



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

MORE than 28.8 million people around the world are currently displaced within their countries by conflict and human rights violations. Every year, even more are forced from their homes by development projects and natural disasters, many of which are linked to the effects of climate change. The Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement continues to be the leading voice promoting effective responses to internal displacement at the national, regional and international levels.

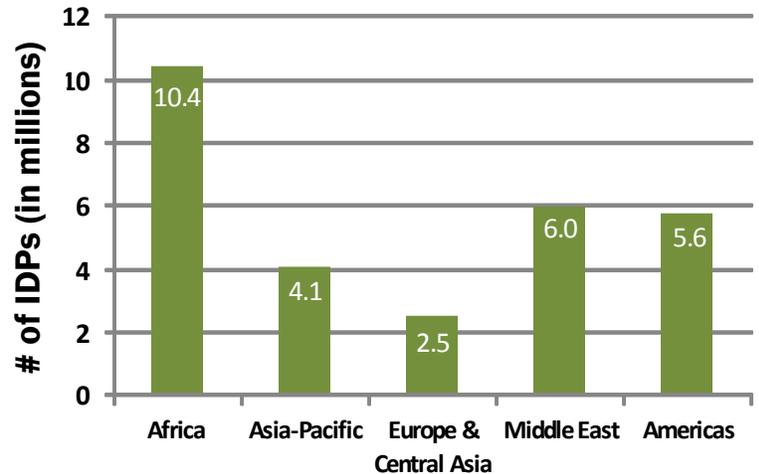
### Understanding Internal Displacement

Unlike refugees who cross national borders and benefit from an established system of international protection and assistance, those forcibly uprooted within their own countries by armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights, or natural disasters often lack predictable structures of support. They are found in nearly 50 countries and on every inhabited continent. Internal displacement has become one of the most pressing humanitarian, development, human rights, and security issues confronting the international community.

### Responding to Internal Displacement

Beyond not crossing international boundaries, IDPs differ from refugees in the level of protection afforded to them by the international system. Despite greatly outnumbering refugees—by more than two to one—IDPs do not have an equivalent international convention nor a dedicated UN agency protecting their rights. The Project was created to help fill that gap and developed the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* as a starting point. The Guiding Principles outline the rights of IDPs and the obligations of state and international actors to prevent, mitigate the impacts of, and end internal displacement.

### Number of IDPs by Region\*



\*As of 2012, <http://www.internaldisplacement.org>

### Project Priority Areas

Within the UN framework, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (SR) is the leading voice for IDPs worldwide. Through a unique partnership with the SR, the Project works within the international policy system to advance the protection of the rights of IDPs. The Project is currently focusing its advocacy and research in four areas identified by the SR:

- **Reinforcing and advancing normative frameworks** for addressing displacement at the national, regional and international levels.
- **Improving rights-based responses to natural disasters and climate change** by continuing to disseminate the UN-approved guidelines the Project developed, convening regional and national workshops and conducting ongoing research on these issues.
- Raising awareness about and researching the impact of internal displacement on **IDP women**.
- Examining the plight of **the displaced in non-camp settings**, who make up an estimated 75% of all IDPs.

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# Project on Internal Displacement

## Impact

From Colombia to Kenya, Sri Lanka to Serbia, and Sudan to Iraq, the Project works on behalf of IDPs in different situations. Project reports, policy recommendations, and workshops benefit IDP communities, advocates and researchers as well as policymakers and civil society organizations around the world. The Project partners with international and state actors to multiply the impact of its work and with ongoing support from its donors, will continue to expand the scope of its work in the years to come.

## Publications

Some of the most widely recognized Project publications include:

- *The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012, 2013*
- *IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters, 2011*
- *IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, 2010*
- *Protecting Internally Displaced Persons: A Manual for Law and Policymakers, 2008*
- *Addressing Internal Displacement: A Framework for National Responsibility, 2005*
- *The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998*

## Events

The Project convenes a number of events around the world each year. In Washington, offerings cover critical human rights and humanitarian issues and range from large public discussions with leading scholars and practitioners to smaller expert and stakeholder roundtables. The Project also conducts workshops and training sessions internationally on human rights-based responses to natural disasters and on general IDP issues.

## History of the Project

The Project was created in 1994 to promote more effective responses to the global issue of internal displacement and to support the UN mandate holder responsible for the human rights of IDPs. Central to both tasks is the dissemination of the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, which the Project developed in cooperation with the UN in the late 1990s. The Guiding Principles were approved by heads of state at the 2005 World Summit and have long been used as a reference point for legislation tackling displacement at the national and regional levels and are a primary tool used by the Special Rapporteur in supporting the human rights of IDPs.

## About the Special Rapporteur



Dr. Chaloka Beyani, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, is an internationally recognized expert on IDPs. Dr. Beyani has previously acted as legal advisor, consultant and expert to a number of UN agencies, the European Union, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the African Union. He is also a Senior Lecturer in International Law at the London School of Economics. The Special Rapporteur has played a leading role in drafting a number of important international instruments, including the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa.

## CONTACT THE PROJECT

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