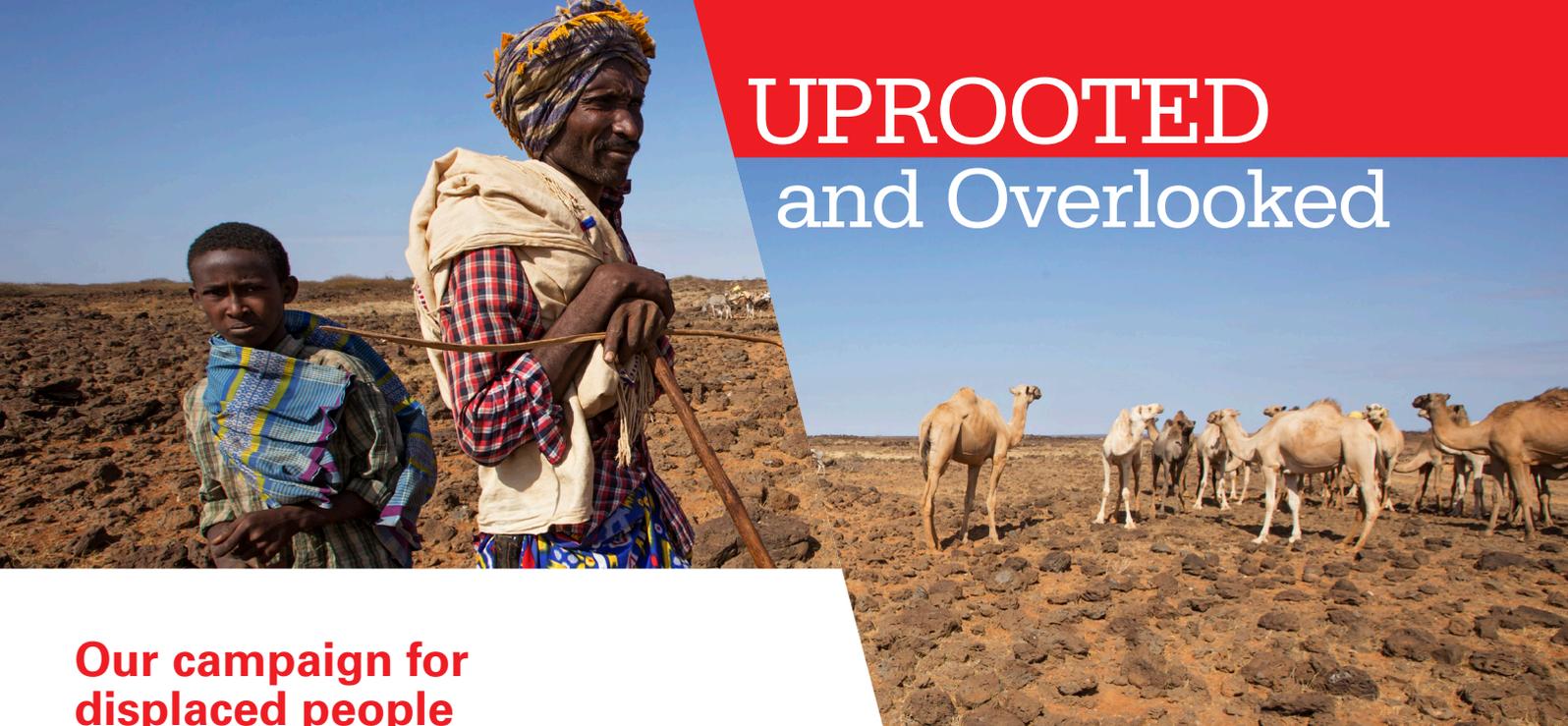


UPROOTED and Overlooked



Our campaign for displaced people

What's the problem?

Worldwide, two thirds of people who are forced to leave their homes remain in their own country. Seeking safety but unwilling or unable to cross a border, they are largely ignored by the international community and denied the official protection afforded to refugees.

More than 40 million people are displaced within their own country. If we knew all their names, it would take us well over a year to read them aloud – even without stopping to sleep. The reasons for their displacement are many: conflict, flooding, drought, fear. But invariably, the poorest face the hardest challenges. Displacement leaves many without a safe place to call home. It increases the chances of losing out on jobs and education, and it puts people at increased risk of violence.

People who have been forced to flee are among the most vulnerable to poverty and exploitation in the world. Their health is incredibly precarious. Conflict hits them hardest. They and their children are almost twice as likely as refugees to die from conflict-related causes, particularly disease and starvation.

Even 40 million is probably an underestimate. We don't know the true scale of displacement because of the complexity of the situations, because vulnerable people are often overlooked, and because not all climate or disaster-driven displacement is counted.

Why now?

The UN and its member states are currently working on two new agreements on refugees and migration, yet neither will tackle the problem of internal displacement. The world can and must do better. All people on the move should be protected from harm and have a chance to rebuild their lives.

Many of the world's displaced people remain hidden or ignored. Listen to their stories, share their hopes for a better world and join us in fighting for a fair deal for all displaced people.

Why is this such a big issue?

Poor countries bear the brunt of both internal displacement and hosting refugees. The countries of the global North are failing poorer communities by neglecting their responsibility to support people on the move.

Since 2008, one person has been displaced every second by natural disasters. That's, on average, 26 million people per year. These numbers will only increase as rural areas struggle to cope with the unpredictable weather that climate change brings, such as drought, erratic rainfall and destructive storms. The richest countries in the world, including the UK, are most responsible for climate change – but the poorest communities are hit hardest. We have a responsibility to act.



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How can we solve this crisis?

The UN must include all displaced people in its new agreements on migration and refugees. Any deal which does not would be a huge failure. That's why we're calling for a comprehensive response, a FAIR deal for all people on the move:

Funded: we need long-term commitments for projects which help displaced people. Appeals which provide short-term money aren't providing enough for the people who need support.

Ambitious: the commitments that governments are making at summits aren't addressing the scale of this problem. We must go further and not give up on any of our displaced neighbours.

Inclusive: all people on the move need to be protected, especially internally displaced people, the stateless and people who have been trafficked.

Respectful of rights and other international law: the UN created 'guiding principles' on how to help internally displaced people in 1998. But most countries never made these into laws. That's why the UN must kick-start a process for all countries to integrate these principles into law, which will help make sure that displaced people's rights are upheld.

The UK Government gives significant money to the UN's humanitarian system, and we're a permanent member of the UN Security Council. We have influence and we have a clear role to play in pushing through a FAIR deal.

We're calling on the UK Government to ensure no-one is left behind in the UN negotiations – will you join us?

What you can do

The issue of displacement is one of the world's greatest challenges – and world leaders are burying their heads in the sand. This can't go on. Your role in this campaign is crucial. We need everyone – will you speak up?

1. Please tell your friends, family and people at church about the reality of displaced people today.

2. Host Christian Aid's exhibition on displaced people in your church or community.

3. Tell our leaders to act now to help displaced people.

With each passing day, the number of ignored and displaced women, men and children goes up. The crisis is more and more urgent. You can make your voice heard – please join our campaign and speak up for displaced people today.

Add your voice to the campaign. Visit caid.org.uk/displaced

The Democratic Republic of Congo

Celestin Kirongozi is one of over 4 million people driven from their homes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by conflict. He journeyed for 3 weeks on foot to escape violence in Bukavu, South Kivu, witnessing the murder of fellow priests along the way.



He now lives elsewhere in South Kivu supporting fellow displaced people; welcoming them into his church; listening to their stories; advocating for solutions; and encouraging the local population to help where they can.

Whilst Celestin and others like him help people displaced by the conflict, the international response in the DRC is inadequate. As a result, local essential services are seriously stretched and according to the UN, two million children are at risk of malnutrition.

Celestin's experience is typical of so many who have been displaced across the world – but his actions offer hope of a shared humanity.

