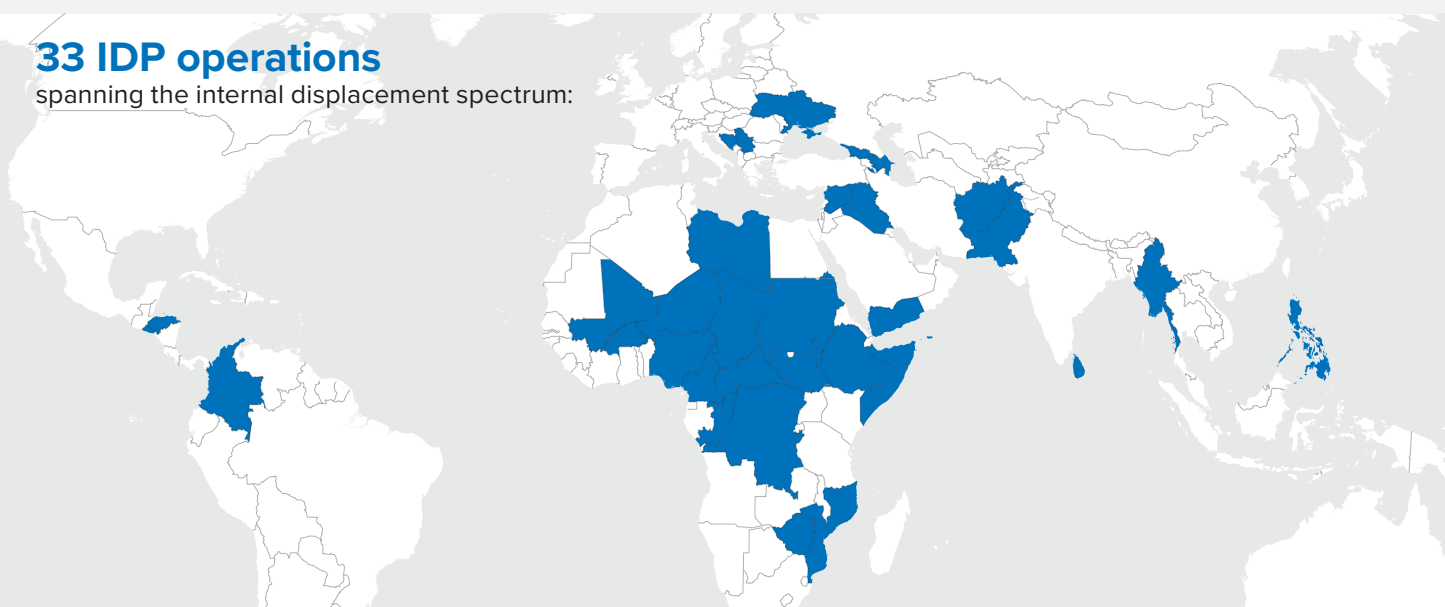


57% of the world's
displaced remain
within the border of
their own country*

* Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

33 IDP operations

spanning the internal displacement spectrum:



8 keystones to assess progress on our IDP engagement:



5 cross-cutting enablers ensuring a comprehensive IDP response:



This is the first in a series of Quarterly Updates concerning UNHCR's Step-Up on Internal Displacement, as demonstrated by the [Initiative on Internal Displacement \(IDP-I\) 2020-2021](#).

In setting his Strategic Directions 2017-2021, the High Commissioner committed UNHCR to be more decisive, predictable and effective in situations of internal displacement. The updated [Policy on UNHCR Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement](#), issued in September 2019, provides revised guidance on our role in Preparedness, Operational delivery, Coordination leadership and the search for Solutions – in cooperation with States and within the inter-agency framework.

While UNHCR is engaged in internal displacement in over thirty country operations, the IDP-I demonstrates this Step-Up through thematic, strategic and operational dimensions in nine target operations – **Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan and Ukraine.**

Certain themes are apparent:

First, UNHCR's decentralization in 2019 through the establishment of seven Regional Bureaux encompassing the globe has greatly advantaged our IDP preparedness and response to the unfolding pandemic. Having an expanded field and regional footprint has improved efficiency and positioning of resources, both human and financial, closer to the point of delivery. This has been appreciated by Governments and led to swifter response.

Second, synergies within our cluster leadership have been critical. Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UNHCR leads the Global Protection Cluster and co-leads the Global Shelter Cluster and the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM), together with IFRC and IOM, respectively. Our cluster efforts during the pandemic have focused on speedy, consistent and predictable leadership, ensuring protection as central to inter-agency efforts, and for Shelter and CCCM resources to reach the most vulnerable.

Third, it is more important than ever to inter-twine our Coordination leadership with operational engagement. Robust delivery brings us closer to the people, builds credibility with cluster partners, especially small local organizations, and strengthens our relationship with the authorities. Response to critical assistance needs builds trust with communities, essential for addressing sensitive protection issues.

Fourth, investments in solutions must underpin all our efforts. Solutions can be achieved where local communities are resilient, and greater resilience can be achieved via investments in national capacity, including by international financial institutions. Solutions-orientation is central to our approach, most notably through the inclusion of IDPs in national services and pandemic-related safety nets established by states.

Finally, our engagement occurs within a framework of supporting the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement through laws, policies and practices which protect the rights of IDPs, as well as collaborative action to prevent, address and resolve situations of internal displacement. Our co-leadership with OCHA of the GP20 Plan of Action and our work with regional organizations, governments, national human rights institutions, NGOs and civil society are key to these efforts.

It is timely that the political discourse on IDP solutions has converged with the formulation of the State-led High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Its presence as the impact of the pandemic unfolds provides hope for needed attention to IDPs and the additional risks they face.

Specific risks faced by internally displaced people in the context of COVID-19

Internally displaced people may face risks which are specific to their displacement in the context of COVID-19. These risks may leave IDPs newly vulnerable or exacerbate existing vulnerabilities:

- Poverty does not allow internally displaced people the option of social distancing. Many must exit their homes to look for labour opportunities, regardless of the risk.
- As IDPs are frequently located in crowded conditions in camps, camp-like settings or urban slums, this may accelerate virus spread, in particular in locations where water and sanitation services are not adequate.
- Challenges may be faced in accessing national health systems, including due to the lack of documentation, lack of availability of services, and possible discrimination.
- Inadequate access of IDPs to sustainable levels of nutrition may be in part due to their displacement and could be compounded by limited livelihood opportunities and insufficient humanitarian aid. Reduced nutrition status results in a weakened immune system and greater susceptibility to the virus.
- Loss of livelihoods, including daily labour opportunities, may leave IDPs who were previously able to meet their own needs newly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.
- Flight due to continuing conflict and persecution may be further hindered due to pandemic-related movement restrictions. This may also affect the ability of displaced persons from voluntarily returning and reintegrating in locations of origin.
- COVID-19 related State messaging requires specific tailored approaches to ensure applicability and potential implementation in recognition of internal displacement realities.
- Unless efforts are undertaken, tensions between host and displacement communities may arise due to the worsening local economic conditions, existing xenophobia, and a new competition over resources.
- Outbreaks of other infectious diseases, in particular cholera and measles, are occurring near internally displaced persons locations also affected by COVID-19. Health systems have not been able to adequately respond to the multiplicity of crises.
- Older persons may be more susceptible to COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions. More than ever, older persons need access to information which is specific to their needs, and relevant for their individual situation.
- Internally displaced women and girls are likely to experience distinct challenges and risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and as such the outbreak may exacerbate already existing risks of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Confinement risks increase intimate partner violence, while worsened socio-economic situation will create increased risk of exploitation. In parallel, access to regular GBV services is likely to become challenging for survivors.
- The mental health of many internally displaced persons is at risk of deterioration, and group psychosocial support activities have largely ended due to restrictions on gatherings.



Burkina Faso: making protective masks in Dori. Abdoulaye, master dressmaker and member of the host community in Dori, Burkina Faso, brought his expertise to help make protective masks that will allow IDPs and refugees to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Burkina Faso – the fastest growing IDP situation

UNHCR has appealed for US\$186 million for the displacement crisis in Central Sahel. The appeal aims at the provision of lifesaving protection and assistance to refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities throughout the Central Sahel region.

By mid-2020, violence within Burkina Faso has uprooted 921,400 people – an increase of 290% in one year. UNHCR collaborates with Government-led efforts to respond to the displacement, further compounded by complexities posed by the pandemic.

UNHCR is operationally present across the nine Burkina Faso regions which host the majority of the internally displaced - Centre Nord, Sahel, Nord, Est, Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, Centre, Haut Bassins and Plateau Central, in addition to interventions wherever necessary.

Direct operational support has been provided by UNHCR to regional health authorities to strengthen their prevention and response capacity. Activities have included in-kind support for the purchase of medicine, medical equipment and supplies, as well as provision of hand-washing stations and housing units to allow for isolation and quarantine.

In fulfilment of its inter-agency accountabilities, UNHCR leads both the Protection and the Shelter Clusters in Burkina Faso and provides support to the Government on the management of camps and camp-like settings while moving forward with the formalization of the CCCM Working group.

Efforts are also underway to relocate IDP sites that are in flood-prone areas as well as to decongest crowded IDP sites and/or host families' homes.

The Protection Cluster continues to enhance its country-wide engagement and support to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) for protection mainstreaming, guidance on protection principles and their consideration regarding the humanitarian response. As regards the latter, the Protection Cluster has, in cooperation with agencies, developed a protection strategy for the HCT, which was adopted on 25 June. UNHCR facilitates the Housing, Land and Property Rights Area of Responsibility since March 2020.

UNHCR continues to support the government entity in charge of IDP response coordination, CONASUR, for IDP enrolment and profiling. With the rapid and complex increase in internal displacement figures, at least 2 social workers per commune in 7 regions have been identified for continuous IDP enrolment and necessary updates. IDP enrolment and profiling is key to the humanitarian response planning in Burkina Faso.

Further systematization of a remote protection monitoring system has been facilitated, through community-based networks and by phone, not the least due to security-related issues but also due to pandemic-related movement restrictions.

UNHCR Burkina Faso has developed a Sexual and Gender Based Violence project featuring mobile case management teams with psychosocial, medical, material and legal components. The project has begun in the Centre Nord regions with planned extensions in July and August to the Nord, Sahel, Hauts Bassins, Est and Plateau Central regions.

Strengthening community awareness for the prevention of COVID-19, UNHCR has partnered with *Fondation Hirondelle* (FH) to produce a short daily COVID-19 news program for IDPs and host populations, broadcast through 37 partner radios across the country, including in local languages

(namely *Fulfudé* and *More*). 160,000 pandemic related posters have also been distributed, alongside continued follow-up through questionnaires to assess on-going information needs and gaps. Additionally, more than 500 members of the community-based protection committees trained on COVID-19 prevention measures, are sensitizing their communities in 6 regions.

The Shelter Cluster has engaged in an inclusive consultation with its partners to develop and validate the response strategy for Shelter and core relief items (CRIs) in March. In order to ensure neutrality and impartiality and in accordance with the recommendations of the IASC, a strategic Advisory Group was created in April and mandated to infuse the Cluster with clear strategic orientations. The Shelter Cluster has facilitated strong operational implementation with more focal points to strengthen the shelter network across Burkina Faso. This also includes close guidance for the practical adaptation of shelter delivery and distribution of non-food items during the pandemic.

The Cluster partners provided emergency shelters to 18,290 households and provided CRIs impacting 35,406 households. UNHCR has supported 10,000 households with shelter materials between March and June 2020 and 21,300 additional plastic sheets will be distributed by the end of the month to help repair damaged homes due to the heavy rains and strong winds prevalent in the rainy season, as well as assist in the decongestion of crowded IDP sites.

UNHCR, in close collaboration with partners, is expediting Area-based Approaches – providing assistance and access to services to all affected and co-located displaced communities as well as to the communities hosting them. The methodologies also help mitigate the risk of inter-communal tension and are aimed at enhancing peaceful coexistence, including through specifically targeted projects.

Expanding IDP empowerment through cash assistance

Most internally displaced people move to locations with access to markets and services, often in the proximity of local communities. Cash assistance empowers the most vulnerable, enabling them to choose how to meet their own needs, while also contributing to the local economy.

With the challenges posed in the initial period of the pandemic, UNHCR rapidly stepped-up its cash assistance to facilitate protection, assistance and services to the most vulnerable. This has enabled IDPs to address a variety of individualized needs including access to healthcare, shelter, water, food and others. Access to cash is a vital and efficient lifeline, which contributes to a range of outcomes, including empowerment and resilience as well as furthering financial inclusion through access to bank accounts or mobile money, reducing negative coping mechanisms and meeting specific protection outcomes. With a focus on inclusion in the national response, UNHCR complements and/or aligns its cash assistance, whenever possible, with the existing social safety nets.

In line with the UN Principals Common Cash Statement, UNHCR cash distribution during the pandemic includes some thirteen IDP country operations, disbursing more than 14 million USD in cash to vulnerable IDPs between March-June 2020. This distribution has simultaneously linked and aligned the larger IDP community with local and national social protection systems wherever possible. In 2019, UNHCR delivered almost USD 100 million to meet the needs of IDPs.

In **Ukraine**, UNHCR targeted its cash assistance to respond to specific vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons from the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. This included the distribution of cash to those stranded at the entry-exit checkpoints in Eastern Ukraine following the suspension of movement across the line of contact from 22 March.

Cash was provided to persons unable to re-cross the line, including to allow for a safe place to stay while awaiting return authorization. Many beneficiaries were older persons with heightened vulnerabilities and needs in the absence of their small pension.

In **Iraq**, UNHCR supports IDP families' access to basic hygiene items through cash assistance. The disbursement initiated in April, is in response to the pandemic and has facilitated over 40,000 IDPs to access assistance through their e-wallets. A target of over 80,000 IDP families largely residing in 37 UNHCR managed camps is further planned.

In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR is building on a prior successful "cash for shelter" intervention, where vulnerable households had received cash to construct two-room shelters in 2019 and early 2020. Since March 2020, this programme has concentrated in return and reintegration areas, where UNHCR is also implementing an Area-Based Approach providing services to IDPs, refugee returnees and vulnerable members of the host community.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, cooperation with a local telephone network provider allowed for cash to be distributed by mobile money transfers, a good practice given the imperative of physical distancing and the aim to increase financial inclusion and financial literacy. To make this option possible, mobile phones and SIM cards were rapidly distributed to 6,000 vulnerable families, facilitating their access to much needed funds. As most persons already had a telephone in hand, this method proved to be a light approach which also expedited post-distribution monitoring. Establishing this contact network has further improved two-way

communication between UNHCR and the IDP community for further engagement as we move along with contact restrictions.

Adopting a similar approach, UNHCR also initiated a “cash for shelter” project to benefit 5,000 vulnerable persons in South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. IDPs were thereby enabled to buy shelter materials – critical in response to the recent flooding in South Kivu which posed health risks in addition to the pandemic.

In line with the 2019 IDP Policy, UNHCR is also implementing its IDP “enrolment” for the necessary collection of information, including biometrics at household or individual levels, for the purpose of delivering and monitoring services and assistance, including cash assistance.

DRC: Mobile money helps IDPs prepare for COVID-19

An internally displaced Congolese woman receives a mobile phone and SIM card at a distribution site in Beni, North Kivu, in DRC's North Kivu province. She fled her village and found safety in Beni with her three children. She is currently pregnant with her fourth child.

UNHCR is distributing money by mobile phone to 6,000 vulnerable families uprooted by conflict and already facing a deadly



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17748

