

Protection and Displacement in Natural Disaster Situations

An ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment Side Event
following the CAP Mid-Year Review

Wednesday, 20 July, 14:15 – 14:45
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Speakers:

Elisabeth Rasmusson, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Mark Bartolini, Director, USAID/OFDA

Chair:

Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief, Policy Development and Studies Branch (OCHA)

Governments and humanitarian actors around the world are all too frequently called on to assist people affected by the impact of extreme natural hazards events, from smaller localized disasters to larger events requiring international assistance. In the context of climate change, disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity, stretching the resources of affected communities, governments, and the international humanitarian system and triggering larger and more complex population movements.

Protection challenges and risks are often as acute in natural disasters as in conflict situations. As we have seen in recent years, disasters can create specific risks for affected populations and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Internal displacement is a key feature of humanitarian crises related to natural disasters. The forced displacement of men, women and children from their homes as a result of natural hazard-induced disasters is occurring on a huge scale and affecting all regions of the globe.

The panel will discuss key challenges related to protection and displacement in natural disaster contexts, and present latest findings from the IDMC on displacement due to sudden-onset disasters over the last few years.



Copies of IDMC's report "*Displacement due to natural hazard-induced disasters - Global estimates for 2009 and 2010*" will be available at the event.

These can also be downloaded from:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/natural-disasters-2009-2010>