

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th May 2018

New Constituent,

RE: INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of internally displaced people.

I have written to the Minister of State for International Development, the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, with your concerns.

Below is a copy of his response, and I hope this is of some reassurance to you. Rest assured I will continue to maintain a close interest in this most distressing of issues.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

with best wishes,

Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Minister of State

Tom Pursglove MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: 182323
Your ref:

26 April 2018

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter of 14 March regarding Internally Displaced Persons. Please accept my apologies for the delay in this response reaching you, which is due to an administrative error.

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.

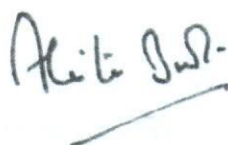
That is why the UK is committed to providing long-term funding to displaced people and the communities that host them, including through multi-year funding and core funding to key agencies involved in responses such as Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Refugee Agency (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 black ink that reads "Alistair Burt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

ALISTAIR BURT