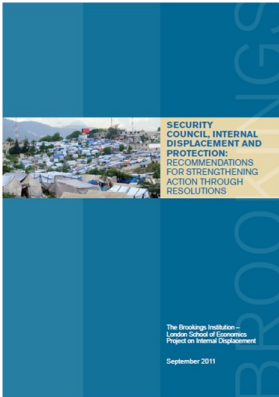


Project on Internal Displacement

SECURITY COUNCIL, INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND PROTECTION:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING ACTION THROUGH RESOLUTIONS



THE United Nations Security Council has recognized that civilians who are forced to flee their homes due to conflict but who remain within the borders of their countries—referred to as internally displaced persons (IDPs)—constitute a group with specific protection

needs. At the end of 2010, more than 27 million people around the world remained internally displaced by armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations—a figure which has increased by 10 million since 1997.

In this report, the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement explores references to displacement in Security Council resolutions between 1999 and 2010 to evaluate how the Security Council engagement with the protection needs of IDPs.

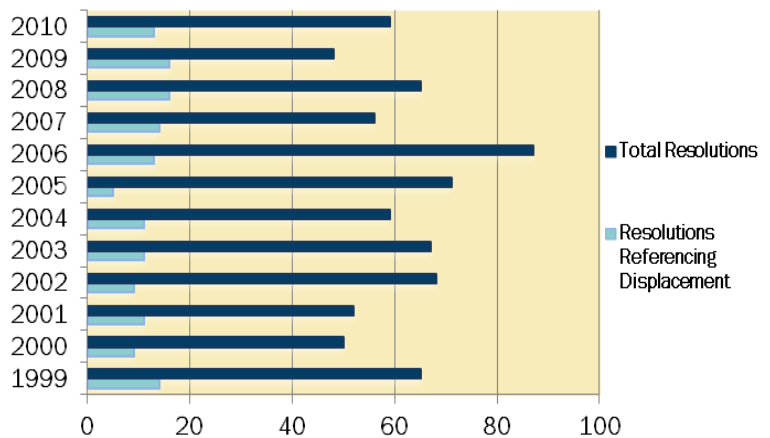
Importance of Addressing Displacement

Displacement within national borders persists as a defining characteristic of modern conflict. In many instances, displacement is more than an unintended consequence of conflict: it is a deliberate objective of armed groups. In these situations, preventing displacement and addressing the protection needs of the displaced falls within the responsibilities of the Security Council. Finding solutions for the displaced can be central to resolving conflicts and creating sustainable peace and security.

When the Council Addresses IDPs

At least 142 of the 747 resolutions adopted by the Security Council between 1999 and 2010—roughly 19%—reference displacement. Of these, eleven pertain to thematic issues: three on women and peace and security, four on children and armed conflict and four on protection of civilians in armed conflict. The rest address security situations in more than 20 different countries, with Georgia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Côte d'Ivoire receiving the most attention in terms of quantity of resolutions referencing displacement.

Resolutions Referencing Displacement



Despite its breadth of engagement with internal displacement, Council action is arguably incommensurate with the scale of the problem, and inconsistent across different displacement crises. For example, only one of 32 resolutions on Somalia—which has one of the largest and most complex displacement situations in the world—references displacement. Liberia and Sierra Leone are similar examples.

(continues on back)

Project on Internal Displacement

Focus of the Study

The study attempts to inform and guide Security Council action on internal displacement in country specific and thematic resolutions. Its sections focus on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict; the Role of Peacekeeping and Other UN Missions; and Peacebuilding, Peace Processes and Peace Agreements. The study discusses the applicable normative framework, key considerations pertaining to IDPs that could feature in Council resolutions and relevant language in prior resolutions.

Recommendations

This study, the first of its kind, includes a number of key recommendations for future Security Council actions and resolutions, including:

- Preventing internal displacement
- Promoting durable solutions for IDPs
- Facilitating longer-term peacebuilding through the inclusion of IDPs
- Endorsing important legal frameworks for addressing internal displacement
- Requesting more consistent reporting from the Secretary-General on the protection of IDPs.

This study is intended to enable the Security Council to address internal displacement more consistently, comprehensively and effectively. The scale of global displacement, the human suffering of those forced to abandon their homes and communities and the implications of displacement for international peace and security all make a more concerted response to internal displacement by the Security Council a political and moral imperative.

About the Project

The Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement promotes more effective national, regional and international responses to internal displacement and supports the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The Project monitors displacement, promotes the dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, works to create more effective policies and institutional arrangements for IDPs, convenes international seminars, and publishes major studies, articles and reports.

Other Recent Publications

- *“Can You Be an IDP for Twenty Years?” A Comparative Field Study on the Protection Needs and Attitudes towards Displacement among IDPs and Host Communities in Azerbaijan*, December 2011
- *From Responsibility to Response: Assessing National Approaches toward Internal Displacement*, November 2011
- *On the Front Line of Climate Change and Displacement: Learning from and with Pacific Island Countries*, September 2011

CONTACT THE PROJECT

Brookings—LSE Project on Internal Displacement
The Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
United States
Tel: +1 (202) 797-2477
Fax: +1 (202) 797-2970
IDP@brookings.edu
www.brookings.edu/idp

The full study is available online at:

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/09_security_council_resolutions_ferris.aspx