A Brief History of the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: El Salvador as a Case Study

Panelists:

- Todd Scribner, Moderator, USCCB/MRS
- Father Robert Stark, Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development
- Noah Bullock, Cristosal
- Elizabeth Ferris, Institute for International Migration, Georgetown University
- Jana Mason, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2020
Like Jesus Christ, FORCED TO FLEE:
Welcoming, protecting, promoting & integrating internally displaced persons

www.migrants-refugees.va
www.migrants-refugees.org
Each “IDP” has a NAME... and a STORY

a past,

a present,

and a future
The Holy Family among the many FORCED TO FLEE!
How can the church accompany internally displaced persons?

Welcome, Protect

To know in order to understand

Promote, Integrate

To be close in order to serve
Accompanying: LISTEN & INVOLVE

To listen in order to be reconciled

To involve in order to promote
Building the future we need together!

To share in order to grow

To collaborate in order to build
PASTORAL ORIENTATIONS ON INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

“if any of your kin fall into difficulty and become dependent on you, you shall support them; they shall live with you as though resident aliens.”
Leviticus 25:35

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MandRSection/
Twitter (English channel): https://twitter.com/M_RSection
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/m_rsection/
Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/migrants-&-refugees-section
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI2EWji335jtLM4J1xP_vEQ
On The Ground in El Salvador: The View from Cristosal
Internal displacement: a global perspective

Elizabeth Ferris, Georgetown University
elizabeth.ferris@georgetown.edu
A Global Perspective

- Internally displaced persons: a large and growing number of people forced to leave their communities but who remain within the borders of their own country.
- Often more vulnerable than refugees
- Out of sight, out of mind. Sketchy data.
- International definition of IDPs includes those forced to leave because of conflicts, human rights violations and disasters
- Under international law, national authorities are responsible for IDPs
- Most of the increase in global displacement is in internal displacement: today around 44 million IDPs, 26 million refugees.
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by Conflict: 1990-2019

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Global Internal Displacement Database, 2019
Internal and cross-border displacement

- Internally displaced first – then cross-border
- Returned refugees often become IDPs
- Closing borders
- US policy toward asylum-seekers
- Protracted internal displacement – desperate for solutions
International response to IDPs:

• Complicated because of the pesky issue of national sovereignty

• While refugees can count on a UN Convention, a legally-binding definition of refugees and a UN agency (UNHCR) mandated to protect and assist refugees, IDPs face a different reality

• 1998: Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

• A human rights success story, but still desperate and growing needs

• UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement 2020-21
Thank you.
UNHCR's Response to Internal Displacement

Jana Mason, Senior External Relations Advisor
September 2020
Population figures at a glance

79.4M Persons of Concern

43.9M IDPs

Internally displaced across regions

42% Africa

19% Americas

6.5% Asia and Pacific

26.5% MENA

6% Europe
42% of all IDPs are in three countries

7.9M
Colombia

6.1M
Syria

4.5M
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
COLOMBIA

- Protracted displacement situation;
- 7.9 million IDPs;
- Widespread reports of forced recruitment, massacres, and homicides;
- Jan-Aug 2020: over 17k displaced
Central America

Refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people in Central America

4 out 10 countries in the world that generated the most asylum claims in 2019

Costa Rica
among the top 10 with most asylum claims in 2019

790,000
Displaced people from NCA (IDPs, refugees & asylum seekers)

+250,000
Deported in 2019 to NCA

+100,000
Nicaraguans that sought international protection

nearly 440,000 people of concern
Note: Data to end of 2019, unless stated otherwise; Data provided by Governments to UNHCR.
October 7, 2020 (English and Spanish versions of the webinar)

**Different Ways You Can Support Migrants in Your Community During COVID-19 (2:00 PM)**

This workshop will focus on different ways that you can support migrants in your local community during the COVID-19 pandemic. You will hear from advocates, service providers, and local diocesan leaders and learn about different programs and initiatives from across the country that work to support migrants and about how they are adapting their services. You will also have the opportunity to discuss best practices and challenges to providing support to migrants in your community during the pandemic as well as to discuss possible ways to overcome them.

**Diferentes maneras en que puede apoyar a solicitantes de asilo y otros migrantes en su comunidad durante COVID-19 (3:00 PM)**

Este taller se centrará en diferentes maneras en que puede apoyar a los migrantes en su comunidad local durante la pandemia COVID-19. Escuchará a defensores, proveedores de servicios, y líderes diocesanos locales y aprenderá sobre diferentes programas e iniciativas de todo el país que trabajan para apoyar a los migrantes y cómo están adaptando sus servicios. También tendrá la oportunidad de discutir las mejores prácticas y desafíos para proporcionar apoyo a los migrantes en su comunidad durante la pandemia, así como para discutir posibles maneras de superarlos.

Sarah Hoff, Moderator, USCCB/MRS
Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, Archdiocese of Baltimore
Lisa Lungren, USCCB/MRS
Elena Segura, Archdiocese of Chicago
Isaac Cuevas, Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Diana Otero, Catholic Charities of San Francisco