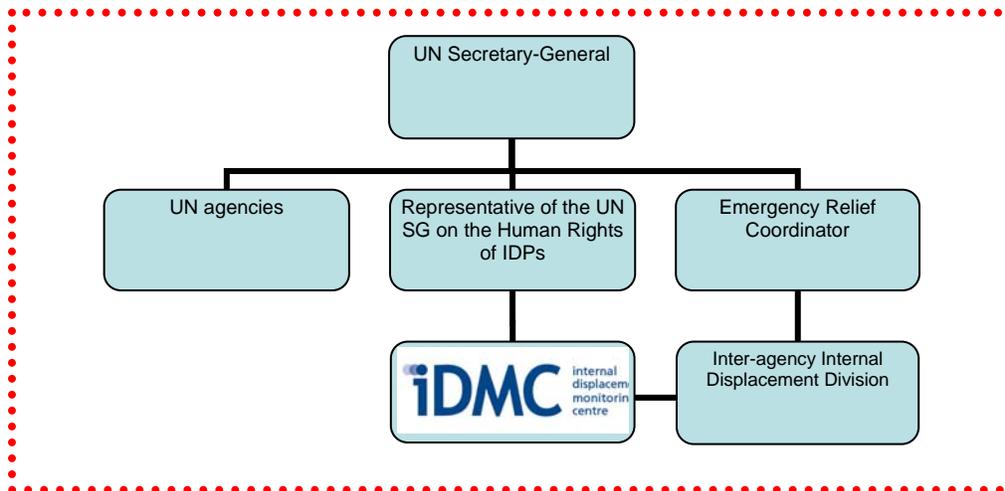


The "Collaborative Response" to situations of internal displacement

While UNHCR is the UN organisation responsible for assisting and protecting refugees, there is no single organisation responsible for IDPs at the operational level. Given the scope and the nature of internal displacement, the UN has opted for a *collaborative response*, noting that the needs of IDPs are beyond the capacity of a single agency. A *collaborative response* is a response in which a broad range of actors, including governments, the UN and NGOs, work together to respond to the needs of IDPs on the basis of their individual mandates and expertise.

Roles and responsibilities at headquarters



Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)

- The ERC ensures the inter-agency coordination of protection and assistance to IDPs among UN agencies.
- The ERC is responsible for global advocacy on protection and assistance, resource mobilisation, global information on IDPs, and for ensuring that field arrangements are adequately supported.
- When necessary and appropriate, the ERC brings issues concerning IDPs to the attention of the UN Secretary-General and the UN Security Council.

Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division (IDD)

The IDD has been established to support the ERC in promoting a predictable and concerted response to internal displacement. The IDD provides assistance to international organisations at field level in developing and refining IDP strategies and ensuring their effective implementation, including an appropriate division of labour. The IDD is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and is a small entity of about 20 professionals. Information on the IDD can be found at: <http://www.reliefweb.int/idp/>

Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons



Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of internally displaced persons Walter Kälin was appointed at the request of the Commission on Human Rights. His mandate calls upon him to engage in dialogue and advocacy with governments and other actors concerning the rights of IDPs, and to strengthen the international response to internal displacement, and mainstream human rights throughout the UN system. His activities include promoting and disseminating the rights articulated in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, undertaking country visits, engaging governments and other actors with regard to specific situations of internal displacement, sponsoring national and regional seminars, engaging UN agencies and departments, undertaking research on issues of IDPs' human rights, and reporting annually to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly.

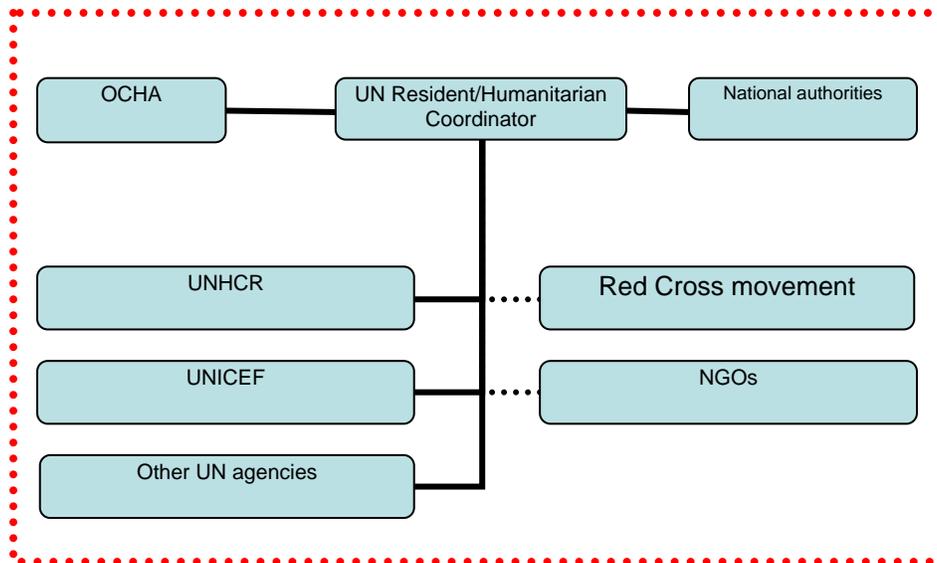
Information on the Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs can be found at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/idp/index.htm>

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council

The Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council supports the work of the Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Inter-agency Internal Displacement Division by collecting information on all IDP situations worldwide and conducting training workshops to strengthen the capacity of UN actors in the field, based on a tripartite memorandum of understanding signed with these two institutions. The Global IDP Database and information on the training activities of the IDMC can be found at <http://www.internal-displacement.org>

Roles and responsibilities at field level



Primary responsibility of the State

Primary responsibility for protection and assistance to civilians in internal displacement crises lies with the national authorities of the affected countries. However, the capacity and/or willingness of the authorities to fulfil their responsibilities is often insufficient or lacking. In such circumstances, the international community needs to support and supplement the efforts of the government and local authorities. The scope and complexity of internal displacement call for a multifaceted

response and the active involvement of organisations both within and outside the UN system which possess special expertise and resources, including displaced and host communities and civil society.

Humanitarian and/or Resident Coordinator (HC and/or RC)

The HC and/or RC (one or two persons, depending on the country) is responsible for the strategic coordination of protection and assistance to IDPs and for negotiating unimpeded humanitarian access. This includes ensuring that humanitarian requirements are adequately addressed before, during and after an emergency, and advocating for assistance to and protection of IDPs.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

To support the HC and/or RC and the country team, an OCHA field presence is usually deployed. OCHA's support functions with regard to IDPs include:

- providing support for humanitarian diplomacy or other negotiations, such as on gaining access to IDPs and other vulnerable groups;
- the collection, analysis and dissemination of IDP-relevant information;
- supporting the development of coordination tools, such as the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) and the Consolidated Appeal (CA), and ensuring the inclusion of IDP concerns;
- organising and participating in inter-agency needs assessments, and convening coordination forums.

Country Team

Brings together a broad range of UN and non-UN humanitarian partners including UN humanitarian agencies, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), relevant international NGOs, etc. The Country Team should also consult with the Red Cross movement represented by ICRC and IFRC.

International Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Crescent Movement

The ICRC is a neutral, impartial and independent organisation, which has a specific mandate to provide protection and assistance to persons affected by armed conflicts, internal disturbances and tensions, including IDPs. In general, ICRC's mandate is discharged in close cooperation with National Societies of the Red Cross/Red Crescent supported by their International Federation. The National Societies are mandated to assist the most vulnerable within their own countries, including IDPs, and are often the first and only organisation present at the inception of a disaster.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

NGOs respond to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs and other vulnerable people, based on their mandate and expertise. They can also play a valuable role in supporting the implementation of the collaborative response. They can for example:

- Collect and provide information on protection and assistance needs of IDPs in areas where NGOs operate, as well as NGOs' response capacity to the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, other relevant agencies in the Country Team, and donors;
- Participate in consultations on IDP issues under the leadership of the UN HC/RC and contribute to the development of a national IDP strategic plan, if possible through an inclusive coordination forum for national and/or international NGOs;

- Support the implementation of a national IDP strategic plan when in line with humanitarian principles and codes of conduct, as well as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- Monitor the implementation of the collaborative response by the UN HC/RC and the Country Team, including the commitment of country team agencies and the effectiveness of planned activities;
- Advocate for the participation of IDPs at all stages of the international response, including planning, implementation and assessment.

Sectoral leadership

In the summer period of 2005, the Emergency Relief Coordinator recommended that a system of **sector responsibilities** be set up to strengthen the collaborative response approach. The sector leadership will provide predictability and accountability in the response to situations of internal displacement. The following sector or cluster working groups have been formed and are led by a lead-sector UN Agency:

Area	Sector-responsible UN Agency
Camp management and coordination	UNHCR
Emergency telecommunications	OCHA
Early recovery	UNDP
Emergency shelter	UNHCR
Health	WHO
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF
Protection	UNHCR/UNICEF/UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Water and sanitation	UNICEF

Such cluster working groups should be created at the country level, under the overall coordination of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator. Any agency, including NGOs, should participate in the activities of the cluster working groups, according to their mandate and capacity.

At the country level, the cluster lead agency, will take all necessary actions to ensure fulfilment of commonly accepted standards for timely, adequate and effective humanitarian action that achieves the required impact in relation to the specific cluster area. Cluster lead agencies are responsible for (a) predictable action within the cluster for analysis of needs, addressing priorities and identifying gaps in the cluster area, (b) securing and following up on commitments from the cluster to contribute to responding to needs and filling the gaps, (c) sustaining mechanisms through which the cluster as a whole, and individual participants, both assess their performance and deliver effectively.

Text adapted from:

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), Implementing the Collaborative Response to Situations of Internal Displacement, September 2004

URL

<http://www.reliefweb.int/idp/docs/references/IASC%20Policy%20Package%202004r1.pdf>

"Strengthening Humanitarian Response", Draft statement by IASC Principals, 12 September 2005

Resources

S. Bagshaw and D. Paul, **Protect or Neglect – Towards a More Effective United Nations Approach to the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons**, The Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement and the UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division, November 2004

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-69DEXE?OpenDocument>