



MIRPS Regional technical team on Internal Displacement

ABC ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Index

ACRONYMS	3
I. Introduction and Background	5
II. Context of internal displacement in RTT member countries	7
III. Definitions, legal framework, and principles	12
1. Definitions	12
2. Legal framework on internal displacement	14
3. Principles and approaches	20
IV. Prevention of the causes of internal displacement	24
V. Internal Displacement Response Systems	28
1. Prevention	29
2. Protection Analysis	30
3. Registration	32
4. Assistance	35
5. Intermediate solutions	36
6. Durable solutions	37
6.1 Eight criteria for determining the extent to which a durable solution has been achieved	40
VI. Conclusion	42
VII. Sources	43

ACRONYMS

UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IAC	International Armed Conflicts
NIAC	Non-International Armed Conflicts
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
DSI	OAS Department of Social Inclusion
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
RTT	Regional Technical Team
IASC Framework	Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons
MIRPS	Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OAS	Organization of American States
UN	United Nations Organization
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EWARS	Early Warning and Response System



I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This document is a compilation of tools aimed at the comprehensive attention of internal displacement, developed with guidance from the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on internal displacement sessions.

The Regional Technical Team (RTT), formerly known as the Working Group, was created in 2020 by El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico, making them the first RTT, and formalized by the MIRPS Statutory Charter.¹ The RTT on internal displacement, aligning with international standards, serves as a platform for officials from the three governments to share their experiences and knowledge in preventing and addressing internal displacement.

Since its creation, the RTT has had the support of the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, made up of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Department of Social Inclusion (DIS) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Likewise, the countries participating in the Team have been accompanied by a group of expert advisors to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices. This group has included expert practitioners and institutions from member countries of the Support Platform, among which Colombia stands out.²

In 2023, with the support of the United States, former Support Platform Chair, a learning event was organized in Bogotá, Colombia, with the countries of the RTT and Colombian officials from the Unit for the Comprehensive Attention and Reparation of Victims (UARIV), the Land Restitution Unit, the Ombudsman's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the Constitutional Court. In 2024, the International Committee of the Red Cross also joined the group of expert advisors.

¹.MIRPS, Statutory Charter, Article Twenty-One.

².MIRPS, Recommendations for the Protection and Creation of Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico, December 2020.

Considering the RTT's progress, Member States requested the MIRPS Technical Secretariat to produce an 'ABC' document or toolbox on internal displacement, based on the inputs provided during the RTT working sessions in 2023 and 2024. This document has been prepared to be a comprehensive and effective tool in addressing the issue of internal displacement, providing resources, strategies, and guidelines that contribute to its understanding, prevention, and attention.



II. CONTEXT OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN RTT MEMBER COUNTRIES

The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement highlights the urgency of this problem: the number of internally displaced persons in the world has doubled in the last decade.³ In the first half of 2024, over 581,000 people faced internal displacement in El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico, with the following figures: 262,411 IDPs in Mexico; 71,500 IDPs in El Salvador; and 247,090 IDPs in Honduras.⁴

RTT Member States reported the following progress in the MIRPS 2024 Annual Report:



El Salvador

In 2020, El Salvador approved the Special Law for the attention and comprehensive protection of people in situations of forced internal displacement.⁵ The purpose of this law is to recognize, guarantee, and protect the fundamental rights of persons in situations of forced internal displacement and those who are at risk of being displaced, through the establishment of preventive procedures and an efficient attention system with a humanitarian approach that includes durable solutions.

In 2024, as part of the implementation of commitments made under the MIRPS framework, El Salvador reported the update of the “Guidelines for the Attention of Displaced or at Risk of Forced Internal Displacement Students and Teachers.” These guidelines are incorporated into the current Human Rights Regulations for Children and Adolescents in the country, through the “Grow Together Law” for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Children, and Adolescents. The Guidelines will be disseminated once they are formally approved.⁶

³ UN, [United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Action on Internal Displacement](#).

⁴ MIRPS, [Annual Report 2024](#), p. 12.

⁵ MIRPS, [Special Law for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Persons in Conditions of Internal Forced Displacement](#).

⁶ MIRPS, [Annual Report 2024](#), p. 71.

In addition, to promote the reconstruction of the social fabric at the community level, El Salvador has implemented the Urban Centers of Welfare and Opportunities (CUBO), which are spaces within communities that promote the development of the population through reading, art, culture, information and communication technologies.

In turn, in 2024, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric (DRTS) launched the first phase of the "Grafitour", an initiative that combines curatorial workshops with local communities, providing a foundation for street artists to express community sentiment through graffiti, thereby promoting the recovery of public spaces and preserve collective memory.



Honduras

The Law for the Prevention, Care, and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons entered into force in Honduras in April 2023.⁷ Its adoption, through Legislative Decree No. 154-2022, has allowed significant advances, such as the development of the law's regulations.

At the municipal level, initiatives such as "Cities of Solidarity" seek to guarantee access to essential services and promote the integration of IDPs, strengthening social cohesion. In addition, in collaboration with international organizations such as UNHCR, the Honduran State has implemented prevention strategies, including institutional strengthening and improving livelihood opportunities in affected communities. These measures not only seek to reduce the impacts of displacement, but also to address its structural causes, promoting development and peace in the country.

To strengthen response capacities for forced displacement at the municipal level, an eight-day training series took place with the municipalities of Distrito Central, Choluteca, Juticalpa, Catacamas, San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, Choloma, and La Ceiba. These sessions prioritized the guidelines for municipal response to internal displacement in Honduras, aiming to operationalize the law and advise local administrations on its implementation process. A total of 106 municipal officials participated in these training sessions.

7. MIRPS, Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons of Honduras.

Likewise, since 2023, the National Statistics Institute (INE), in coordination with the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH) and with the support of UNHCR, has worked on the collection and analysis of data on forced displacement in the country. It is currently in the preparation phase of the report for 2023, which will address the main causes of displacement, such as crime and violence, climate change (natural disasters or catastrophes), and other variables that affect living conditions. The report will also include maps that reflect situations of internal displacement, from their place of origin to their potential return.

Finally, in 2024, the Institute for Vocational Training (Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional, INFOP), with the support of UNHCR and funding from the United States through the MIRPS Support Platform, executed the Labour Relations Internships projects. This initiative benefited 92 young people across 5 of the state's departments (Francisco Morazán, Cortés, Choluteca, El Paraíso, and Ocotepeque), covering a total of 17 municipalities. Of the total number of participants, 73 were internally displaced youth.



Mexico

In 2024, the national technical team of Mexico presented to the MIRPS Support Platform a project focused on providing direct support to the internally displaced population in the municipality of Choix, Sinaloa. The initiative is based on strategies for community strengthening and protection, aiming to ensure that individuals are aware of the mechanisms to access their rights and engage in actions that promote community organization for the pursuit of collective solutions. The project was approved on July 8, 2024, as a model for the implementation of good practices.

As part of the efforts to improve the care and registration of internally displaced persons, the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB) and UNHCR developed the "Guide for the Registration of Persons in a Situation of Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico" (Guía para el registro de personas en situación de desplazamiento forzado interno en México). This document compiles key standards, principles, and considerations to guide federal and state governments in designing and implementing registries for managing cases of this population. The development of the Guide was based on an analysis of: (1) national and international standards on registration and UNHCR considerations for forced displacement registration strategies; (2) good practices in Mexico, identified through information provided by 107 institutions at the local and federal levels; and (3) national and local legislation

relevant to or potentially applicable to the registration of IDPs. The Guide includes two key tools: a flowchart for designing IDP registries and a checklist to facilitate the monitoring of necessary actions.

Additionally, within the framework of the Working Group on Forced Internal Displacement (GT-DFI) of SEGOB, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) developed a proposed Unified Registration Form for Displaced Persons. This tool is designed to identify priority needs and facilitate care and the development of durable solutions. It aims to be a dynamic instrument, adaptable to the specificities of different legal frameworks and institutional approaches.

In August, the National Meeting on Good Practices and Opportunities in Inter-Institutional Coordination for Addressing Internal Forced Displacement in Mexico was held, organized by the Unit for Migration Policy, Registration, and Identity of Persons (UPMRIP), UNHCR, and the Secretariat for Migrants of Michoacán. This event, held in Morelia, Michoacán, brought together representatives from various federal entities and government agencies. Its objective was to create a space for inter-institutional dialogue to share experiences, identify good practices, and reflect on the challenges of providing comprehensive care to IDPs. Strategic partnerships were also promoted to strengthen coordination and collaboration across different levels of government. During this event, the “Guide for the Registration of Persons in situations of forced internal displacement in Mexico” was publicly launched.

In September, COMAR launched the online course “Human Mobility, Refuge, and Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico,” available on the Aprende.mx platform. The course aims to build capacities on human mobility, covering general characteristics and different categories of the phenomenon, with a particular focus on refuge and forced internal displacement. To date, over 1,200 individuals have enrolled.

Finally, in September, the Undersecretariat for Human Rights, Population, and Migration of SEGOB published the Report on Activities on Forced Internal Displacement for the 2018–2024 period. This document compiles the progress and actions implemented during this administration and aims to transfer knowledge, tools, and key instruments to future administrations, thus facilitating the continuity and consolidation of a comprehensive public policy to address forced internal displacement in Mexico.



III. DEFINITIONS, LEGAL FRAMEWORK, AND PRINCIPLES

This section will present definitions of arbitrary displacement and internal displacement, the legal framework for both international and regional levels that governs the protection of IDPs, and relevant principles and approaches for internal displacement responses.

1. Definitions

The primary guiding instrument for defining internal displacement is the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), presented to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (now the Human Rights Council) in 1998. Although these Principles—unlike a treaty or Convention—are not binding, they have been widely recognized by states and the international community as the main international framework on internal displacement, as they present a key basis covering "the wide range of assistance and protection needs of internally displaced persons that arise during displacement, return and resettlement, or reintegration, as well as a range of safeguards." ⁸

According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, ⁹ IDPs are:

'Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.'



⁸ International Recommendations on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons (IRIS) (2020), page 17

⁹ Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/39. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998).

It is important to note that many migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers come from countries where internal displacement is already widespread. Similarly, some IDPs may be displaced to another country if they are unable to find protection and durable solutions in their country of origin or habitual residence. Furthermore, some returnees may become displaced in their country of origin because, upon return, they do not find safety or access to basic services or livelihood opportunities. Consequently, there is a possible connection between internal displacement and migration. In such cases, the consequences of displacement must be addressed through comprehensive and coordinated responses aimed at maximizing protection for both IDPs and migrants.

Internal displacement is not recognized through a legal or administrative lens, it is a de facto situation. As citizens or habitual residents of the country in which they are located, IDPs are entitled to State protection and assistance and do not need a special status to acquire these rights.

Although certain forms of displacement may be legal (e.g. evacuations, evictions), arbitrary displacement should be prohibited. According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the prohibition of arbitrary displacement includes displacement:¹⁰

(a) When it is based on policies of apartheid, "ethnic cleansing," or similar practices aimed at/or resulting in altering the ethnic, religious, or racial composition of the affected population;

(b) In situations of armed conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand;

(c) In cases of large-scale development projects, which are not justified by compelling and overriding public interests;

(d) In cases of disasters, unless the safety and health of the affected persons require their evacuation; and

e) When it is used as a collective punishment.

10. Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/39. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998), Principle 6.

2. Legal framework on internal displacement



Displaced persons, being citizens or habitually resident in a country, should receive the same rights as other inhabitants. In addition, there are several instruments and documents—binding and non-binding—that form the framework for the protection of IDPs, at both international and regional levels. The [American Convention on Human Rights](#) is the primary instrument for the protection of the human rights of all persons in the hemisphere. Therefore, the human rights of IDPs are protected by the American Convention. ¹¹

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights—the main entity charged with applying and interpreting the content and scope of the provisions of the American Convention—has issued several resolutions¹² on situations of internal displacement. These resolutions have allowed the Inter-American Court to develop the obligations of States towards persons affected by internal displacement. For example, Article 22(1) of the Convention provides for freedom of movement, which the Court has interpreted as "protecting the right not to be forcibly displaced within a State Party to the Convention."¹³ Also, in the *Case of the Ituango Massacres v. Colombia*, the Inter-American Court established that the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement are relevant to "define the content and scope of Article 22 of the American Convention on Human Rights in a context of internal displacement," and that the situation of internally displaced persons "can be understood as a de facto condition of lack of protection."

In its latest resolution,¹⁴ the OAS General Assembly urged Member States to, "when appropriate, include in their sectoral plans, policies, and programs the special assistance and protection needs of the human rights of IDPs, including needs related to the loss of physical protection, loss of livelihoods, loss of personal documents or access to social services, and exposure to new risks, as well as of members of communities affected by internal displacement, particularly members of vulnerable groups." The General Assembly also recognized the work of the MIRPS RTT on Internal Displacement.

¹¹For a more detailed analysis of the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court, [Technical Fact Sheets on the Inter-American Human Rights System and the Protection of Persons of Concern of the UNHCR Fact Sheet N. 5](#)

¹²For example, the [Case of the Displaced Afro-descendant Communities of the Cacarica River Basin \(Operation Genesis\) v. Colombia](#) (2013), the [Case of the Massacres of Río Negro v. Guatemala](#) (2012), the [Case of the Moiwana Community v. Suriname](#) (2005), the [Case of the "Mapiripán Massacre" vs. Colombia](#) (2006), and the [Case of the Ituango Massacres vs. Colombia](#) (2006), among others.

¹³[Case of the "Mapiripán Massacre" v. Colombia](#) (2005), paragraph 188

¹⁴Organization of American States. (2024). AG/RES. 3028 (LIV-O/24), p.143.

In the region, there is also the [San Jose Action Statement](#), which was adopted at the High-Level Roundtable "Call to Action: Protection Needs in the Northern Triangle of Central America" in 2016. The San José Declaration recognizes the need to develop comprehensive and multisectoral actions to improve protection and responses to the most urgent needs of displaced populations, in accordance with international and regional human rights standards.



Within the MIRPS framework, the [San Pedro Sula Declaration](#),¹⁵ from which the creation of the MIRPS is derived, calls for the development of responses to the "causes that originate these movements, as well as the strengthening of protection and assistance to address differentiated needs."¹⁶ Similarly, the 2021 MIRPS Declaration of the City of La Antigua Guatemala recommended "Strengthening, in line with the actions developed by the Working Group on Internal Displacement, cooperation and the exchange of good practices in terms of regulations, institutional policies, and national coordination mechanisms for the protection and search for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to the situation of displaced persons or those at risk of displacement, including efforts aimed at improving evidence and case management and attention."¹⁷

Also, in the 2024 [MIRPS Belize City Declaration](#), MIRPS countries agreed to "reinforce, in line with the actions developed by the Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement, cooperation and the exchange of good practices in terms of regulations, institutional policies, and national coordination mechanisms for the protection and search for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to the situation of IDPs or those at risk of displacement, and, in particular, efforts to address internal displacement due to the adverse impacts of disasters and climate change."¹⁸



¹⁵ Declaration of San Pedro Sula as a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees.

¹⁶ Declaration of San Pedro Sula as a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees.

¹⁷ MIRPS Declaration of the City of La Antigua Guatemala: Responding to the structural causes of displacement and strengthening partnerships and comprehensive responses for protection and solutions for displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, and returnees in need of protection in Central America and Mexico.

[1] MIRPS, Belize City Declaration at the VII Annual Meeting of the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS): Expanding Partnerships and Strengthening Coordinated Regional Responses for Displaced Populations in Central America and Mexico, 2024.

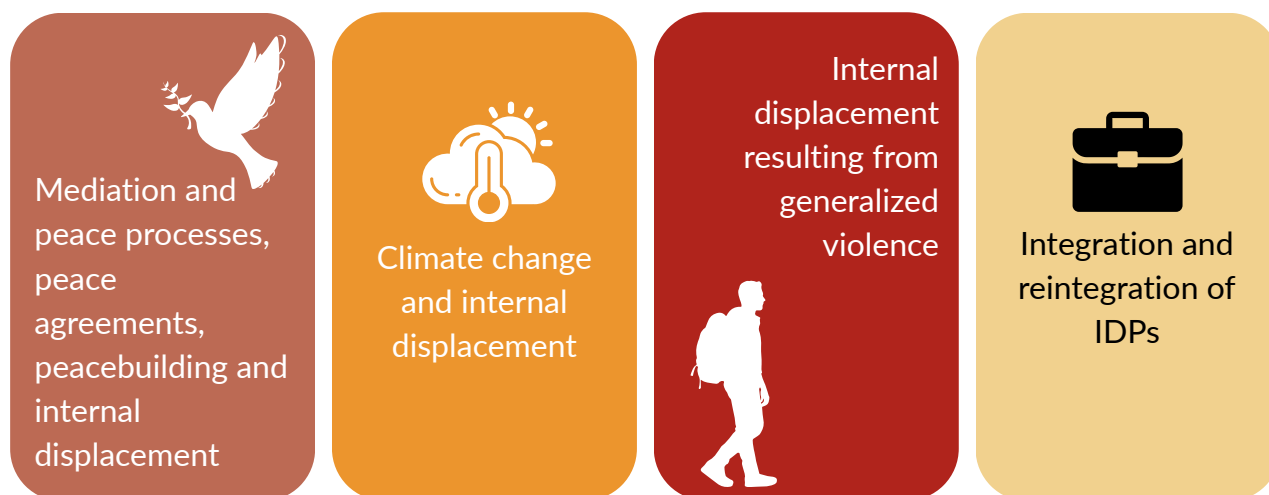


Recently, the **Chile Declaration**, adopted in the framework of the Cartagena+40 Process, recognized the importance of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and national regulations issued on this matter by different countries in the region.¹⁹

THEMATIC PRIORITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IDPs

In 1992, the UN Secretary-General, at the request of the Commission on Human Rights, appointed his first Representative on IDPs. Later, in 2010, the Human Rights Council appointed the first Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs to address the complex problem of internal displacement and work towards strengthening the international response.²⁰ Currently, the position is held by Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur. Within the framework of its mandate, this Office of the Rapporteur has developed reports related to the situation of internally displaced persons in the RTT's Member States.²¹

The Thematic Priorities of the first report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons to the United Nations Human Rights Council for her mandate²² are as follows:



¹⁹.MIRPS, Declaration and Plan of Action of Chile 2024-2034, p.3.

²⁰.A/HRC/RES/50/6.

²¹.A/HRC/38/39/Add.1: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons on her visit to El Salvador, A/HRC/53/35/Add.2: Visit to Mexico - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

²².A/HRC/53/35: Vision and thematic priorities: meeting new challenges and consolidating achievements - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Paula Gaviria Betancur.



Internal displacement resulting from generalized violence

The Special Rapporteur will advocate for States to adopt human rights-based approaches integrating political and development considerations that address the underlying factors driving such violence, in line with the New Agenda for Peace. In addition, they will examine in more detail the various perpetrators of generalized violence leading to internal displacement and explain how the violence caused by these agents may overlap or have different objectives, tactics, and impacts on the human rights of affected populations.



Mediation and peace processes, peace agreements, peacebuilding and internal displacement

The Special Rapporteur fully agrees with the urgency of moving beyond the view of internal displacement as a mere humanitarian crisis and recognizing its direct connection to the broader areas of governance, development, human rights, climate change, and peace-related challenges.



Climate change and internal displacement

The Special Rapporteur considers it an urgent priority for her mandate and the international community to find solutions to address this dual crisis and to provide protection, assistance, and tangible solutions to those affected. In addition, it will focus on specific climate mitigation, adaptation, and climate-related loss and damage measures to address the needs and leverage the capacities of specific populations within displaced populations, as well as the interactions between climate change and the other thematic priorities.



Integration and reintegration of IDPs

The Special Rapporteur will continue to explore differentiated approaches to facilitate the integration and reintegration of IDPs and will pay particular attention to the conditions that contribute to the sustainability of durable solutions in their countries and their life experiences and perceptions that provide a sense of belonging.

In addition to this international human rights legal framework, it is necessary to point out that in those cases in which there is already a situation recognized as an armed conflict, the framework applicable to displacement cases is **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, since this is the specific framework for the protection of persons who are in a State experiencing an armed conflict, including migrants, refugees, and IDPs.

IHL is a body of international norms specifically applicable in situations of international armed conflict (IAC)²³ and non-international armed conflict (NIAC).²⁴ Its main sources are international treaties, for example, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, and customary international law.

The objective of IHL is to limit, for humanitarian reasons, the right of parties in conflict to choose the methods and means of warfare used, and to protect persons and property affected by the conflict, including migrants, refugees, and IDPs.

IHL, both conventional and customary, expressly prohibits the forced displacement of the civilian population in IACs and NIACs. The only exception is when parties evacuate the civilian population exceptionally and temporarily (while the conditions that justify it exist), if the safety of the persons involved so requires, or there are compelling military reasons. Violations of this prohibition can be considered war crimes in both IAC and NIAC situations.

Greater respect for IHL can help reduce the scale of displacement and protect migrants, refugees, and IDPs as part of the civilian population. Firstly, these populations are protected from the effects of hostilities, especially when they are in the custody of one of the parties to the conflict, as there is a duty to treat people humanely. Secondly, reinforced protection is based on other fundamental guarantees, including the protection and right to life and integrity, from which derive the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment.

Other IHL norms, particularly those governing the conduct of hostilities, also play an important role in reducing displacement. For example, the prohibition of direct or indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian objects, or the prohibition of collective punishment, such as the destruction of homes, which could lead to displacement.

IHL also contains rules that seek to ensure that displaced persons are protected and receive assistance. In the event of displacement, all possible measures must be taken to ensure that the affected persons are accommodated in satisfactory conditions regarding shelter, hygiene, health, safety, and food, and that family members are not separated. While displacement camps may be necessary as an exceptional measure during displacement, they should not be the systematic solution. Camps can pose risks to the civilian population and therefore must retain their civilian and humanitarian character; in this sense, under IHL, camps count as civilian objects and must be protected against direct attacks unless they become military objectives during that time.

²³An international armed conflict occurs when one or more States resort to the use of armed force against another State. IHL is applied from the first recourse to force between States.

²⁴An internal armed conflict is fought between the armed forces of a State and non-State organized armed groups, or between these groups. IHL applies to these situations when: a) hostilities reach a certain level of intensity and b) the parties have a certain degree of organization.

In situations of armed conflict, greater respect for IHL can increase the chances of finding durable solutions. When displacement results from evacuations carried out by parties during an armed conflict, it must have a limited duration. Displaced persons have the right to return voluntarily to their home or habitual residences as soon as the conditions that led to their displacement no longer exist. Therefore, competent authorities must adopt measures to facilitate the voluntary and safe return and reintegration of displaced persons.

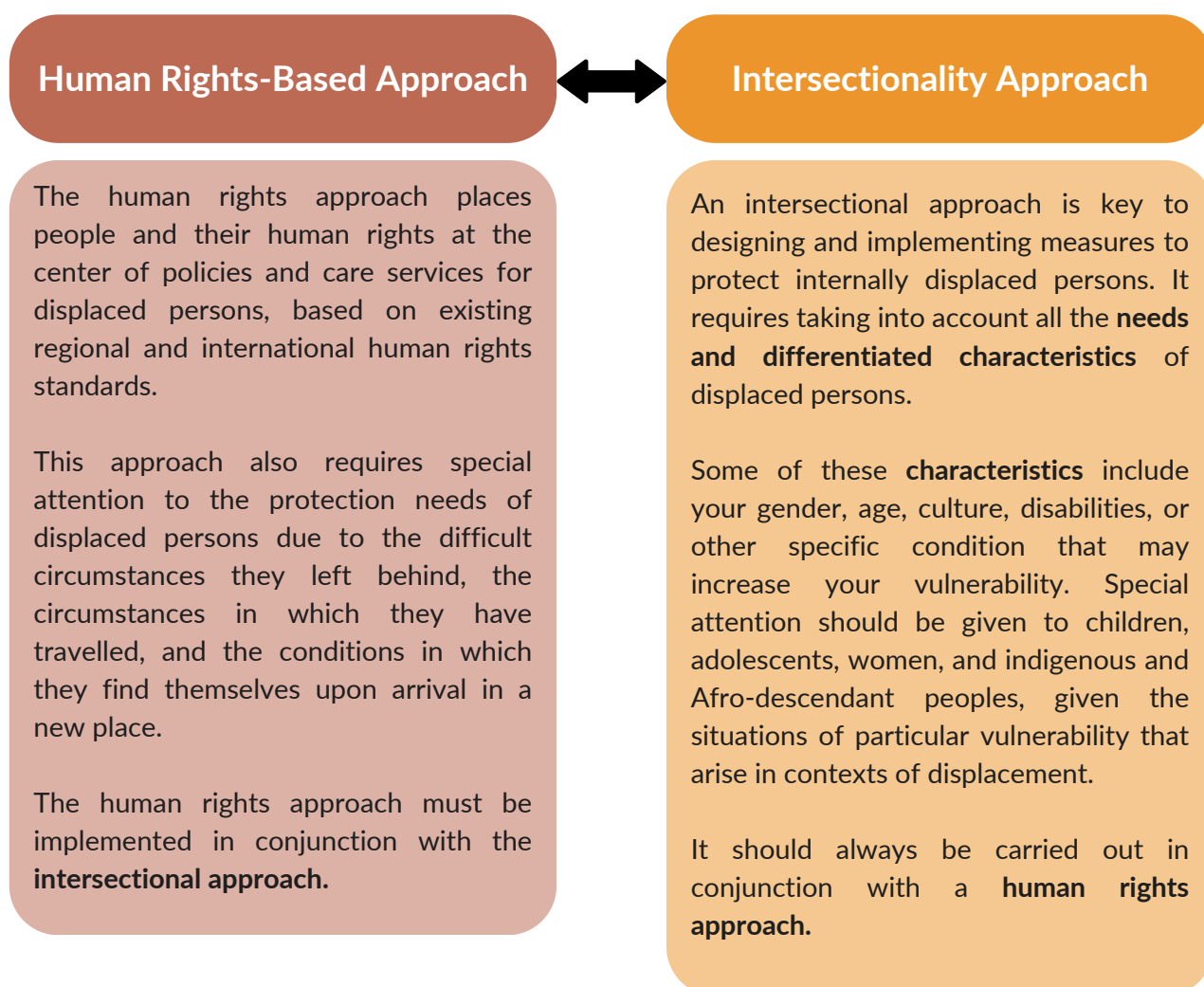
Unlike other legal frameworks, IHL does not mention other durable solutions for displacement. However, greater respect for IHL can be conducive to all durable solutions. For example, respecting the rules governing the conduct of hostilities can limit the deterioration or destruction of critical civilian infrastructure that provides essential services.

Certain IHL rules, such as obligations regarding the restoration of family ties and the right of displaced persons to return home, continue to apply after armed conflict.



3. Principles and approaches

It is recommended to apply a human rights-based approach and an intersectionality approach in all decision-making regarding internal displacement to ensure the greatest benefit for displaced persons. There are also the 'Humanitarian Principles',²⁵ applied in assistance for displaced people in the field. At the community level, these principles are fundamental for providing comprehensive care to displaced people.



²⁵ ICRC, The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2014.

Humanitarian Guiding Principles

Humanity

Provide assistance, without discrimination, to all people, under all circumstances. It aims to protect life and health, as well as to uphold human dignity. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation, and lasting peace among all peoples.

Impartiality

Makes no distinction based on nationality, race, religion, social condition, or political belief. It is dedicated solely to assisting individuals based on their needs, prioritizing the most urgent. This principle includes three related concepts: non-discrimination, proportionality, and impartiality.

Neutrality

Humanitarian assistance should not favor any party, meaning it should not take sides or become involved at any point in political, racial, religious, or ideological controversies. Additionally, neutrality can refer to providing humanitarian aid in an impartial and independent manner, based solely on need.

Independence

This principle requires humanitarian actors to perform their duties based on their own decisions, free from political influence, whether in the countries of origin or the countries in which they operate. They should not be subject to control, subordination, or the influence of political, economic, military, or other non-humanitarian objectives.



SUMMARY

International Instruments

- Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- International Humanitarian Law
- Pinheiro Principles (2005)
- IASC - Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (2010)
- Report of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement (2021)

Regional Instruments

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Decisions of the Inter-American System of Human Rights Protection

Principles and approaches

- Humanitarian Principles
- Human Rights-Based Approach
- Intersectionality Approach

For reference: The Kampala Convention

Adopted in 2009, the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) is the first binding continental convention in the world that seeks to ensure the protection of forcibly displaced persons within their own countries.

This convention has made innovative contributions in this area. Based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, it sets out the responsibilities of state and non-state actors, including armed groups and private sector actors, in the response to internal displacement. It also provides guidance to Member States not only to coordinate their responses at the national and local levels, but also to foster the participation of displaced persons, host communities, civil society, the UN system, and other international partners in multi-stakeholder efforts, including durable solutions.

PROGRESS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL



Good Practice in MIRPS Countries:

Law on the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Honduras

The Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons adopted in March 2023 by Legislative Decree No. 154-2022 marks a milestone in the response to internal displacement due to violence in the country. This Law establishes the National System for Response to Internally Forced Displacement (SINARDEFI), as the national framework for the monitoring and implementation of the norm. This system is composed of the Commission (CIPPDEF), the Directorate (DIPPDIV) and the Municipal Units (UMAPPDEF).



Good Practice in MIRPS Countries:

Special Law for the Prevention and Comprehensive Protection of Persons in Condition of Internal Forced Displacement of El Salvador

The Special Law for the Prevention and Comprehensive Protection of Persons in Condition of Internal Forced Displacement seeks to provide care, protection, and durable solutions for Salvadorans who have been forced to flee their homes and who remain within the national territory, as well as for those who are at risk of being displaced by violence. The law is aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and international standards to recognize the right to request and receive humanitarian assistance, to the protection of family unity, to the restitution of rights violated as a result of displacement, to generate mechanisms to protect and recover their movable and immovable property, among others.



IV. PREVENTION OF THE CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

National authorities are primarily responsible for protecting IDPs, as they are for all inhabitants of their country. The concept of national responsibility is an essential component in any internal displacement response. It is a fundamental operating principle of the international community, often described by governments themselves as a function of State sovereignty.²⁶ States have a duty to provide adequate protection measures to ensure that people are not forced to flee. In response to the challenges presented by internal displacement, several MIRPS countries have adopted laws and practices to protect displaced persons.²⁷

The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement focuses work to address internal displacement around three general objectives:

- To help internally displaced persons find a durable solution to their displacement.
- Further prevent the emergence of new displacement crises.
- Ensure that displaced persons receive effective protection and assistance.

The Action Agenda also calls for the adoption of a **development-oriented strategy**, focusing on **strengthening public systems and services** to accommodate IDPs and ensure that both displaced populations and local communities receive support from the state. The **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**, the **Humanitarian Guiding Principles**, and the **human rights** and **intersectionality** approaches mentioned above should continue to guide states in their actions.

The promotion of respect for IHL is a relevant measure to prevent the causes of displacement. In the context of the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts, dialogue amongst parties of armed conflict must be strengthened to:

- Forge and preserve political space to address the root causes of armed conflict and push for sustainable political solutions;
- Incentivize early action to prevent armed conflict, emphasizing the long-term impact on the development of affected communities and the major humanitarian and financial costs of displacement; and

²⁶.UNHCR, Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, from the Global Sectoral Protection Group Working Group

²⁷.MIRPS, MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement Report 2021

- Promote adherence to international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and other relevant legal frameworks to limit displacement, improve protection, and maintain conditions for eventual return.

Preventing the causes of forced displacement is essential, alongside the development and implementation mechanisms to measure the risk of displacement, derived from mapping different causes of internal displacement and the field realities. It is recommended to consider the following elements:



To make diagnoses of risk situations in the respective jurisdictions;



Mapping risk scenarios;



Identify general and specific objectives;



Establish strategies, activities, and identify responsible entities;



Establish institutional action protocols;



Establish management and monitoring goals and indicators;



Designate human and financial resources and sources of funding;



Create deployment schedules;



Develop and implement accountability mechanisms.





What is an Early Warning and Response System (EWARS)? ²⁸

The Early Warning and Response System is a tool that aims to prevent situations that put people's safety and democratic governance at risk. Furthermore, EWARS are mechanisms for the prevention and response of armed conflicts or other situations of violence, focusing on the systematic (quantitative and/or qualitative) data collection, processing, and analysis. Its purpose is to alert state entities about imminent risks so that they can take action to avoid the emergence or escalation of an armed conflict, or other situations of violence, and situations of internal displacement.

Not all internal displacement is due to armed conflict or violence; within countries in the region—including MIRPS countries—natural disasters and other events related to climate change can be causes of internal displacement.²⁹ Internal displacement is often the result of various interacting factors. This highlights the need to better understand how disasters, environmental degradation, and climate risks combine with armed conflict and other situations of violence to cause or contribute to displacement.

Thus, both the different causes of displacement, as well as the interaction of these elements and their specific consequences for displaced persons, must be considered to develop effective EWARS in each country.

An Early Warning and Early Response System



From a prevention-based approach

- There should be a mechanism for the prevention of human rights violations and guarantees of non-repetition.
- It requires agile, coordinated, transparent, and effective institutional mechanisms.
- It should be integrated into institutional norms and structures, and be regulated from a legislative and administrative perspective.
- There should be coordination between entities that monitor situations in the territory, those that issue the alerts, and those that respond to them.
- It requires respect for various principles: respect for human dignity, a human rights, due diligence, impartiality, non-discrimination, confidentiality, and institutional independence perspective.

Countries considering the development of a displacement prevention system or that have started the process can use existing guides and tools and learn from good practices carried out by other countries. The exchange of ideas, tools, and good practices is essential to develop and strengthen prevention systems.

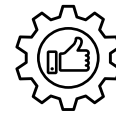
²⁸.UNDP & OAS, ["Practical Guide for the Design of Early Warning and Response Systems for Social Armed Conflicts"](#)

²⁹.UN Secretary-General, 2023-2027 Early Warning Action Plan for All People



Tools to Develop Prevention Systems

- **Early Warning System of the Ombudsman's Office of Colombia.**
- "Practical Guide for the Design of Early Warning and Response Systems for Armed Social Conflicts" by UNDP and OAS
- 2023-2027 Early Warning Action Plan for All People by the UN Secretary-General
- Early warning, early action, IFRC.



Best Practices

- In Honduras, CONADEH has offices in the country's departments and has issued early warnings. They also conduct visits to high-risk areas to identify vulnerable groups. This allows them direct knowledge of the realities; they start from the local level, move to the departmental level, and then to the central level. More information available [here](#).
- In Mexico, the "occurrence traffic light" is used, through which areas with high, moderate, or low risks of displacement are identified.



V. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT RESPONSE SYSTEMS

IDPs have the right to freely enjoy the same rights and freedoms as other individuals in the national territory. Unfortunately, because they have been forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence, they are often forced into abandoning life projects, school and livelihoods, suffering family separation, losing land, housing, and assets, and experiencing impacts on mental health and various rights affected by displacement and uprooting—all which can be seen as a violation of rights.

The causes of displacement also often imply a violation of human rights. Therefore, all internal displacement response systems must consider the **Humanitarian Guiding Principles**, a **human rights approach**, and an **intersectionality approach**. Internal displacement response systems must be developed while considering the causes of displacement and the national and local context, as financial, institutional, and infrastructure resources vary by country.

The assignment of clear roles and responsibilities at the national and subnational levels (in particular, the identification of the institutional focal point for the response to internal displacement), as well as the establishment of effective coordination mechanisms (at the national, but also central-local levels), are essential to this process. The actions that are implemented must be subject to periodic monitoring and evaluation.

In this regard, it must be recognized that people's experience in their movement changes over time. For example, newly displaced persons face more physical hazards and generally lack basic supplies for survival, while people who have been displaced for longer have other types of needs, such as continuous healthcare, effective access to education, adequate housing, and sustainable livelihoods to regain independence. Host communities also experience significant changes when receiving displaced persons.

It should be emphasized that some actions are short-term, for example, providing psychosocial support to the population that has recently been displaced, or medium-term, for example, implementing protocols for the socioeconomic integration of internally displaced persons. Long-term measures must also be taken, such as creating conditions to allow for the resettlement or possible return of a population that has been internally displaced.

Resources



UNHCR Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs): "The Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions"



Practical Guide for Developing Public Policies on Internal Displacement, from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR): "Guidelines for the Formulation of Public Policies on Internal Displacement"



"Guide for the Registration of Persons in a Situation of Internal Forced Displacement in Mexico" of the Migration Policy, Registration and Identity of Persons Unit (UPMRIP) of the Ministry of the Interior of the Government of Mexico & UNHCR

An internal displacement response system should include:



1. Prevention

A prevention approach should ensure that context-specific factors are considered, highlighting the importance of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) working closely with communities to prevent or mitigate the causes of internal displacement, support communities' ability to protect themselves, and support effective early warning and contingency plans. It is also necessary to strengthen state control, security, and urban services in neighborhoods affected by violence, in addition to fostering trust in the police and the judiciary.

According to the *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*, actions to prevent displacement may involve:

- Community-based protection: contingency plans, knowledge of meeting points and attention routes, and promoting spaces for dialogue amongst communities and other actors.
- Support for critical infrastructure: monitoring mechanisms to ensure access to essential services, such as maintaining and protecting the restoration of access to drinking water and health care.
- Promote respect for IHRL in all cases, and IHL in cases of armed conflict, through training, the dissemination of knowledge, and dialogue with armed actors.
- Development of laws and policies at national, regional, and global levels, and through the implementation of IHL and IHRL.

Best Practices: The Dzahui Project in Mexico

Through a virtual application, the Dzahui project seeks to foresee and alert natural disasters, alerting about the water level, as well as the magnitude of a possible flood. Dzahui issues the alerts to community chiefs, who are responsible for notifying the nearby population that they have been assigned so that they can move to the nearest shelters.

Good practices: Proposals from the Academy

How to predict mass displacements to inform public policies?

The Massive Data Institute at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, in partnership with UNHCR, has established a collaboration to combine traditional and new data to better understand and predict mass displacement. This initiative seeks to help governments, NGOs and humanitarian organizations prepare for mass movements before they occur and intervene in the factors that cause displacement. More information is available [here](#).



2. Protection Analysis

As citizens or habitual residents of a country, IDPs continue to be entitled to full and equal protection under the State's domestic law, which should be consistent with the State's obligations under international law.

In addition, to determine the measures needed to prevent and/or mitigate protection risks for IDPs, it is necessary to understand the circumstances or context they face. This includes identifying the risks and levels of vulnerability, as well as the coping capacities of an individual or family, if applicable. In many cases, internal displacement is a response mechanism to risks, but it also exposes individuals to greater vulnerability and precarious conditions.

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) has developed the Protection Analytical Framework (PAF) as a tool for all situations involving displacement or protection risks, whether caused by armed conflict, violence, poverty, natural disasters, or a combination of the various factors.

This framework is structured around the following four pillars:

- **Context:** Circumstances of armed conflict or hazards, socio-political factors influencing displacement or the situation of displaced persons, and the existing institutional, legal, and normative frameworks.
- **Current threats to the population:** both those that generate displacement and those that impact displaced persons, the main agents responsible for the threat, and the origin of the threat.
- **Effects of the threat on the population:** detect which groups are most affected, the consequences of threats, and the coping strategies used by affected groups.
- **Existing capacities:** of affected individuals or communities, as well as states, local governments, or other actors to respond to the emergency or displacement, e.g. regulations and initiatives that have sought to gain territorial control.

ANNEX 1: ACTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) TO ADDRESS DISPLACEMENT

Actions by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to address displacement

- **Protection and assistance** to populations affected by armed conflict and situations of violence. The ICRC provides a two-pronged response. Firstly, as a promoter and guardian of International Humanitarian Law and, secondly, as a humanitarian actor providing assistance to people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, together with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- **The ICRC recognizes that state authorities have the primary responsibility to respond and ensure that the basic needs and rights of the displaced population are met.**

- The ICRC has a multidisciplinary approach, based on needs and principles. It seeks to protect displaced people during all phases of displacement and people at risk of displacement.



3. Registration

According to the Guide developed jointly by the Ministry of the Interior of Mexico and UNHCR,³⁰ registration systems establish mechanisms for public policy decisions and response actions to meet the needs of people during all or some of the phases of displacement, as well as to document the process. Registration refers to the capture, verification, and updating of individual and family information, with full respect for the protection of their data.

Among the advantages and benefits that make up a registry, we find:

- When the registry has a clear and specific objective, it provides the individual and group with information that is necessary to achieve its goals.
- It identifies people's needs, promotes specialized care services, and systematizes responses.
- It allows for the identification and mapping of displacements and the characterization of displaced persons for the development of evidence-based public policies and programs.
- As a continuous identity management process, it provides updated information about each person's identity, needs, and the assistance or follow-up they may require.
- Ensures confidentiality of the information provided, provided that the necessary data protection measures are taken.
- It can contribute to the production of official statistics on IDPs if scientific and technical standards are met.

When implementing a registry, authorities should analyze the following factors to determine its relevance:



Context analysis: Understand the conditions under which registration will occur, including travel requirements for individuals to appear, declare their case, or receive services. Without a protection-centered strategy, risks may arise for both registrants and staff.

³⁰Ministry of the Interior of Mexico and UNHCR. Guide for the Registration of Internally Displaced Persons in Mexico. <https://www.acnur.org/mx/media/guia-de-registro-pdf>



Risk analysis: Identify the probability and impact of threats during a defined period. This analysis is key from planning through execution to developing risk mitigation strategies.



Definition of its objective: The objective must focus on identifying who will be registered, their key characteristics, vulnerabilities, and needs to determine care pathways and enable case tracking.



Definition of IDP: It is essential to include a clear definition in legal and/or public policy instruments. This definition must facilitate the precise identification of the persons to be registered, thus ensuring an orderly process that is consistent with the objectives set. (See definition on page 2 of this document).



Attention routes: these are the institutions that are able to provide some form of care to IDPs who are registered, their attributions, right protection domains, and case management mechanisms for attention or follow-up regarding cases



Registry maps: analyze other existing records and information collection databases (official statistics produced through censuses and population surveys by the national statistics office; reports generated by academic institutions, national and state human rights centers, civil society organizations; as well as specific records of IDPs or administrative records that may be related).



Principles applicable to the design and implementation of a Registry

- Personal Safety
- Action without damage
- Confidentiality
- Autonomy
- Voluntarism
- Support and protection
- Proportionality and necessity
- Good faith
- Pro persona principle
- Non-discrimination
- Age, gender and diversity approach
- Best interests of the child

Best Practice in MIRPS Countries: Mexico's Single Registration Format (FUR)

The Single Registration Format (SRF) is an open document for gathering information and has received comments from different international organizations and bodies.

The National Registry of Displaced Persons (RENAPEDES) will seek through this FUR to identify:

- Number of displaced persons in the country, region, entity, ethnic group, vulnerability, etc.;
- Georeferencing of displaced persons, location of displacements and mobility patterns;
- Evaluation of satisfaction rates for support programs;
- Data on the return and relocation of displaced persons, recommendations for reintegration policies and programmes;
- Data on vulnerable population groups, to measure the differentiated impact and adjust the response;
- Reason for displacement, establish policies and strategies that address the causes;
- Status of the situation of the PDI.

Finally, it is important to note that the absence of registration systems for IDPs does not prevent the carrying out of characterization exercises on internal displacement. These exercises can contribute significantly to the State's response to internal displacement and even influence the design of registration systems, to ensure accessibility and address the needs of the displaced population.

Good Practice in MIRPS Countries: Internal Displacement Characterization Exercise in Honduras 2004-2018

This study was the result of the coordination and joint effort of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons by Violence (CPIDPV), with the support of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Joint Displaced Population Characterization Service (JDPCS) and World Vision (WV).

The results of the report showed that, in Honduras, between 2004 and 2018, a total of 247,090 people were forced to be internally displaced due to violence. This study constitutes an essential input for the definition of protection mechanisms to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of internal displacement.

Available [here](#).



4. Assistance

National governments are primarily responsible for providing protection and assistance to IDPs, ensuring that individuals have access to essential services. National and international humanitarian organizations must avoid substituting national authorities in their work,³¹ and focus on complementing these efforts. Humanitarian assistance shall be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

According to the Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, humanitarian assistance generally consists of the provision of relief products or services, either directly or indirectly, by delivering resources or advice through a local authority or partner organization. This assistance is inherently protective, as it aims to meet urgent needs and improve displaced persons' human rights conditions. It may also be a key element in the pursuit of durable solutions.³²

In addition to basic humanitarian needs, humanitarian actors can also identify and respond to protection needs, for example, in cases of criminal victimization (e.g. sexual violence), family separation or disappearance, unaccompanied children or adolescents, among others.

Therefore, States must respect, protect, and guarantee humanitarian actors' access to affected populations and allow humanitarian services and aid to be provided. Humanitarian access is, therefore, a prerequisite for effective humanitarian action. Full and unimpeded access is essential to establish operations, mobilize personnel where necessary, implement distribution, and provide healthcare services.

As a reference for MIRPS, the Kampala Convention states in Article 3 that States must ensure that assistance for IDPs meets their basic needs. In addition, it underlines the importance of promoting self-sufficiency and sustainability in the livelihoods of the displaced, without this implying a decrease in the attention and protection they should receive. In this way, the relevance of adequately combining immediate aid with stabilization and reparation measures, including return, relocation, or local integration, framed in durable solutions, is highlighted, which allows for a complete and effective response to mitigate the effects of forced displacement in the short, medium, and long-term.

³¹.Global Sectoral Protection Group Working Group, Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, p. 404.

³².Global Sectoral Protection Group Working Group, Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, p. 404.



5. Intermediate solutions

Achieving durable solutions is inherently a long-term process during which needs progressively diminish. However, the pursuit of long-term solutions often reinforces a dichotomy between displacement and durable solutions, focusing on reversing displacement rather than restoring rights and addressing losses in line with relevant obligations.

In this regard, while safe return, resettlement, or reintegration may ultimately provide durable solutions for many displaced persons, interim measures should be taken to help them achieve a certain level of integration in their place of immediate displacement. Intermediate solutions are measures taken to gradually reduce the displacement-related assistance and protection needs of IDPs and to restore their ability to enjoy their rights without discrimination related to their displacement.³³

Intermediate solutions can, for example, contribute to restoring security, address restrictions on freedom of movement, breakdown barriers to labor markets and livelihoods, or help restore adequate living standards (comparable to those of the host community), including access to adequate food, water, decent housing, health care and education, among others.

Intermediate solutions and the role of the ICRC

In the region, the ICRC has promoted programmes to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons due to violence, in which some intermediate solutions are incorporated. In El Salvador, between 2016 and 2023, the ICRC implemented a comprehensive system of care for displaced people that included income generation and economic recovery.

In Honduras, the ICRC implements a route for the care of internally displaced persons due to violence, which aims to restore the livelihoods of displaced people to enable them to move towards self-sufficiency, as well as to address immediate needs to safeguard their lives and mitigate the consequences of violence and displacement. Between 2022-2023, the ICRC Pathway income-generating programme implemented 129 livelihood projects to revive the economy of families served in 13 departments of Honduras. In addition, the ICRC provided technical and financial support to 119 small businesses in different areas, and 123 entrepreneurs were trained in topics such as soft skills, electronic markets, business formalization, and financial skills. These trainings were carried out in coordination with the National System of Support for Microentrepreneurs -SENPRENDE-.

³³. UNHCR and UNDP's 2012-16 Transitional Solutions Initiative aimed to provide a framework for 'transitioning' situations of protracted displacement towards durable solutions. See OCHA 2019. Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement: A Snapshot of Successful Humanitarian-Development Initiatives. New York: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.



6. Durable solutions

Durable solutions refer to "the ability of IDPs to reintegrate into society and reach a point where they no longer have needs related to their status as displaced persons".³⁴ Consequently, it is a gradual and long-term process.



OTHER RESOURCES

Secretary-General's Agenda for Action on Internal Displacement

Five key areas for solutions, according to the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

- 1 It is imperative to address the persistent security risks that prevent internally displaced persons from establishing a permanent home, whether in their places of origin or elsewhere.
- 2 For IDPs to regain their self-reliance, they need jobs, livelihoods and access to income and social protection systems, such as pensions and unemployment funds.
- 3 Housing, land, and property.
- 4 Education.
- 5 Access to other forms of infrastructure and basic services. (e.g. public hospitals, water and sanitation systems, and electricity, etc.)

³⁴High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A focus on internal displacement: future perspectives. 2021, p. 8.

National authorities must assume the primary responsibility for working together with IDPs to develop durable solutions relevant to each case, where laws and policies prioritize their legitimate needs, rights, and interests, respecting their right to freely decide on their most convenient settlement solution, as well as their right to participate in the planning and management of strategies that facilitate these solutions. A community-based approach must be adopted that addresses both IDPs and host communities, reducing the risk of tensions and facilitating reintegration.

In addition, any lasting solution must always be voluntary, safe, and dignified according to the internationally approved guiding principles.³⁵

According to UNDP and the IASC's Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons,³⁶ to achieve durable solutions, it will be necessary to move forward with the following three paths:

- ✔ **Sustainable return:** When conditions in communities of origin improve, people will be able to return to their homes safely.
- ✔ **Local integration:** In many cases, displaced people can find stability by integrating into host communities.
- ✔ **Resettlement in other areas:** When return is not possible, it is essential to facilitate resettlement in alternative, safer areas that present better opportunities.

Five ways recommended by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to facilitate the transition to durable solutions:



1.Strengthen governance and institutions: The first step is to strengthen institutional capacity at the national and local levels to manage the challenges of internal displacement. This includes ensuring that government institutions can provide essential services such as protection, documentation, and access to justice for displaced people.



2.Socio-economic integration and reintegration: For displaced persons to rebuild their lives, it is essential to promote their socio-economic integration in host communities. This is achieved by facilitating access to formal employment and providing training programs that allow them to acquire new skills and participate in the labor market.

³⁵E/CN.4/1998/53/ADD.2 Guiding principles on internal displacement: Section V "PRINCIPLES RELATING TO RETURN, RESETTLEMENT AND REINTEGRATION", Principle 28:

1. The competent authorities have the primary obligation and responsibility to establish the conditions and provide the means to allow for the voluntary, safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons to their home or place of habitual residence, or their voluntary resettlement in another part of the country. Those authorities will seek to facilitate the reintegration of internally displaced persons who have returned or resettled elsewhere.

2. Special efforts will be made to ensure the full participation of internally displaced persons in the planning and management of their return, resettlement and reintegration.

³⁶. IASC, Guide to Durable Solutions, 2020.



3. Access to justice: Ensuring that displaced people have access to justice is key to guaranteeing their rights. This involves, among other things, providing compensation mechanisms for those who have lost property due to displacement and ensuring that displaced people can access legal procedures that protect their rights.



4. Political and civic participation: It is essential that displaced people are able to exercise their political rights, such as the right to vote, even if they are no longer in their communities of origin. This strengthens their bond with the state and allows them to influence decisions that affect their lives.



5. Social cohesion: In many cases, displaced people face discrimination or tensions with local communities. It is crucial to promote mutual understanding so that displaced people can be fully integrated and not seen as a burden by host communities.



6.1 Eight criteria for determining the extent to which a durable solution has been achieved

According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IASC Framework),³⁷ physical relocation alone does not constitute a durable solution. Internally displaced persons who have reached a durable solution shall enjoy, without discrimination, the following:



Long-term personal and public security and freedom of movement



Enjoyment of an adequate standard of living



Access to employment and means of subsistence



Access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land, and property, or the offer of compensation



Access to replacement of personal and other types of documentation



Voluntary reunification with family members separated during displacement



Participation in public affairs at all levels and on an equal basis with the resident population



Effective remedies in case of violations of rights related to displacement situations, including access to justice, reparation, and information about the reasons for the violations

³⁷IASC, Guide to Durable Solutions, 2020, p. 22.

Good Practices in MIRPS Countries: "A tu Lado" Support Spaces in El Salvador

In El Salvador, there are four "A tu Lado" Support Spaces, which offer comprehensive assistance in one place. They are safe spaces for internally displaced persons, persons at risk of displacement, asylum seekers, refugees and returnees in need of protection. Services offered by these spaces include:

- Information on access to rights and services
- Legal advice
- Psychological care
- Friendly space for children and adolescents
- Internet access
- Comprehensive case management
- Humanitarian assistance



OTHER RESOURCES

The Center for Monitoring Internal Displacement has a global repository of good practices on internal displacement.



VI. CONCLUSION

Central America and Mexico are facing a decisive moment due to situations of forced displacement in the region. Displacement in recent years has been exacerbated by disasters and the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate change and the insecurity that persists in the region present imminent risks and challenges for States and populations at risk of displacement.

These challenges require comprehensive solutions and must involve various actors, such as civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, local authorities, international and regional organizations, local communities, and displaced persons themselves, among others. Many of these challenges cannot be solved in the short term. Therefore, it is also necessary to develop medium- and long-term interventions to guarantee the protection of the rights of displaced persons and facilitate their integration, so they can continue to develop their life projects and support their families despite facing displacement.

© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso



VII. SOURCES

- MIRPS, MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement Report, 2020.
- MIRPS, MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement Report, 2021.
- UNHCR, Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, of the Working Group of the Global Sectoral Group on Protection.
- Global Report on Legislation and Policies on Internal Displacement, by UNHCR and the Global Theme Group on Protection.
- High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A focus on internal displacement: future perspectives.
- IACHR, Guidelines for the Formulation of Public Policies on Internal Displacement.
- IACHR, Practical Guide: Guidelines for the Formulation of Public Policies on Internal Displacement.
- IACHR, Human Rights of Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons, Victims of Trafficking in Persons, and Internally Displaced Persons: Norms and Standards of the Inter-American Human Rights System.
- Reports and documents of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.
- OHCHR, A/HRC/53/35: Vision and thematic priorities: meeting new challenges and consolidating achievements - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Paula Gaviria Betancur
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC)
- IDMC, Global Repository of Good Practices.
- United Nations, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Francis M. Deng, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/39. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998).
- UNHCR, UNHCR Fact Sheets on the Inter-American Human Rights System and the Protection of Persons of Concern - Fact Sheet N. 5 - The Right to Freedom of Movement and Residence and the Prohibition of Forced Displacement.
- UNDP & OAS "Practical Guide for the Design of Early Warning and Response Systems for Social Conflicts".
- Unit of Migration Policy, Registration and Identity of Persons (UPMRIP) of the Ministry of the Interior of the Government of Mexico & UNHCR, "Guide for the Registration of Persons in a Situation of Internal Forced Displacement in Mexico".
- Global Protection Cluster & USAID, "Analytical Framework for Protection."
- General Directorate of Human Rights (DGDH) of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation; Federal School of Judicial Training (EFFJ) of the Federal Judiciary Council; UNHCR; ICRC, "Handbook on Internal Displacement"

- ICRC, Addressing Internal Displacement in Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence, 2018.
- ICRC, When the rain turns to dust. Understanding and addressing the combined impact of armed conflict and the climate and environmental crisis on people's lives, 2020.
- ICRC, The Kampala Convention: Key Recommendations Ten Years On, 2019.
- ICRC, Chapter 3 of the Report "International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts – Recommitting To Protection In Armed Conflict On The 70th Anniversary Of The Geneva Conventions, 2019.
- ICRC, Displaced people in cities, 2019.



© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso



MIRPS Regional technical team on Internal Displacement

ABC ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT