



43rd Human Rights Council

“ *Human rights are our ultimate tool
to help societies grow in freedom* ”

Organisation Internationale Pour Les Pays Les Moins Avancés (OIPMA)
The International Organization For Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs)



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Summary

The information in this newsletter is focused on the 43rd Human Rights Council held at the Palais de Nations in Geneva and High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Given the coronavirus pandemic that occurred during this period and the importance of protecting all attendees, the Council was canceled on March 13 and the High Level Panel was not celebrated.

**“ Put Human Rights at the centre of
Coronavirus outbreak response ”**

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Post-conflict and Peace-building in Yemen

General Debate Item 2: Oral update by the High Commissioner (HC), HC reports on OHCHR activities

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[You can see the full video, click here](#)

Mr. President,

The pivotal solution to conflict prevention, post-conflict, and peace-building in Yemen is to remove the root causes of the emerged conflicts in Yemen which have failed to achieve a comprehensive and lasting solution.

The two catastrophic elements, at present, are the Houthis and the Legal Government led by the ISLAH Party (Muslim Brotherhood) which are the cornerstone factors for fueling and sustaining the conflict.

On 18th January 2020, 113 persons died in a training camp belonging to the Presidential Guard by an explosion where mostly were the child soldiers.

This event shows that the ISLAH party continues to brainwash young people to believe in jihad to establish an Islamic Caliphate and recruit children under the legal government, which has opened training camps not only for militants of ISIS and AL-QAEDA, but has also participated in the recruitment of children between the ages of 15 and 17.

OIPMA recommends that this event should be acknowledged as the continuation of the existence of the current legal government of Yemen would be a dilemma, especially with the presence of Al-Qaeda and ISIS factions within the Yemeni armed forces and mainly within the military brigades in the governorates of MARAAB, SHABWA, and HADRAMOUT.

Thank you, Mr President.



Children and Armed Conflict

General Debate Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, including the report of IGWG on TNCs, the report on intersessional meetings on 2030 Agenda and HC/OHCHR/SG thematic reports.

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Mr. President

In contradiction to the Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict A/HRC/43/38, despite the decrease in cases of children recruited and used by parties to conflict, OIPMA brings to your attention that the number of children recruited has increased.

In an interview with the Associated Press, one of the Houthis military leaders recognized the recruitment of 18000 children in Yemen. Reports claim that this year there are 45000 child soldiers. Schools continue to be used for military purposes.

Schools are left exposed, and students open to attack. Meanwhile, the ISLAH Party has established several training camps for children.

OIPMA calls upon the special Representative, the Human Rights Council and Member States to take all available and necessary measures, in order to prevent violations from taking place. It urges both Yemeni parties to conflict, to eradicate all impediments to humanitarian access for children, enable access to education for conflict-affected children and implement concrete measures to deter stop schools from being used for military purposes.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Written Statements

Written statement* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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- **Agenda Item 2**

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General: Follow-up on the implementation of Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions on preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism: The case of Yemen

▶ [You can read the report, click here](#) ◀



- **Agenda Item 3**

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development: Muslim Brotherhood influence in repositioning of terrorist groups in Libya threatens security, peace, stability and development of Least Developed Countries in Africa

▶ [You can read the report, click here](#) ◀



- **Agenda Item 3**

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development: Ethnic conflicts and internally displaced persons – the case of Ethiopia

▶ [You can read the report, click here](#) ◀



- **Agenda item 5**

Human rights bodies and mechanisms: Concrete action to support the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the fight against the devastating effects of climate change and ultimately achieve SDG Goal 13

▶ [You can read the report, click here](#) ◀



- **Agenda item 4**

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention- The decisive solution to conflict prevention post-conflict and peace-building in Yemen

▶ [You can read the report, click here](#) ◀



- **Agenda item 8**

Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action- Agenda 2030 and the challenges of LDCs

▶ [You can read the report, click here](#) ◀

Expansion of Terrorism in Mali

Interactive Dialogue Item 10: Independent Expert on Mali

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[You can see the full video, click here](#)



Mr. President,

In the Sahel region, extremists are taking advantage of local conflicts to expand their activities.

The transfer of more than 10,000 foreign terrorist fighters from Syria to Libya, most of who belong to jihadist groups, such as ISIS and Al Qaeda, has made Libya a springboard for their activities which include weapons smuggling and trading.

The operations of these terrorist groups in the region have expanded into Mali, the impact of which has been an increase in insecurity and instability, resulting in larger numbers of Malians fleeing their homes.

Evidence of the ever-increasing expansion of terrorist group operations in Mali recorded in recent attacks in the central part of the country, which resulted in the killing of at least 100 people. The response in urging Malian authorities to take more action to combat the impunity displayed towards these groups and their operations welcomed.

In addressing the Security Council, the UN Secretary-General, regarding the situation in Mali and the Sahel region in general, expressed his concern about terrorist activity in fueling inter-communal violence, which inflicts heavy losses on the local population.

OIPMA kindly asks the Independent Expert on Mali to outline the planned strategy/strategies it would implement to combat the spread of terrorist group operations and ensure political stability in the country.

Thank you, Mr. President

Collapse of Governance in Libya

Interactive Dialogue Item 10: High Commissioner's Report on Libya

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[You can see the full video, click here](#)



Mr. President & Mr. High Commissioner,

OIPMA thanks the High Commissioner for her report on Libya.

The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Libya has brought a spill-over effect to the neighboring countries surrounding Libya. The Security Council Resolution 2510 (2020) affirms the need for a ceasefire.

Due to fragmented security and a collapse of the State authority, the impacts on the governance and economies in the neighboring Least Developed Countries have brought instability to their environment. They are affected by activities of the violent extremist groups in Libya and face certain impediments to their independence, economy, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The increased involvement of mercenaries in Libya underlines the need to make progress towards building a comprehensive and political solution for Libya. It comes in light of the resignation of SALAME GHASSAN, UN special envoy to Libya.

OIPMA urges the Member States and the Human Rights Council to realize the potential impact of a conflict in Libya, which affects countries that are still on the road to development and realizing their potential in the international community.

Thank you.

Human Rights & Conflict Prevention Post Conflict And Peacebuilding In Yemen

5th of March 2020 | 15:00 - 16:00 | ROOM XXVII

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The Side Event will emphasize on the need to eliminate the constraints and obstacles caused by the chronic conflict situations in Yemen which severely affects the implementation of SDGs including peace, stability and the right governance, all of them in the 2030 Agenda.

The panelists will seek to unravel and present those obstacles and constraints which to date continues to hinder both the realization of the peace process and counter-terrorism measures and the recruitment of the children in Yemeni armed conflict.

Panelists and stakeholders will evaluate and tackle the conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding in Yemen, as well as identify key priorities which should be carried out on national, regional and international level.



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SPEAKERS

Dr. ELISABETH KENDALL

Senior Research Fellow in Arabic & Islamic Studies, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK

Mr. SALAH ALAGHBAR

Journalist in Sky News Arabia Channel & academic, Professor, University of Aden.

Mr. ANWAR AL-TAMIMI

Journalist & Expert in the Yemeni issue.

Moderated by **Mr. DAVID ROETHLISBERGER** Senior Advisor IOLDCs

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

IOALDCs, as a member of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, was invited to do a submission to better prevent, respond to and drive solutions to internal displacement and to share it widely within our networks.

Internal Displacement – Overview -Trends and Challenges

On April 17 1998, the Commission on Human Rights adopted the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. These remain the most widely recognized standard to prevent, respond to and resolve internal displacement. The unprecedented volume and duration of internal displacement today reminds us that much more work needs to be done and that long-term solutions for those displaced are fewer and harder to come by.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in its 2018 Global Trends report starkly reflected that "Today one in every 108 people on earth is displaced", indicating the continued escalation in global forced displacement. The report documented that "70.8 million people were forcibly displaced" at the end of 2018, "each with their own story to tell, each with a life or family uprooted, broken or lost."

Internal displacement is also heavily concentrated in a few countries and triggered by a few events. Around 28 million new internal displacements associated with conflict and disasters across 148 countries and territories were recorded in 2018. Persistently high levels of new displacement each year coupled with increasingly protracted crises across the globe left 2018 with the highest number of IDPs ever recorded. Despite policy progress in several countries, the root causes of internal displacement remain inadequately addressed.

Cyclical and protracted displacement continues to be driven by political instability, chronic poverty and inequality, environmental and climate change. Many IDPs are returning to insecure areas with few socio-economic opportunities. Instead of creating the conditions for lasting solutions, this is recreating conditions of risk and increasing the likelihood of crises erupting again in the future.

Armed conflicts and persecution are driving a record number of people from their homes. At the start of 2019, some 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced. In 2018, 13.6 million people were newly displaced by conflict, violence or human rights violations – an average of 37,000 people every day. Natural disasters triggered a further 17.2 million new displacements, often in the same countries. Twenty-eight of the 50 countries with the highest numbers of new displacements faced both conflict and disaster-induced displacement. The majority of forcibly displaced people remain within their own countries. At the start of 2019, there were 41.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), the highest the number on record. Conflicts and violence caused 10.8 million new internal displacements in 2018. The majority in just three countries: Ethiopia, 16 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Syria.

The GP20 Plan of Action, a multi-stakeholder 3-year plan (2018–2020), launched on the 20th Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People (IDPs), urged the humanitarian and international community to do more to prevent the conditions that lead to displacement as well as advancing protection and solutions for IDPs.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the IDP Challenge

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are among the countries with the highest number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). As of 31 of December 2018, among the 47 LDCs, twenty-one were in the situation where they had international displacement as a consequence of violence and conflict, and 43 had IDPs as a result of disasters.

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

IOLDCs, as a member of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, was invited to do a submission to better prevent, respond to and drive solutions to internal displacement and to share it widely within our networks.

The number in December 2018 of IDPs because of violence and conflicts in the LDCs was 18 623 500. Protracted crises, communal violence and unresolved governance challenges are the main factors behind 10.8 million new displacements associated with conflict and violence.

Humanitarian needs and requirements

Conflict is the main driver of escalating needs, but in many places, people face a combination of conflict and climatic events. One of the first measurable consequences is food insecurity, which has risen in virtually every country.

Globally, at the start of 2019 some 821 million people were undernourished, including 113 million who suffered from acute hunger. Conflict is the key driver of hunger. By the beginning of 2019, armed conflicts and persecution had driven a record number of nearly 71 million people from their homes.

The prediction is that some 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2020, representing 1 in about 45 people in the world, the highest figure in decades. The UN and partner organizations to assist nearly 109 million of the most vulnerable people in 53 countries will require funding of \$28.8 billion.

Current trends, projections show that more than 200 million people could need assistance by 2022. Highly violent conflicts are causing widespread hunger, displacement, death and destruction around the world.

Hunger disproportionately affects Africa. Almost half of the people (33 million) facing acute hunger where conflict and insecurity was the main driver, reside in Africa. Climate and natural disasters pushed another 23 million people into situations of acute food insecurity – representing 80 per cent of those suffering from climate-induced hunger globally.

Climate variability and extremes are key drivers of the recent rise in global hunger and among the leading causes of severe food crises. The impact of climate change disproportionately affects the poor and vulnerable. The impact is particularly devastating where conflict and climatic events come together. In sub-Saharan Africa, combinations of conflict, floods, droughts and other natural hazards resulted in a doubling of internal displacements between 2015 and 2018.

Regrettably, climate adaptation efforts are not prioritized as a part of humanitarian response, which in five highly disaster-vulnerable countries between 2016 and 2018, was found to represent only 3 per cent of projects included in inter-agency appeals in the countries concerned and less than half of these received funding. Within the scope of humanitarian action, anticipating climate-related crises and acting early can help mitigate the impact of climate on other political, demographic and socioeconomic pressures and, ultimately, save people's lives and livelihoods.

The Gender and Health Impact

At the beginning of 2019, there were 41 active highly violent conflicts, an increase from 36 at the beginning of the previous year. Dozens of these highly violent conflicts are causing widespread hunger, displacement, death and destruction around the world. Aid workers are facing growing risks and health workers and health facilities are under attack, putting millions of people at risk by denying them access to vital care and aid.

Attacks on schools and medical facilities prevent children from accessing education and interrupt vital health services. Millions are forced to flee their homes in search of safety. Children under age 18 make up a third of the world's population but account for half of all refugees and 40 per cent of those internally displaced by conflict and violence, which include death, injuries, sexual violence, abductions, and the recruitment and their use in hostilities.

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

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Women and girls are at higher risk of sexual violence. While Gender-based violence (GBV) exists everywhere in the world, women and girls in disasters, armed conflict and other situations of violence face increased risks of rape, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, early and forced marriage, sexual exploitation and trafficking. Nine out of the ten countries with the highest rates of child marriage are fragile. Women and girls in situations of displacement are also more vulnerable to trafficking, rape and other forms of sexual assault. Despite the scale and severity of GBV in emergencies, prevention and response continue to be under resourced.

Protracted crises, displacement and climate change are placing millions of people at increased risk of diseases. Active conflict, weak health systems, poor water and sanitation, and lack of access to vaccinations increase the prevalence of some infectious diseases while making others harder to control. Disease outbreaks apart from worsening humanitarian needs also demand more resources and make responses more complex.

Humanitarian responses can and do prevent and reduce the number of cases and deaths from infectious diseases through prompt and effective diagnosis and treatment, but the root causes need to be tackled. Scaling up vaccination programmes, investing in local health systems and increasing the safety of health-care facilities and workers will be critical to reduce caseloads and manage future risks.

Infectious diseases are not gender-neutral and the biological sex of a person can impact the exposure to a disease, as well as the severity and treatment. Some diseases are particularly severe for pregnant women or may affect unborn children. Gender roles can also have a significant impact on exposure to viruses and access to health care. Women and girls are more likely than men to be caregivers for the sick, which increases their susceptibility to diseases that are transmitted by close contacts, such as Ebola. They are often responsible for collecting water and preparing food, increasing their exposure to diseases such as cholera. In certain regions, women and girls are more vulnerable to contracting HIV due to greater exposure to sexual violence, exploitation and other harmful sociocultural factors.

Economic Impact

Slower economic growth and debt problems are entrenching humanitarian needs, as although the world's economy continues to grow, the gains are uneven. Sixty-five of the 77 countries where undernourishment increased, experienced an economic slowdown or downturn. The majority (52 out of 65) of the countries are highly dependent on primary commodities, making them particularly vulnerable to price fluctuations.

Countries with weak governance and institutions, or facing armed conflict, civil unrest or instability, are those particularly vulnerable to the impact of economic decline.

Regional Overviews: Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific remain the world's most disaster-prone region. Three out of every four people affected by a natural disaster live in the Asia-Pacific, which is vulnerable to both sudden and slow-onset events, such as earthquakes, typhoons/cyclones, flooding, volcanoes, and food shortages. Climate change and environmental risks further aggravate the potential for large disasters. More than one-quarter of the world's conflicts occur in Asia and the Pacific, and in recent years violence has intensified.

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

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The region's vulnerability has led governments to make disaster management a priority, which has culminated, over the past decade, in the establishment in most countries in the region of national disaster management authorities and investment in national systems that are increasingly capable of managing small- and medium-scale disasters. The region nevertheless remains highly vulnerable to large-scale disasters that could overwhelm in-country capacities and require international humanitarian assistance. In addition to the growth in national capacities, prominent bilateral response arrangements and regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are contributing to a more diverse response system. Japan and China are also playing active roles in international networks, such as the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and the WHO Emergency Medical Teams initiative, that make important contributions to global humanitarian mechanisms. Others in the region are also increasingly becoming aid providers.

Eastern and Southern Africa Southern Africa

Climate change is compounding deep-rooted poverty, economic inequality and political instability in Southern Africa, leading to a rise in humanitarian needs. Almost 12.8 million people are internally displaced across the region due to conflict or climatic shocks. Ethiopia and Somalia are notable examples where significant displacement occurred in 2019.

Emerging reports are of trends by families adopting extreme coping mechanisms, including child labour, child trafficking, early marriage and transactional sex.

In 2019, 27.8 million people were severely food insecure in the sub-region. Preventable diseases remain endemic, and outbreaks are exacerbated by conflict and climatic shocks.

Predictions are of climatic shocks becoming a major driver of humanitarian needs. Also, there is a rise in food insecurity the result of a combination of conflict, extreme weather and economic shocks.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is the second-most disaster-prone region. The impacts of climate change shock compound existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities and deep economic inequity. Although relatively well prepared to respond to disasters, South America remains vulnerable to extreme weather events. Caribbean islands have stepped up preparedness efforts, including nurturing strategic relationships with local and sub-regional response partners. Changing climate patterns have made readiness a key strategic priority.

The Middle East and North Africa

The main drivers of humanitarian needs across the region remain protracted armed conflict and violence, frequently fueled by political, social and economic grievances or geopolitical tensions.

Some countries in the region are also vulnerable to natural disasters or extreme climate events, including earthquakes, drought and flooding, and to epidemics, such as cholera. More than 20 million people have been displaced at some stage in recent years, many of them multiple times, either internally or as refugees to neighbouring countries.

Conflict, combined with economic decline and lack of sustainable livelihoods, has exhausted individual and community coping mechanisms, in many cases resulting in high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. The generosity of many donors notwithstanding, continued funding constraints have also affected the ability of humanitarian organizations to respond to urgent needs.

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

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West and Central Africa

These are among the most risk-prone regions in the world. Climate change, extreme poverty, rapid population growth and insecurity are driving high levels of vulnerability.

Violent conflict, forced displacement, food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics and environmental shocks continue to devastate communities.

Although governments and local authorities across the region are making efforts to strengthen social cohesion, restore basic services, and improve security, humanitarian needs in the region remain high and are likely to increase.

Response plans across the region remain significantly underfunded and humanitarians are forced to undertake challenging prioritization exercises in an environment of long-standing critical gaps.

IDPs and the Data Challenge

Data is scarce as many IDPs remain unaccounted for which prevents an accurate assessment of the true scale of internal displacement in countries. Estimating returns also continues to be a major challenge. The number of people displaced by slow-onset disasters worldwide remains unknown as only drought-related displacement is captured in some countries, and only partially.

Filling the significant data, analysis and capacity gaps is imperative to progress. Only around a quarter of global internal displacement data is geo-referenced and little to no information exists on the duration and severity of displacement across contexts and demographic groups. These gaps prevent the development of strategies to end or reduce the risk of displacement and mean that too many IDPs are still falling between the cracks of protection and assistance.

Partnership Value with The International Organization for the LDCs (IOLDCs)

This call for submission and inputs has rightly identified that ending displacement remains an elusive quest. Precious little information exists on how and when durable solutions are being achieved, and how people and states are progressing toward them. Growing evidence is that the obstacles to IDPs integrating locally are mostly political.

The International Organization for the LDCs (IOLDCs) is eager to submit recommendations in response to the UN Secretary General's call and wishes to express its willingness and preparedness to contribute and engage in step-up actions, should we be called upon. IOLDCs' interest in this exercise would be particularly pertinent as it has a mission to work for the empowerment and development of Least Developed Countries, particularly endangered by conflicts, poverty, diseases, inequality and climate change. Our priority is to eliminate the constraints and obstacles caused by chronic conflict situations in crisis-affected LDCs, which severely affect the ability to pursue and establish sustainable development. We believe that working together with the international community and all the stakeholders concerned, including civil society, we can achieve conflict-prevention, post-conflict and peace-building, which is believed would pave the way for peace, stability and sustainable development in LDCs. Through advocacy and training activities, we focus on particular SDGs that would enable LDCs to attain sustainable development status and improve their human rights situations and the welfare of their populations.

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

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Existing Response Plans: Delivering Better

Improved analysis and tools are enabling responses to be better prioritized and ensuring that the specific needs are taken into account. Humanitarian organizations are also working with increasingly diverse partners in different contexts to put people's needs at the centre of coordinated responses.

Having communities at the centre of humanitarian action is critical for appropriate and timely aid and protection to reach the people in need, through plans such as Accountability to affected populations (AAP), the commitment of humanitarians to use their power responsibly. At the global level, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) partners are working to achieve more coherent and systematic approaches to AAP. Other positive outcomes have been the promotion of promoted stronger collective action, and adoption of the Movement-wide Minimum Commitments and Actions on Community Engagement and Accountability in 2019 by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Revision by UNICEF of its Core Commitments for Children to reinforce obligations to quality and accountability, and promotion by International Organization for Migration (IOM) of AAP principles across the organization.

Envisaged goals:

- Regular provision of information to affected communities, ensuring decisions are informed by the views of communities, and enabling communities to assess and comment on the performance of humanitarians
- Raising awareness and ensuring that well-established community-based complaint mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Significant shift towards common approaches to community engagement on a whole-of-response level, which should include:
 - Meaningful participation of affected communities and diverse groups of people in all stages of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), including incoordination, planning and monitoring.

Sexual exploitation and abuse

The commitment of the 2018 IASC-endorsed Strategy on Protection from and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment, is to create a humanitarian environment free from sexual wrongdoing, where the people caught up in crises as well as humanitarian workers feel safe and respected.

The three overarching priorities, to:

- Bolster prevention, expand safe spaces so all survivors can speak out
- Promote the respectful use of authority
- Support enhanced accountability, including investigations

Prevention of sexual abuse, exploitation Coordinators are responsible for leading inter-agency networks, ensuring safe and accessible reporting systems are in place, and establishing linkages with GBV and child protection referral services. Efforts are also supported at country-level by the IASC to coordinated implementation of the 2018 UN Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse involving implementing partners.

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

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Financing

The pursuit of alternative and innovative financing approaches such as scaling up anticipatory action to mitigate the most serious consequences of predictable crises.

It is acknowledged that current and future trends suggest that without political, economic and development action which addresses the root causes of humanitarian need, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, humanitarian organizations will continue to respond to escalating needs for decades to come. In light of this, the UN Secretary-General has rightly made it a priority for all humanitarian, development and peace organizations to collaborate more closely by working towards collective outcomes aimed at reducing risk, vulnerability and need, by way of adoption of such action steps as :

- Promotion of gender equality and placement of women in positions of decision-making
- Supporting children and youth to have access to quality education in crises and
- Reinforcing local action wherever possible.

Regarding addressing the data challenge, a systemic approach to filling the data gaps is possible. Common standards and better cooperation and coordination will go a long way in providing the evidence base required for policy work, development planning and humanitarian operations. Although appropriate tools for needs assessments, risk analyses, investment planning and progress monitoring already exist, which allow states to develop sustainable approaches to displacement, the priority should now be to provide national and local authorities with the financial and technical support they will need for their application.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The IOLDCs believes that effective and ultimately sustained inroads to better prevent, respond to and drive forward solutions to internal displacement, can be established on the following key fronts:

- **Partnerships:**

The value of effective and reliable local partners cannot be under-estimated. Such partners should be not be selected for convenience sake or on practical grounds, but proven ability. Ideal sources for recruitment, especially at the local level, are international professional associations/representative bodies, that often are, if not invariably, in official relations with UN bodies, but whose valuable resources, knowledge, etc. are underused or even ignored. These associations/bodies have good and reliable established local member organizations/ partners that can be rallied and engaged as and when required.

Creation of the proposed partnerships should :

- Recognize that 'ignorance' and exclusion of groups, may have led and can lead to adoption and implementation of contra-productive decisions and actions
- Make each group aware of their respective roles and responsibilities

UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

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Partnership tasks to involve:

- Enhancing the role of the groups in truly collaborative-style led planning and implementation of programs;
- Identification/sharing/review of current strengths and weaknesses in policies and practices;
- Address current barriers;
- Identification of increased opportunities for inter-partner collaboration;
- Breaking inter-professional/organization silo practices and encourage multidisciplinary approaches with the added value of team building management of activities;
- Creating awareness of each professional group's role, responsibility, obligation and challenges;
- Creating an opportunity for cross-fertilization of knowledge, ideas and experiences;
- Raising even greater awareness among the appropriate stakeholder groups at the global level;
- Involvement and leadership of displaced people themselves and their urban host communities.

Data collation:

This should be made a priority as collection, verification and sharing form the cornerstone and focus of most if not all international collaborative, between local and global partners, programmes. Granted that reliable data is difficult to access in the face of ever-increasing IDPs, its collection, verification and sharing should be fine-tuned in quality as it is critical to responsive effective humanitarian planning, protection services, and ultimately impacts legislations and policies that determine the fate of millions. In so doing, margins for error and ultimately impact on millions of vulnerable lives are kept at a minimum.

Such heightened support and involvement of the many tiers at the local level should facilitate addressing by the international community of institutional barriers to effectively bring about coherence, and pursue with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose, joined-up funding and programming.

The anticipated resultant change would be the opening of the road to effective integrated approaches across sectors with increased investment in humanitarian, development and peace-building.



Measures against Coronavirus in developing countries

Irene G. Dugo

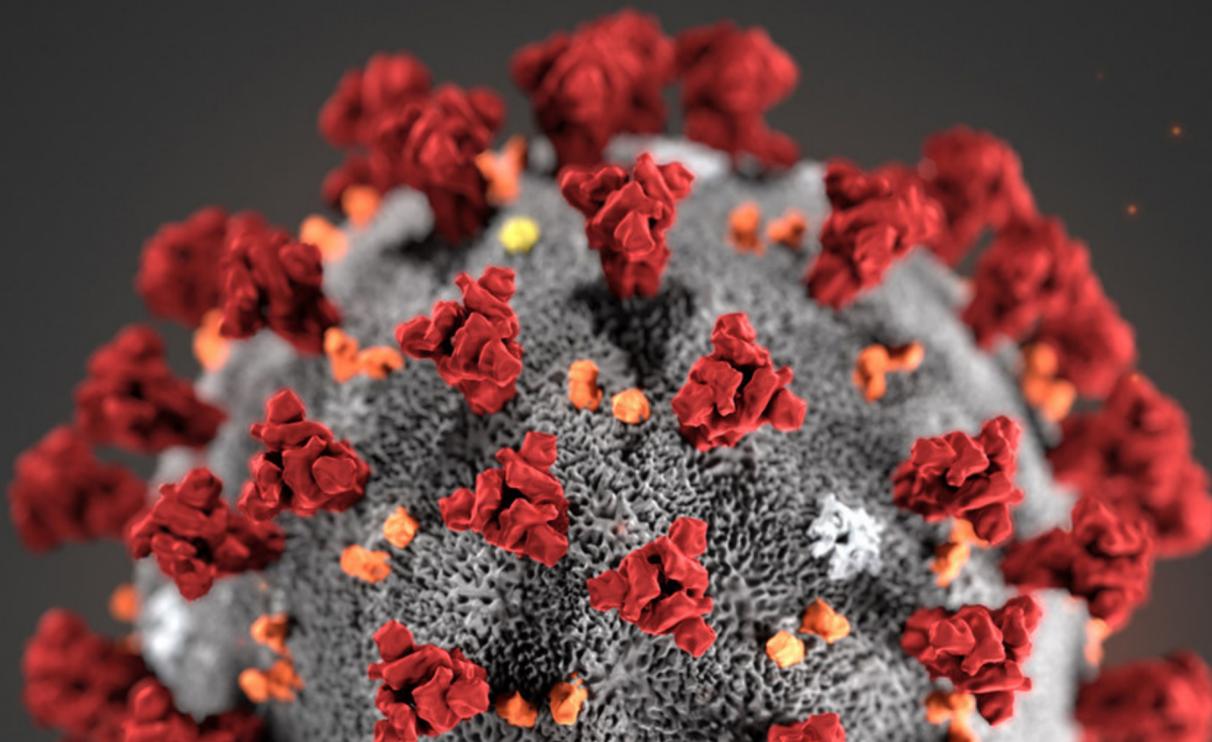
Since the coronavirus was declared a pandemic, information on the prevention of the virus has filled the media, social media and conversations. Many songs have been selected to wash hands for at least 20 seconds, supermarkets have installed lines on the floor to distance customers, and the personal laptop and the living room table have become our favourite office. However, all the measures proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) have focused on the population of developed countries. What about the rest of the world population?

The daily gesture of washing hands is already a challenge for developing countries. 3,000 million people in the world do not have access to running water in their homes to carry out this action, but, it is the first key measure to prevent contagion. This leaves millions of people exposed to all the risks of the Covid-19, without having the opportunity to get ahead of the first and basic steps.

Another highly recommended measure is the social distancing. In countries like India, with 1.3 billion inhabitants, about 450 people per square kilometre, and up to three generations living in the same house, this is one of the most arduous tasks. In a country where both public and private spaces are crowded, the population faces the mandatory confinement imposed by the Government to a practically impossible challenge.

Working from home is also difficult for 1 in 3 people in the world engaged in agriculture. The population of developing countries, which concentrate the highest percentage of work in agriculture worldwide, still cannot do Home Office even though the measures recommend it.

Developing countries are already fighting their own battles, conflicts, other epidemics, and fragile health systems. If the WHO's measures do not take into account the characteristics of these countries, globalization will do its part and the containment of contagions worldwide will be increasingly difficult.





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Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the IDP Challenge

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are among the countries with the highest number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). As of 31 of December 2018, among the 47 LDCs, twenty-one were in the situation where they had international displacement as a consequence of violence and conflict, and 43 had IDPs as a result of disasters. The number in December 2018 of IDPs because of violence and conflicts in the LDCs was 18 623 500. Protracted crises, communal violence and unresolved governance challenges are the main factors behind 10.8 million new displacements associated with conflict and violence.

Partnership value with The International Organization for the LDCs (IOLDCs)

This call for submission and inputs has rightly identified that ending displacement remains an elusive quest. Precious little information exists on how and when durable solutions are being achieved, and how people and states are progressing toward them. Growing evidence is that the obstacles to IDPs integrating locally are mostly political.

The International Organization for the LDCs (IOLDCs) in its working paper has expressed willingness and preparedness to contribute and engage in step-up actions given it has as:

- Mission to work for the empowerment and development of Least Developed Countries, particularly endangered by conflicts, poverty, diseases, inequality and climate change, and;
- Priority to eliminate the constraints and obstacles caused by chronic conflict situations in crisis-affected LDCs, which severely affect the ability to pursue and establish sustainable development.

Engagement with the international community in this programme it is believed should enhance IOLDCs efforts to focus on those SDGs that would enable LDCs to attain sustainable development status and improve their human rights situations and the welfare of their populations.

As at the time of writing this report, the High-Level Panel has acknowledged receipt of IOLDCs paper and advised that the Secretariat will be working to synthesize all the written contributions during the coming month and that the joint analysis and individual submissions will be presented to the Panel. Plans are also in place to post the submissions on the Panel's public website

Haiti: Discoordination X-Ray

Irene G. Dugo

Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere and the one with the greatest environmental deterioration. With external debts of more than two million dollars, its political instability, and the lack of basic services, Haiti is the perfect game board for any crisis to multiply by a thousand.

Until 1990, there was no democratically elected president, and all had to drag economic and social crises, gang fights, and rival political groups. In 2004, the United Nations sent a stabilization force to restore order, but instability remains.

Furthermore, United Nations data says that 7 out of 10 inhabitants in Haiti is poor, and lives on less than \$ 2 a day. It is estimated that only half of the population in the country has access to drinking water. Drinking from unprotected springs, or failing to care for leaking house latrines, continually exposes the Haitian population to preventable diseases. In addition, Haiti depends on food imports. In fact, own production serves only to supply 46% of the needs. In 2008, there were riots caused by shortages and rising prices. All of these issues have an impact on the resilience to crisis and disaster. Thus, Haiti is plagued both by migration

linked to violence and natural disasters, and with little capacity to respond to it.

Analysis of the root causes and consequences of the crisis

By itself, Haiti is one of the countries most prone to natural disasters, in part, due to its location in tropical areas and the degraded environment. However, its deforestation, accentuated by the cutting down of trees, has caused soil erosion and a tremendous shortage of drinking water. This has always contributed to making tropical storms even more devastating than usual.

With the earthquakes of 2010, more than 310,000 people died and almost two million out of a total of eleven were left homeless across the country. Specialists agree that the intense destruction has more to do with urban density and the mode of construction of houses than with the seismic force of the earthquake.

In total, there were 1.5 million displaced people, the majority internally, who were resettled in 1,500 camps managed by the International Organization for Migration. The displacements caused by the earthquake continued for years and harmed subsequent generations due to the concept of statelessness sustained in Haiti.





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In addition to the number of deaths and injuries and the destruction of the buildings and houses of 90% of the population, the epidemic outbreak of cholera joins them at the end of the same year. When water treatment is not adequate, the spread of the disease is quicker and can become uncontrolled without immediate and coordinated action.

Without energy, without running water, with a river of refugees or wandering the streets with nowhere to go, diseases and injuries that were emerging more and more, the Haiti earthquake was one of the most devastating in history and marked a before and after in the humanitarian response of organizations and institutions to natural disasters.

A decade later, hundreds of thousands of Haitians live in manufactured homes, have access to basic services, and are far from the canyons and slopes. But the famine is spreading in a country where 1,200,000 Haitians live in a food emergency and a third of its 11 million inhabitants require aid to eat.

The need for coordinated solutions

Given the first scenario of destruction and deaths left by the earthquake, the action of the

organizations and countries was immediate, but erroneous. Ten years later, there are many lessons learned. Perhaps the first of the lessons directly concerns the UN exercise on the consequences of the earthquake, and its leading role with the cholera epidemic. Six years after the earthquake, the UN finally acknowledged its mistake in sending the Nepalese blue helmets directly to Haiti without prior examination. An avoidable negligence that took a long time to assume.

But the earthquake put international agencies and NGO to the test and revealed the lacks of a model of cooperation as enthusiastic but uncoordinated.

Countries that delivered food without warning care for the wounded in an unstable health system or social decontrol showed that the response to this humanitarian catastrophe did not integrate all the key elements to provide it with a real and durable solution. Medical-humanitarian action, food distribution, development of the country's infrastructure, water and sanitation measures, educational and peace awareness work, and, of course, environmental efforts based on knowledge of the field, they had to work immediately and in a coordinated way to ensure that the country not only overcome the catastrophe, but also that it solidifies the bases to face future crises.