



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Minister of State

March 2018

Dear supporters of Christian Aid,

Thank you for your recent letters regarding Internally Displaced Persons.

I share your concerns; over the last decade, lengthy periods of armed conflict and violence have significantly driven up the numbers of internally displaced people. In response, the UK is pressing for a more effective longer-term approach that better meets their needs. Fundamentally, internally displaced people should not have to wait until a crisis is fully resolved before they begin to rebuild their lives.

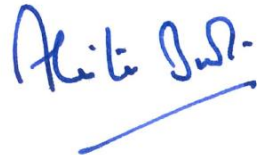
That is why the UK is committed to providing long-term funding to displaced people and the communities that host them, including through multi-year funding and core funding to key agencies involved in responses such as Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Migration Agency (IOM).

In conflict situations including South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia, DFID has for some time been delivering both development and humanitarian programmes to help internally displaced people. Almost 40% of the 2.2 billion allocated by DFID for the Syria crisis to date is being spent inside the country, where more than 6 million people are internally displaced. And we are looking at how to shift the international community to better assess and support displaced people; ensuring responses are based on need rather than on whether someone has crossed an international border.

Through the UN Compacts on Refugees and Migration, the UK will continue to press for long-term, consistent and sustainable funding to humanitarian and development organisations. Addressing the root causes of displacement is also critical. The UK is committed to the protection of civilians by upholding International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, and will support our partners to do the same. For example, we continue to denounce and prevent violations of International Humanitarian Law, including lack of access for humanitarian organisations, which often drives displacement.

Given the UN Compacts are focused on refugees and migrants specifically, there may be limited scope to ensure the specific needs of internally displaced people are addressed within these particular frameworks, although there will be common lessons to apply in terms of the importance of a longer term development response to displacement. We will also be considering other opportunities to raise the profile of the issue and galvanise international efforts in 2018, marking as it does the 20th anniversary of the guiding principles on internal displacement.

Thank you for raising such an important issue, and I hope this response addresses your questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair Burt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single blue stroke.

ALISTAIR BURT