



Internal Displacement

Internal displacement can be referred to as a situation where people are forced to leave their homes but they remain within their countries. People who fall into this category are known as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement defines IDPs as persons or groups of persons who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, but have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. Unlike refugees, Internally Displaced Persons are on the run within their countries. Each year, millions of people are forced to flee their homes in search of safety and according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), at the end of 2019, nearly 45.7 million people were internally displaced. 14 million people have been internally displaced due to conflict and violence. Internally Displaced Persons are amongst the most vulnerable to physical attacks, sexual assaults, and are frequently deprived of basic necessities. According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the majority of internally displaced persons are women and children who are at risk of abuse of their basic rights. IDPs are sometimes trapped in conflict zones and are used as human shields by unscrupulous people. They rarely have adequate access to health care, quality education, housing, and employment which are key attributes of sustainable development. Meeting the needs of IDPs will be essential to the successful fulfillment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda on leaving no one behind.

Holding on: An Immersive Experience of Internal Displacement

- Martha, Internally displaced from Putumayo to Narino, Colombia: [Read more](#)
- Oza, Internally displaced from Baga to Maiduguri, Nigeria: [Read more](#)
- Abu Jassim, Internally displaced from Salah al-Din to Sulaimaniyah, Iraq: [Read more](#)
- Maurice, Internally displaced from Abaco, Bahamas: [Read more](#)
- Abdul Jabar Dimalna, Internally displaced from Marawi City to Lanao del Norte, Philippines: [Watch now](#)

Actions around the world:

- The effort of IDMC in providing data to inform global, regional and national policy-making: [Learn more](#)
- Building capacity to improve statistics on forced displacement: [Learn more](#)
- We Can Do It!" - Building Safer Homes in Iraq's IDP Camps: [Learn more](#)
- Ancient sites provide shelter for Syria's internally displaced people: [Watch now](#)