

Internally Displaced Persons and CRVS Systems – Introduction to Module 13

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Internally Displaced Persons: Definition

“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”

Source: UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (2004)



Source: ADB

Documentation and the rights of IDPs

Every human being has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

- the authorities concerned shall issue to IDPs **all documents necessary for the enjoyment and exercise of their legal rights**, such as **passports, personal documents, birth certificates and marriage certificates**.
- the authorities **shall facilitate the issuance of new documents or the replacement of documents lost in the course of displacement**, without imposing unreasonable conditions

Source: UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Data on IDPs

- At the end of 2016, there were 40.8 million IDPs, almost twice as many as refugees worldwide (Source UNHCR).
- The largest numbers of IDPs are in Colombia (6.9 million); Syria (6.6 million); and Iraq (4.4 million) (Source IDMC)
- Predominant causes of internal displacement in the Pacific: Natural Disaster (weather-related and earthquakes)

IDPs: Functional Registration and Civil Registration

- **Functional Registration**

- Needs based
- To facilitate or monitor assistance, protection, services.
- Appropriate technique/protection sensitive

- **Civil Registration**

- Vital events amongst IDP populations should be registered by the competent authorities
- Birth, marriage and death certificates should be issued
- New or replacement documents should be issued without unreasonable conditions

Civil registration in emergencies

- **Challenges**

- Documentation often lost
- Civil registries destroyed
- Routine government functions are disrupted
- Resources focused on “relief and rehabilitation”
- Identity documentation needed to access services, claim insurance or inheritance

- **Solutions**

- Emergency and DRR plan
- Digital backups
- Mobile registration
- Establishing programmes (targeting “at risk” groups e.g. separated children)

Case Study Video: Multi-partner CRVS project Typhoon Yolanda, the Philippines

ABCD Project,
IDEALS Inc.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uo94AW7Aww>

Case Study: Multi-partner CRVS project Typhoon Yolanda, the Philippines

- Awareness raising amongst affected population
- Mobile civil registration and community legal assistance
- Waiver of civil registration fees
- Reconstruction of civil registries and “omnibus certification”
- Increased capacity of civil registrars (staff and hardware)
- Linking with other partners and government bodies.
- “Build back better”