****Shortened Version for Presentation****

Improving the Economic Self-Reliance of Protracted Internally Displaced Persons

By Evan Schlosser

As stated in the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's report for the World Humanitarian Summit entitled "One Humanity, Shared Responsibility" the new development agenda must leave no one behind and help those furthest behind first.[1] According to numerous expert panelists at the Humanitarian Affairs of the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations in New York City held from June 29th to July 1st, no segment of the global population is further behind than IDPs. This paper will explore the background of and explore ways in which international, national, regional, and local actors, while keeping in mind the general goals outlined in the SDGs, as well as the progress made through the Grand Bargain at the World Humanitarian Summit can work collaboratively and increasingly horizontally to foster a holistic approach towards the long-term goal of economic self-reliance for protracted internally displaced persons by breaking down silos that dominate the humanitarian-development nexus to implement an integrated policy approach.

When referring to the displacement of persons, terms such as asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons are commonly used in the wrong context. A clarification of these four aforementioned terms must be defined to comprehend the specific circumstance of IDPs within the larger displacement community. Migrant is referred to as the term to which all displaced persons can be labeled. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights has stated that the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants' definition of migrants is too broad and does not refer to forced displacement. Instead the Special Rapporteur has put forth three characteristics that define migrants: "a) Persons who are outside the territory of the State of which there are nationals or citizens, are not subject to its legal protection and are in the territory of another State; b) Persons who do not enjoy the general legal recognition of rights which is inherent in the granting by the host State of the status of refugee, naturalised

[1] "One Humanity, Shared Responsibility." *: Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit.* N.p., n.d. Web. 25 July 2016. <http://sgreport.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>.

person or of similar status; c) Persons who do not enjoy either general legal protection of their fundamental rights by virtue of diplomatic agreements, visas or other agreements."[2] This definition reflects the challenge of distinguishing between migrants who leave their country of origin due to formidable circumstances such as political persecution, conflicts, economic problems, environmental degradation, or a combination of the above factors and those who leave in search of better conditions of living and survival.[3]

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines the act of migration as "the crossing of the boundary of a political or administrative unity for a certain minimum period of time. It includes the movement of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people as well as economic migrants."[4] Both migrants and the act of migration can thus be divided into forced displacement and non-forced displacement. To accurately clarify the context of IDPs, an understanding of Asylum seekers, refugees, and IDPs, which all fall under the category of forced displaced persons, must be explored.

As stated in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNOHCHR), internally displaced persons (IDPs) are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their home 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 border."[5] Migration of IDPs is defined by UNESCO as "a move from one area (a province, district, or municipality) to another within one country."[6] As stated by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and derived from the Geneva Convention, a refugee is "someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of

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[2] "Migrant | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization." *Migrant | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. Migrant | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, n.d. Web. 25 July 2016. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/migrant/>.

[3] IBID

[4] IBID

[5] "Questions and Answers about IDPs." *The United Nations Human Rights the Office of the High Commissioner*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 July 2016. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IDPersons/Pages/Issues.aspx>.

[6] Op.cit: UNESCO, pg. 1

persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries."[7] These characteristics determine whether a migrant fleeing his or her country of origin will be granted refugee status and thus become a refugee. A migrant who has successfully migrated to another country but has not yet been granted refugee status is thus known as an asylum seeker. The formal definition of asylum seeker according to the UNHCR: "someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed."[8] According to UNESCO, asylum seekers and by extension refugees are displaced through international migration which is "a territorial relocation of people between nation-states."[9] In short, an asylum seeker crosses an international border and providing the migrant has a reason to do so that directly correlates to the accepted refugee pleas in the Geneva Convention, the asylum seeker will be granted refugee status. Contrastingly, an IDP does not cross a geo-political border, thus remaining in their country of origin and does not require a specific justification for their displacement, at least in international law. Protracted IDP's differ from Non-protracted IDPs by exceeding the 17-year average period of displacement as according to the UNHCR.[10]
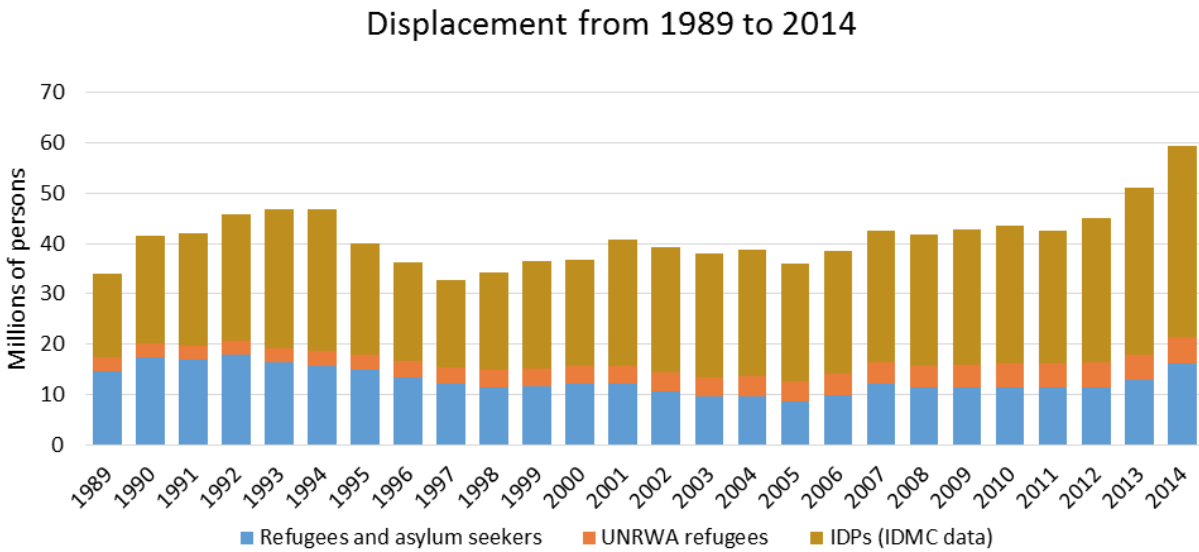
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[7] "What Is a Refugee - USA for UNHCR." *USA for UNHCR*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 July 2016.
    <http://www.unrefugees.org/what-is-a-refugee/#>.

[8]
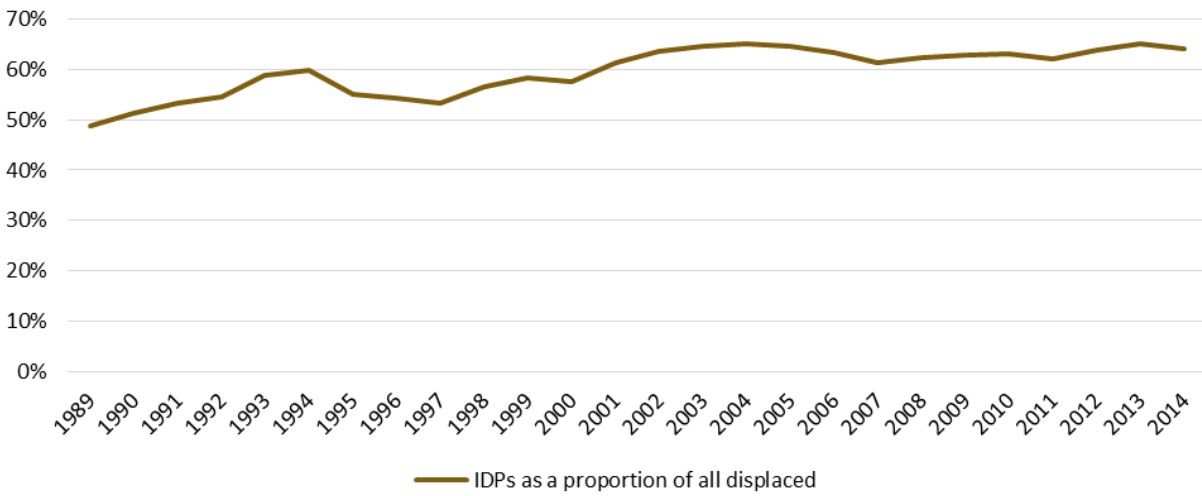
[9] Op.cit: UNESCO, pg. 1
[10] IBID

Basic facts about IDPs are crucial to understanding the specific challenges facing IDPs. According to a joint report released in September 2015 by UNHCR IDPs as a portion of the displaced population was just under 50% but now accounts for over 60% since 2001.[11] Not only are IDPs the furthest behind and in need of assistance in today's global society, but they also account for over three fifths of the entire forcibly displaced community.

Displacement from 1989 to 2014

Legend: Refugees and asylum seekers · UNRWA refugees · IDPs (IDMC data)

Y-axis: Millions of persons

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[11] "Protracted Displacement: Uncertainn Paths to Self-reliance in Exile." *A Report Of The Educational Research Workshop Held In Eindhoven (The Netherlands) 2–5 June 1987 Interactive Learning And The New Technologies* (n.d.): n. pag. Web. 26 July 2016.
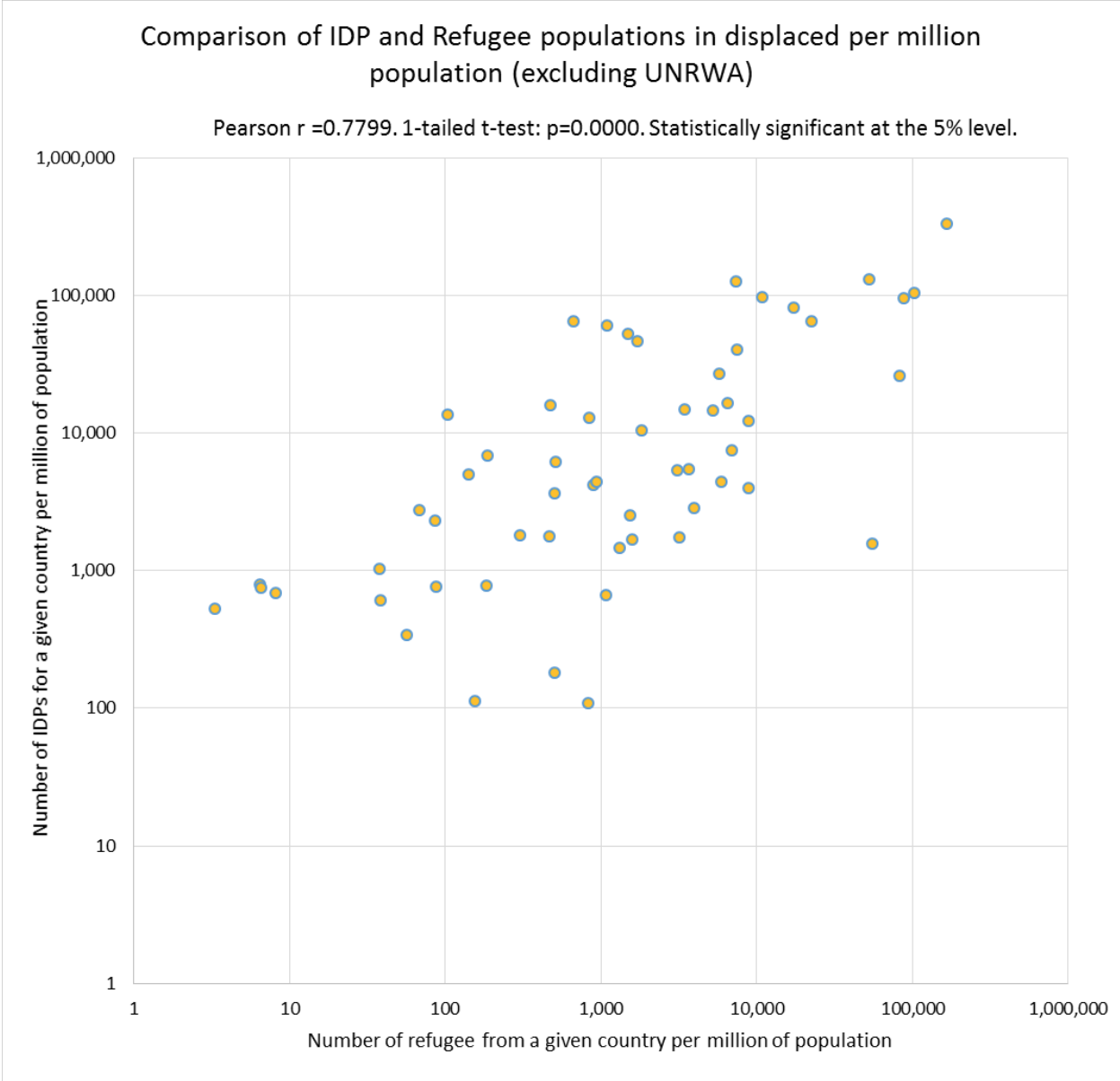
IDPs as a proportion of all displaced 1989 to 2014

Illustrated by the chart below, countries hosting both IDP and refugee populations have statistically more (exceeding 5%) IDP's than refugees within their respective borders.[12]

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[12] IBID

Comparison of IDP and Refugee populations in displaced per million population (excluding UNRWA)

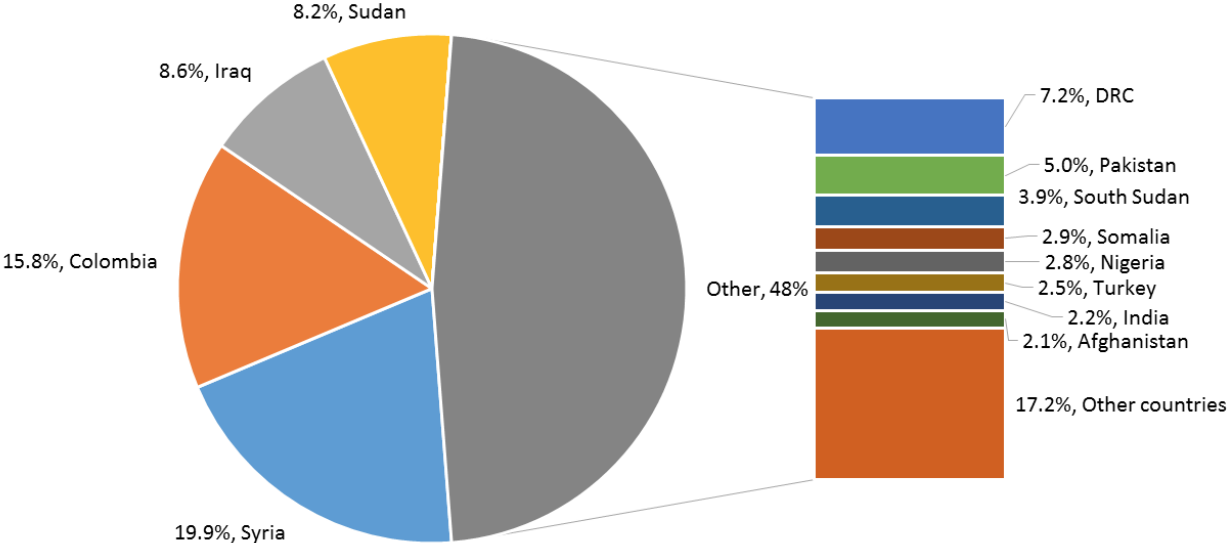Pearson r =0.7799. 1-tailed t-test: p=0.0000. Statistically significant at the 5% level.

At the end of 2014, there were approximately 16.9 million 28.4% more IDPs than refugees, with Syria having the largest percentage of the global IDP population at approximately 19.9%.[13] One effect of the recently ended conflict in Colombia is the large number of IDPs in the country, which stands at 15.8% of the total IDP world population. As passionately stated by a

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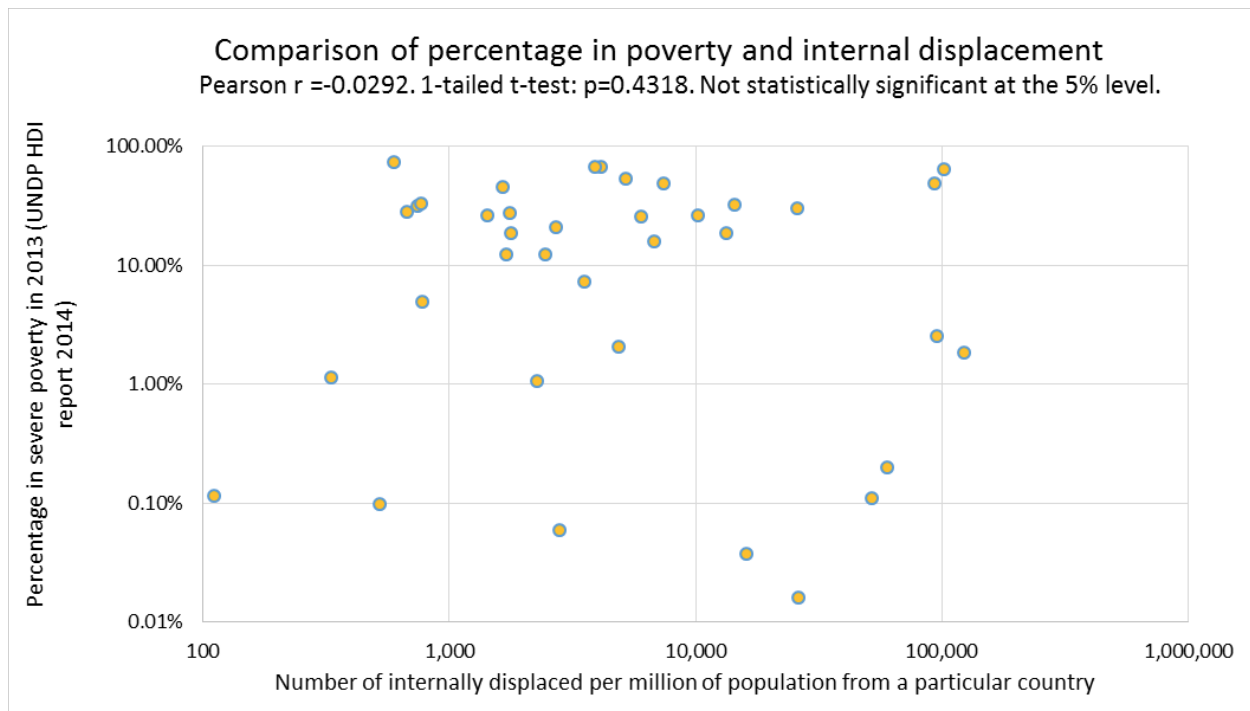[13] Op.cit: Protracted Displacement, pg. 3

representative of Colombia at the Humanitarian Affairs Segment at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in New York City on June 30 2016, Colombia receives insufficient funding and humanitarian aid from the international community to adequately deal with the IDP population within its borders most prominently due to the fact that Colombia is considered a middle-income country with most of the international assistance for IDPs going to low-income countries.

Distribution of 38.2 million IDPs at the end of 2014 by country

8.2%, Sudan
8.6%, Iraq
15.8%, Colombia
19.9%, Syria
Other, 48%

7.2%, DRC
5.0%, Pakistan
3.9%, South Sudan
2.9%, Somalia
2.8%, Nigeria
2.5%, Turkey
2.2%, India
2.1%, Afghanistan
17.2%, Other countries

Contrary to previous studies of IDPs, a UN Development Programmme Human Development Index found that the extreme poverty does not directly correlate to the number of IDPs within a given country.[14]

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[14] Op.cit: Protracted displacement, pg. 6

Comparison of percentage in poverty and internal displacement
Pearson r =-0.0292. 1-tailed t-test: p=0.4318. Not statistically significant at the 5% level.

Y-axis: Percentage in severe poverty in 2013 (UNDP HDI report 2014)

X-axis: Number of internally displaced per million of population from a particular country

To improve the lives of IDPs and in turn their economic self-reliance both their immediate needs as well as their long-term survival need to be addressed. Thus increased collaboration is required between short term humanitarian actors and long-term development actors. In addition, by breaking down silos that exist between international, national, regional, and local actors, a more horizontal approach focused on addressing the needs of the local level can be implemented.

The United Nations continues to threaten achieving the goal of leaving no one behind in the new development agenda but not establishing a UN specialized agency assist the group most behind in our society: IDPs. Beyond the mere need for a UN specialized agency, greater conversation, collaboration and research needs to initiated by the UN, its member states, and civil society to address the needs of IDPs, for how is this world ever going to leave no one behind without addressing the needs of those furthest behind?

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