Twenty Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

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Twenty Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

In her Foreword to this issue of FMR, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, poses the question: Where do we go from here? In the 20 years since they were launched, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement have been of assistance to many States responding to internal displacement, and have been incorporated into many national and regional policies and laws. However, the scale of internal displacement today remains vast, and the impact on those who are displaced is immense.

In this issue, authors acknowledge the applications and successes of the Guiding Principles while reflecting on their limitations, the challenges to their implementation, their relevance to contemporary incidences and different drivers of internal displacement, future challenges that might have to be faced, and the potential application of new understandings and new approaches.

This issue of FMR also includes seven general articles.


Foreword: The 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles – building solidarity, forging commitment

Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons)

2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Much has been achieved over the past 20 years but with over 40 million people internally displaced as a result of conflict and violence, and no sign of numbers decreasing, we need to ask ourselves: Where do we go from here?

www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/jimenezdamary

The GP20 Plan of Action: a rallying call to stakeholders

Nadine Walicki, Elizabeth Eyster and Martina Caterina (GP20 / UNHCR / Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons)

A new Plan of Action seeks to build momentum and encourage more strategic action on advancing policy and practice in the area of internal displacement.

www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/walicki-eyster-caterina

Laws and policies on internal displacement: global adoption and gaps

Ileana Nicolau and Anaïs Pagot (European University Institute / UNHCR)

A new Global Database on IDP Laws and Policies reveals the areas – both geographical and topical – in which provision remains insufficient.

www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/nicolau-pagot

Implementing the Guiding Principles at the domestic level

Phil Orchard (University of Wollongong)

Examples from a number of States who have successfully implemented their own IDP laws and policies reveal several factors that can assist effective implementation.

www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/orchard
Work in progress: the Guiding Principles in Georgia
Carolin Funke and Tamar Bolkvadze (Ruhr-University Bochum / Danish Refugee Council)
The Guiding Principles enjoy a long history of support in Georgia. However, their successful implementation is still a work in progress.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/funke-bolkvadze

The Kampala Convention and the right not to be arbitrarily displaced
Romola Adeola (York University, Canada/University of Pretoria)
The drafters of the Kampala Convention drew heavily on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, while taking account of the African context; this is particularly evident in its recognition of the right not to be arbitrarily displaced.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/adeola

Language and the Guiding Principles
Ellie Kemp (Translators without Borders)
There needs to be more attention paid to the languages and communication needs of those at risk of, experiencing and recovering from internal displacement. A case-study from Nigeria brings the issues to life and challenges the international community to do better.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/kemp

Improving IDP data to help implement the Guiding Principles
Natalia Krynsky Baal, Laura Kivelâ and Melissa Weihmayer (Joint IDP Profiling Service)
Reliable, comprehensive data are vital for effective programming and practice. Data quality can be improved in many ways to better reflect the Guiding Principles and provide evidence to support their implementation.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/krynskybaal-kivela-weihmayer

The Sustainable Development Goals and IDPs
Greta Zeender (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)
Having adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, States must be helped to make their promise to ‘leave no one behind’ a reality for IDPs.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/zeender

The importance of monitoring internal displacement
Christelle Cazabat (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the link between internal displacement and development, and States should therefore be including internal displacement when monitoring progress towards their development goals. The reality is disappointing.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/cazabat

Strengthening implementation of the Guiding Principles by affected States
Angela Cotroneo (ICRC)
Engaging with States affected by internal displacement by facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges on shared challenges and through tapping into the potential for mobilisation by sub-regional and regional forums can prompt national action and strengthen implementation of the Guiding Principles.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/cotroneo
Domesticating the Guiding Principles in Afghanistan
Nassim Majidi and Dan Tyler (Samuel Hall / Norwegian Refugee Council)
Over the past 20 years, many governments have developed legal and policy instruments to help incorporate the Guiding Principles into national legislation or policy frameworks. Achieving effective, meaningful implementation, however, is much harder, as Afghanistan shows.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/majidi-tyler

Protecting property: the Iraqi experience
Sila Sonmez, Shahaan Murray and Martin Clutterbuck (NRC Iraq)
Protection of property rights on a fair and non-discriminatory basis within Iraq’s multi-ethnic society is central to the end of displacement and the start of durable solutions.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/sonmez-murray-clutterbuck

The Guiding Principles and armed non-State actors
Carla Ruta, Héloïse Ruaudel and Pascal Bongard (Geneva Call)
Millions of internally displaced persons live in areas controlled by armed non-State actors. Direct humanitarian engagement with these actors is required in order to help them improve their understanding of and compliance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/ruta-ruaudel-bongard

Addressing internal displacement in Ethiopia
Behigu Habte and Yun Jin Kweon (IOM)
Among various new initiatives in Ethiopia to address both the short- and long-term needs of IDPs, the Durable Solutions Working Group is making some progress, despite the challenging context.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/habte-kweon

The Guiding Principles in international human rights courts
Deborah Casalin (University of Antwerp)
The Guiding Principles have potential to support and complement international human rights law on internal displacement but they have had little explicit consideration by international and regional human rights courts and commissions.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/casalin

Additional resources

FMR GP10 special issue www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples10
This special issue of FMR reflects discussions at an international conference on the Ten Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement – GP10 – held in Oslo in October 2008. It includes shortened versions of some of the conference presentations, plus a selection of other articles, most of which present case studies on the application of the Guiding Principles in different countries. See also www.fmreview.org/issues for other FMR issues focusing on internal displacement or use the FMR website’s search function to search for individual articles/case-studies.

Brookings IDP archive now online
The archive of the Brookings Institution’s project on internally displaced persons, which had been donated to Oxford University’s Bodleian Libraries, is now available in Oxford’s Weston Library and online at bit.ly/Brookings-IDP-archive. (Cataloguing made possible by the support of the Refugee Studies Centre and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.)
A disaster approach to displacement: IDPs in the Philippines
Reinna Bermudez, Francis Tom Temprosa and Odessa Gonzalez Benson (Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines / University of Michigan)
In the absence of a national policy on internal displacement, the Philippines has used a disaster management framework to address displacement caused by terrorism-related conflict in Marawi City. Such a response, however, suffers from the absence of a rights-based foundation.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/bermudez-temprosa-gonzalezbenson

Planned relocation in Asia and the Pacific
Jessie Connell and Sabira Coelho (IOM)
Promising policy developments are underway in Asia and the Pacific to address climate and disaster-related displacement, yet the deeper governance structures required to embed protection are not yet in place, especially for planned relocation. There needs to be greater emphasis on assisting governments to set-up inter-ministerial structures equipped to deal with the complex cross-cutting issues that planned relocation involves.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/connell-coelho

Internal displacement beyond 2018: the road ahead
Alexandra Bilak and Avigail Shai (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)
The statistics and the challenges around internal displacement are daunting. However, much has been learned since the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were launched in 1998. What is needed now is a concerted effort and sustained momentum to build on that awareness and meet the evolving challenges.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/bilak-shai

Kharestan IDP settlement, located some 6km from Qala-e-naw city, Afghanistan, September 2018.
General articles

Lessons from the 1990s for Belize today
Janice Marshall and Kelleen Corrigan (UNHCR Belize)
Belize is currently facing a refugee situation that in many ways is reminiscent of the Central American refugee crisis it dealt with, successfully, in the 1990s. Could lessons from the past be key to the most effective response today?
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/marshall-corrigan

Gender and livelihoods in Myanmar after development-induced resettlement
Gillian Cornish and Rebekah Ramsay (University of Queensland / Asian Development Bank)
Research on a resettlement programme in Myanmar underscores the pressing need for policymakers to understand the ways in which gender affects how different groups experience the impact of development-induced resettlement.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/cornish-ramsay

New to QR codes? Download any QR code reader app (QR = Quick Response) and scan the square code next to an article – it will take you straight to the article online.

Woman displaced by the Upper Paunglaung hydroelectric dam looks towards the resettlement village and the reservoir that have been created.
Working with peer researchers in refugee communities
William Bakunzi (Peer researcher)
Refugee peer researchers can be a vital source of access, knowledge and assistance to refugee communities, and international researchers must consider how best to work collaboratively with them.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/bakunzi

Valuing local humanitarian knowledge: learning from the Central African Republic
Brigitte Piquard and Luk Delft (Oxford Brookes University / Caritas Centrafrique)
The humanitarian community needs to better identify, collect, harness and disseminate the local humanitarian knowledge that is developed within protracted conflict settings by national NGOs.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/piquard-delft

The Global Summit of Refugees and the importance of refugee self-representation
The Global Summit of Refugees Steering Committee
In June 2018, 72 refugee representatives from 27 refugee-hosting countries gathered in Geneva for the first-ever Global Summit of Refugees.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/globalsummitofrefugees

Assisting displaced people: a shared responsibility
Iwuoha Chima Iwuoha (Refugee Relief Workers International)
*Enyimba kwe nu*. When we work together, we achieve more.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/iwuoha

Exclusion of local actors from coordination leadership in child protection
Umar Abdullahi Maina, Daniel Machuor and Anthony Nolan (Community in Need Aid, South Sudan / Neem Foundation, Nigeria / UNICEF)
Despite multiple commitments to and much guidance on the desirability of local actors leading coordination at the national level, the reality is that they continue to be excluded.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/maina-machuor-nolan

Interested in collaborating with FMR to enhance your outreach and impact?
If your organisation is applying (or is part of a consortium applying) for funding on a theme that is relevant to FMR’s readership, please consider including FMR in your proposal narrative and budget to enhance your outreach and impact. We have had fruitful collaborations of this kind with research, UN, government and NGO partners. Please contact the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk to discuss options, whether mini-features or a full feature theme.

To access all FMR podcasts (arranged by issue), go to https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series and search for ‘forced migration review’.
Forthcoming feature themes

- FMR 60: Education (February 2019)
- FMR 61: Ethics and responsibilities (June 2019)

This issue will also pay tribute to the late Barbara Harrell-Bond, founder of the Refugee Studies Centre and of FMR, and will reflect her work and the causes she fought for.

Details at www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.

To be notified when calls for articles and new issues go online, follow us on Facebook or Twitter or sign up for email alerts at www.fmreview.org/request/alerts.

Cover image

A young IDP walks through farmlands donated by Zannah Buka Mustapha to support more than 800 internally displaced families in Nigeria. Mr Mustapha founded the Future Prowess Islamic Foundation in 2007 in Maiduguri – the heart of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. His school caters for orphans and IDP children and is based on principles of peaceful coexistence and gender equity. What started as a single classroom for 36 children now hosts hundreds of students, with more than 2,000 others awaiting a place.

UNHCR/Rahima Gambo

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Forced Migration Review (FMR) provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and internally displaced people, and those who work with them. It is published in English, Arabic, Spanish and French.

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