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**Global Estimates report 2012: Highlights**

**People displaced throughout the world in 2012**

* During 2012, an estimated 32.4 million people were displaced worldwide by disasters related to hazards such as floods, storms and earthquakes- almost double the number of people displaced in 2011.
* Almost all disaster-induced displacement in 2012 (98 %) was related to climate- and weather-related hazards.
* The largest displacement events of the year were massive flood disasters in north-east India and across most of Nigeria. 6.9 million and 6.1 million people were displaced respectively; 41 % of the global total.
* 98 % of people were displaced in developing countries- with the poorest and small, low-lying island states most vulnerable to disaster and disproportionately affected by displacement.
* However, some of the richest countries were also badly affected. The USA was amongst the ten countries with the highest levels of displacement in 2012.

**Africa**

* Displacement in Africa reached a five-year high in 2012. 8.2 million were newly displaced, compared to 665,000 in 2011.
* Flood disaster-induced displacement across thirteen countries in west and central Africa compounded the vulnerability of people already facing severe food insecurity and displaced due to conflict and violence. Chad, Niger, Nigeria and South Sudan were worst affected.
* In 2012, Chad had the highest per capita level of displacement of all countries; and the Nigeria floods disaster created the second largest displacement event.

**Asia**

* As in previous years, most displacement was in Asia (68 % of the global total; 22.2 million displaced).
* India saw the largest displacement event of the year due to monsoon floods in the north-eastern states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh- 6.9 million people were displaced.
* Well over a million people displaced by floods in Pakistan for the third year running. Eight months on from the 2012 floods, 1.2 million were still living in makeshift or temporary shelters as of April this year, with the rainy season due to begin again in July.
* Mindanao in the southern Philippines has seen unusually high levels of disaster-induced displacement in recent years. While still recovering from Typhoon Washi from December 2011, 2012 saw a further 1.8 million displaced by typhoons and floods, including the Typhoon Bopha disaster just a year later. People displaced by conflict were also affected.

**Americas**

* The USA was among the ten countries with the highest numbers displaced in 2012 mostly due to “Superstorm” Sandy (more than 775,000 displaced) and forest fires.
* Relative to the size of its population, Haiti had the most displacement over the last five years compared to other countries worldwide (equivalent to 19 % of its population).
* 1.8 million people were displaced in the Americas mostly due to displacement by Hurricane Sandy in eight countries, and floods related to La Niña weather phenomenon in Peru and Colombia.

**Oceania**

* Another five-year high was reported in Oceania. 128,000 people were forced from their homes by flood and storm disasters, including in Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji.

**Europe**

* In Europe, the largest displacement levels were reported in Russia (mostly due to flood disasters), in Italy (due to earthquakes) and in Spain (due to floods and forest fires).

**Global patterns from the past and into the future**

* Over the last five years (from 2008 to 2012), at least 144 million people were displaced by disasters.
* The same five countries had the highest numbers displaced in 2012 and as a total from 2008-2012: China, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Nigeria.
* The risk of displacement is expected to rise in line with the increasing risk of disaster: even as more people are surviving disasters due to better early warning, more are becoming displaced; increasing numbers are exposed and vulnerable; climate change is projected to influence the frequency and intensity of weather extremes over the coming decades.
* Displacement takes a toll on both the richest and poorest countries. 2.5 million people were displaced in high-income countries over the past five years, including in Japan and in the USA, both among the top 20 countries with the most displacement from 2008 to 2012.
* The five largest events during 2008 to 2012 each forced between six million to over 15 million people from their homes; the world’s two largest events in China, the 2010 monsoon floods and the 2008 Sichuan earthquake disasters; the 2010 monsoon floods in Pakistan; and two major flood disasters in 2012 in India and Nigeria.
* More must be done by governments to prevent and prepare for disaster-induced displacement and ensure people at risk are protected.

**Compounded vulnerability and global information blind spots**

* Many of the same people have been repeatedly displaced over the years, which sets back recovery and compounds vulnerability to further disaster. Multiple displacement events were reported in three-quarters of the countries affected.
* Around a quarter of countries where people were displaced by disasters in 2012 were also affected by conflict. 6.5 million people became displaced due to armed conflict, general violence and human rights violations in the same year, as reported by IDMC last month.
* It is not known how many people are stuck in prolonged displacement following disasters, which is common after homes and livelihoods are devastated and safe return is not possible – a global information blind spot. Displaced people are at increasing risk from neglect and abuse of their rights the longer they go without safe and sustainable solutions.
* Governments need to systematically collect reliable data on the situation of displaced people as a first step in identifying needs, prioritising assistance and informing solutions that protect displaced people and those at risk from future disasters.