



## Activity Report 2006



**NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL**

**iDMC** internal  
displacement  
monitoring  
centre

Cover photo: An ethnic Wounaan woman who fled her ancestral home after the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia killed two community leaders and attempted to gain control of their tribe. After 40 years of civil unrest, Colombia has the world's second-highest displaced population due to conflict. (Photo: Dermot Tatlow, Panos)

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## **ACTIVITY REPORT 2006**

...monitoring internal displacement worldwide

## Mission statement

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre is an international non-governmental body working for better protection and assistance of people who have been displaced within their own country by conflict or human rights violations. It aims to help improve the response to the needs, and increase respect for the rights, of millions of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, and find solutions that ultimately lead to their safe return or resettlement and integration.

In pursuit of this goal, the Centre monitors internal displacement worldwide and makes relevant information and analysis available, as mandated by the United Nations, to decision-makers, humanitarian practitioners and the general public. In doing so, the Centre seeks to enable key actors at the international, national and local levels to

make timely and informed decisions on responds to the needs and rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), in line with international standards such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Through its work, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre strives to raise awareness of the plight of internally displaced people and advocate for durable solutions based on the Guiding Principles. It aims at strengthening local capacity to effectively address internal displacement by organising training workshops which bring together local authorities, security forces, aid workers and IDP communities. In its work, the Centre pays particular attention to cooperating with and providing support to national civil society initiatives.

### THE INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTRE

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, established by the Norwegian Refugee Council, was asked by the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee to set up an IDP database in 1998. The Geneva-based Centre has since evolved into the leading international body monitoring internal displacement in some 50 countries worldwide.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre focuses on the following activities:

- ▶ monitoring internal displacement and maintaining an online database on IDP-related information
- ▶ advocating for the rights of the displaced and making their voices heard
- ▶ providing training on the protection of IDPs
- ▶ supporting IDP-related civil society initiatives

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# Foreword

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council is pleased to present its Activity Report covering the year 2006 to its donors and other stakeholders.

The year 2006 was significant for the IDMC in that it considerably expanded its activities aimed at achieving its main goal: enabling national and international actors to improve their responses to situations of internal displacement. As this report shows, the Centre made significant progress towards this goal during the past year. In addition to its ongoing monitoring, advocacy and training activities the IDMC successfully developed a number of new initiatives in areas such as IDP profiling, urban displacement, property restitution and civil society support.

The IDMC continued to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from partners, database users, trainees and other stakeholders, confirming that the Centre fulfils an essential role within the international architecture set up to address the plight of IDPs worldwide. It is to a large extent

thanks to the generous support of its donors, who have significantly increased their contributions, that the IDMC was in a position in 2006 to further strengthen its capacity to better respond to the ever-increasing demand for its information and expertise. We see the strong support we receive from our donors and other stakeholders as recognition of the IDMC's work and encouragement to move ahead with our plans to build on the achievements made in 2006.

As the global IDP crisis shows few signs of abating despite increased efforts to improve the international response system, a strong non-governmental voice highlighting gaps in national and international responses and promoting durable solutions for IDPs in line with international standards remains indispensable.

With the support of its donors and other stakeholders, the IDMC stands ready in 2007 to continue its work on behalf of the world's internally displaced people and further develop the achievements made during the past year.



**Paul Nesse**

Resident Representative, Geneva



**Jens-Hagen Eschenbächer**

Acting Head of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre,  
Norwegian Refugee Council, Geneva

## Key achievements and developments



Launch of the IDMC report on Uganda in Kampala with the Head of IDMC, Elisabeth Rasmussen (centre).  
(Photo: Jesse Bernstein, March 2006)

Against the background of a deterioration of the global internal displacement crisis, the IDMC in 2006 further enhanced its capacity to contribute to better responses to IDP situations at the national, regional and global levels.

Working within the framework and in support of the ongoing humanitarian reform process, the IDMC strengthened its role of leading supplier of IDP information, of key advocate for the rights of internally displaced persons worldwide, and of important provider of training on IDP protection.

More specifically, the Centre during 2006 succeeded in:

- contributing to keeping a strong focus on internal displacement in discussions at the global policy level, including within the humanitarian reform process, in close coordination with key partners such as UNHCR, OCHA and the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs
- raising public awareness of key IDP-related trends and developments through the publication of its yearly *Global Overview*

- providing the humanitarian community with regularly updated information on all 52 countries affected by conflict-induced displacement through the global IDP database
- highlighting key IDP-related concerns by significantly intensifying country and regional advocacy work, including through the publication of 10 special advocacy reports, and through the creation and utilisation of IDMC-led NGO advocacy networks
- taking the lead, together with OCHA, in developing guidelines on the profiling of IDP populations
- establishing an informal mechanism to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs
- using UN treaty body mechanisms to promote state compliance with international IDP-related standards
- contributing to efforts aimed at developing a normative framework on property restitution
- enhancing field-based IDP protection capacity through the training of some 600 government, UN and civil society representatives in 20 workshops
- developing field-based training capacity through passing on training skills to a total of 60 future trainers in 13 countries, enabling them to further disseminate the Guiding Principles and to mobilise civil society actors and displaced communities
- involving civil society groups in IDP-related monitoring and advocacy

Through these and a broad range of other activities carried out in 2006, the IDMC played a central role in international efforts to improve the response to the global internal displacement crisis.

# Monitoring and Advocacy

## Key facts

- ▶ Over 50 countries monitored
- ▶ 11,500 documents in IDP database
- ▶ 2,700 sources
- ▶ 30 regular country profile updates
- ▶ 10 special advocacy reports
- ▶ 15 press releases

During 2006, the IDMC remained the humanitarian system's primary provider of IDP-related information and a key advocate on internal displacement issues at the global, regional and national level. In addition to monitoring internal displacement in all countries affected by conflict-induced internal displacement and running the global IDP database, the Centre stepped up its advocacy activities and worked on a number of key thematic issues.

## The IDP database

The global IDP database, run by the IDMC to provide the humanitarian community with information and analysis on internal displacement, remained at the heart of the Centre's activities in 2006. A team of 13 IDP experts continuously monitored and analysed relevant developments in over 50 countries affected by conflict-induced displacement, uploaded information to the database and kept country pages up-to-date. Events at the regional and global level were also closely followed. During the year, the IDMC published 30 regular country profile updates, each containing a brief overview of the respective IDP situation as well as a detailed compilation of available information, organised in an accessible and user-friendly way under headings reflecting the structure of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

In addition to these regular updates, the IDMC published an unprecedented number of special reports, including the Global Overview, a regional report on West Africa, three reports analysing the implementation of recommendations made by the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, a report on displacement caused by the West Bank Wall, as well as four in-depth country reports following fact-finding missions (see below for details on each of these reports).

In its monitoring of IDP situations, the Centre paid particular attention to the responses of national authorities as well as the impact of the humanitarian reform process, in particular the implementation of the cluster approach. A number of fact-finding missions contributed to increasing access to information, broadening information networks and preparing advocacy initiatives. Partnerships with national civil society groups also helped improve the IDMC's monitoring and analysis of IDP-related developments.

In 2006, the IDMC further developed its capacity to act as a clearing-house for IDP figures. Through a special page in the database, the Centre collected and made available IDP figures from various sources for all countries where figures were available.

During the year, the IDMC continued to fine-tune the major redesign of the IDP database implemented in late 2005. The Centre received extremely positive feedback from its users regarding the new website, highlighting improvements in terms of user-friendliness and design. The redesign was also an opportunity for the IDMC to refine its web-metrics monitoring tools and better analyse how the website was used on a daily basis. With these new tools - allowing for the exclusion of traffic originating from search engine robots - the overall traffic indicators were somewhat lower than in previous years, but far more accurate, with very encouraging progression observed during the year. In 2006, almost 125,000 visitors accessed the website, bringing the number of monthly user sessions to nearly 35,000 by the end of the year, more than 300,000 in total. Almost 2 million pages were viewed during the year, and the number of downloaded documents from the IDP database went up to almost 200,000, including 10,000 downloads of the IDMC's yearly Global Overview. By the end of the year, the number of subscribers to the IDMC's e-mail notifications reached 4,500.



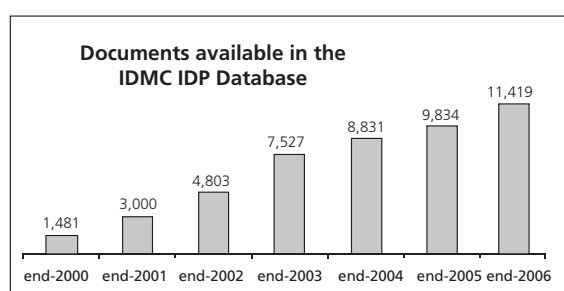
At the end of 2006, the IDMC's online IDP database contained almost 11,500 documents<sup>1</sup> which originated from more than 2,700 different sources.

#### Major publications released in 2006

- Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2005 (March 2006)
- Uganda: Only Peace Can Restore the Confidence of the Displaced (March 2006)
- In Need of Durable Solutions: the Revolving Door of Internal Displacement in West Africa (April 2006)
- Overcoming a Legacy of Mistrust: Towards Reconciliation between the State and the Displaced in Turkey (June 2006)
- Displaced by the Wall: Forced displacement as a Result of the West Bank Wall and its Associated Regime (September 2006)
- An Uncertain Future: The Challenges of Return and Reintegration for Internally Displaced Persons in the North Caucasus (October 2006)

#### Monitoring national implementation: a new informal mechanism

Through a series of reports published jointly with national civil society organisations, the IDMC has established an informal monitoring mechanism on the implementation of the recommendations made by the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs. During 2006, the first three in a series of such monitoring reports were published and launched at public meetings convened by the IDMC and civil society groups from Uganda, Turkey and the Russian Federation. The reports are mainly based on research done by the national partner organisations – the Ugandan Refugee Law Project, the Turkish Economic



<sup>1</sup> This figure does not include archived documents that are stored but no longer directly available on the database.

and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and the Russian human rights network "Memorial" respectively (see under Country-related Advocacy for more details). The studies have been successful in analysing the extent to which the recommendations have been implemented and highlighting remaining gaps and outstanding issues that still need to be addressed. The UN Representative, Walter Kälin, supports the initiative and contributed a foreword to each of the reports.

#### Submissions to UN treaty body mechanisms

As part of its advocacy work, the IDMC started to engage more actively with the UN treaty body mechanisms. During 2006, the IDMC provided input to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on IDP-related concerns in Ethiopia, and to the Human Rights Committee on the Democratic Republic of Congo. Another submission related to the examination of the report for Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Human Rights Committee was prepared in collaboration with the Minority Rights Group, the International Committee for Human Rights and the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law. The IDMC also provided input in relation to the report submitted by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. In all cases, the input provided by the IDMC was used and reflected in the deliberations and outcome documents.

#### Urban displacement

The IDMC prepared and started implementing a research project on urban displacement together with the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University in the United States. The primary objective of this project is to test a methodology for gathering reliable data on urban IDP populations. By launching surveys in three separate cities, the research project aims to estimate the number of IDPs in these locations as well as finding out more about their degree of social and economic integration and their ongoing assistance and protection needs. The research project will generate conclusions and recommendations which will feed into a broader effort to engage humanitarian actors in improving operational activities targeting IDPs in urban environments. The project will be fully implemented during 2007.

#### IDP profiling

Following a decision by the IASC Working Group on the need for an inter-agency framework for IDP data collection,

The NRC IDMC is a key partner for UNHCR in meeting its responsibilities as lead agency for the IASC Protection Cluster Working Group and in inter-agency efforts to ensure a more predictable and enhanced humanitarian response to the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons. UNHCR has great appreciation for the active and constructive participation of NRC IDMC in the activities of the global protection cluster, including development and promotion of operational guidelines as well as capacity building through training programmes in the field. NRC IDMC is genuinely a valued partner in current inter-agency efforts to minimise gaps in the response to the protection needs of IDPs.

**George Okoth-Obbo, Director of International Protection Services, UNHCR**

the IDMC, in partnership with the OCHA Internal Displacement Division, developed draft guidelines on how to profile IDP populations in consultation with relevant agencies. The guidelines aim to provide governments and UN Country Teams with a practical tool to be used to come up with better IDP data. In many countries monitored by the IDMC by the IDMC no, or only rough, estimates of the number of IDPs are available. The draft guidelines were field-tested in Somalia and discussed at an inter-agency workshop in Nairobi in October. They are expected to be finalised and presented for endorsement by the IASC Working Group in 2007.

### **Access to documentation**

In 2006, the IDMC together with NRC Oslo prepared the first draft of a study on IDPs' access to documentation which will be the basis for a chapter in a Manual on Internal Displacement Law and Policy currently being developed by the Brookings Project on Internal Displacement and the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs. The manual is aimed at assisting legislators with translating the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into national law and policy. The IDMC is part of a steering group of experts advising on the structure and content of the manual. In September, a consultative meeting was held in Vienna, Austria, gathering expert practitioners, NGOs and international agencies to comment on the draft studies. The documentation study, along with other studies prepared

for the manual, are expected to be published in 2007 by Brookings and the American Society of International Law.

### **Property restitution**

In 2006, the IDMC contributed to the preparation of an inter-agency handbook on property restitution for refugees and displaced persons. The IDMC participated in the handbook's conceptualisation and belonged to the core group of organisations overseeing the finalisation of the manual along with agencies including OCHA, UN-Habitat, OHCHR and UNHCR. The IDMC provided comments to the Handbook based on its own expertise and with input from NRC field offices. The purpose of the handbook is to contribute to the implementation of the Pinheiro Principles endorsed by the UN Sub-Commission on the promotion and protection of human rights in August 2005. The final draft was completed in late 2006 and the handbook was published in early 2007.

The IDMC also provided input on housing, land and property issues as part of the UNHCR-led process of developing a handbook on IDP protection.

## **Raising global awareness**

### **Global Overview**

In March 2006 the IDMC launched its Global Overview, a yearly publication on global IDP-related trends and developments, in Geneva. On the occasion of the launch, a press conference was held with Jan Egeland, the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Elisabeth Rasmusson, the then Head of the IDMC. The launch of the report was covered by all major international news agencies as well as several newspapers and broadcast media.

In April, the IDMC presented the conclusions of the Global Overview to donor representatives, UN agencies, research institutes and NGOs in New York and Washington. The New York presentation was hosted by the Norwegian Mission to the UN, while the seminar in Washington was organised by the Brookings Project on Internal Displacement. Both events were well attended and provided the IDMC with valuable feedback on the report and ideas for future activities.

The Global Overview was used during the year as a major reference document and its findings were widely quoted and used for advocacy by a number of organisations and policy-makers.



*IDMC fact-finding mission to Colombia in September 2006.  
(Photo: Arild Birkenes, September 2006)*

### **IDP session at UNHCR Annual Consultations**

In September, the IDMC chaired the IDP session at the 2006 Annual Consultations with NGOs preceding the yearly meeting of UNHCR's Executive Committee. The session focused on the implementation of the cluster approach in situations of internal displacement, using Uganda as an example. Speakers included Cindy Burns, UNHCR Representative in Uganda, Musa Echweru, Uganda Minister of State for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Lucy Hovil, Refugee Law Project Kampala, and Jamie McGoldrick, OCHA Humanitarian Reform Support Unit. The session concluded that cluster implementation had progressed in Uganda, but that a number of significant challenges still needed to be addressed.

### **Regional advocacy – focus on West Africa**

In April, the IDMC published a major report on internal displacement in West Africa titled "In need of durable solutions: the revolving door of internal displacement in West Africa", in line with its broader aim of giving a regional focus to its monitoring and advocacy activities. The objective of the report was to increase awareness and understanding of West Africa's internal displacement

crisis and thereby contribute to efforts aimed at improving national and international responses.

The IDMC presented the report at a three-day conference on internal displacement in West Africa – the first of its kind – which took place in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, in April 2006. The conference was hosted by the Nigerian Government and co-organised by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), UNHCR, the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. It brought together a wide variety of representatives of ECOWAS member States, national, regional and international organisations, policy makers and academics.

## **Country-related advocacy**

### **Uganda**

In 2006, through various activities, the IDMC played an active role in advocating for peace in northern Uganda and an end to the internal displacement crisis. The work of IDMC, as an active and leading member of a loose coalition of civil society groups engaged in advocacy on Uganda, has raised international attention and awareness of the conflict as well as increased pressure on governments in the region to protect conflict-affected populations and ensure humanitarian access.

In Geneva, the IDMC continued to chair the Geneva NGO Working Group on northern Uganda and in this regard coordinated a number of direct advocacy initiatives directed at UN agencies and donor governments. In October, the IDMC took the lead on submitting an NGO statement to a group of donors participating in a UNHCR mission to northern Uganda and briefed donors before their departure. After the group returned to Geneva, the Permanent Mission of France to the UN in Geneva hosted a de-briefing session for the broader Geneva community where the IDMC, along with other NGOs, advocated that the situation in northern Uganda necessitated sustained monitoring and attention. Over the course of 2006 the Geneva NGO Group continued to maintain contact with donor governments and UN agencies on the situation in northern Uganda.

The IDMC also sent a number of letters to the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General advocating for increased international attention and action in regard

to the situation in northern Uganda. As a result of this advocacy, as well as initiatives taken by other actors, the UN Security Council passed resolutions 1653 and 1663 which acknowledged the threat to international peace and security caused by the conflict in northern Uganda and stressed the primary responsibility of governments in the region to protect civilians. In December, after extensive lobbying conducted by the IDMC and others in Geneva and New York, the UN Security Council issued a Presidential Statement in support of negotiations aimed at peacefully resolving the conflict.

In March, the IDMC in collaboration with the Refugee Law Project of Makerere University launched the first edition of *Only Peace Can Restore the Confidence of the Displaced*, a report which assesses the impact of the implementation of the recommendations made by the UN's Special Representative on IDPs. The launch, held in Kampala, included presentations from Dennis McNamara (OCHA) and was attended by diplomats, heads of UN agencies, government representatives and the Kampala press corps. The launch was covered in the international and national press, and the report was used by the Brookings Institution as a background document for a conference on the implementation of the Ugandan IDP Policy, held in Kampala in May. In recognition of this report, the IDMC received a letter from Hilary Benn, the UK Secretary of State for International Development, suggesting that his department (DFID) and the IDMC continue discussions with a view to building on the opportunities presented by the recent focus on northern Uganda in the UN Security Council.

Following this launch, and on behalf of the Geneva NGO Group on northern Uganda, the IDMC participated in a ministerial meeting on the situation in northern Uganda held in Geneva in March. At the meeting, organised by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and attended by high-level representatives from donor country capitals, the IDMC presented a statement urging that donor governments and the UN ensure their renewed attention to the situation results in improvements for IDPs.

As a means to broaden the international civil society network on northern Uganda and increase the attention paid to Uganda in Europe, in April the IDMC presented its advocacy work to the Hague-based Uganda Governance Monitoring Project (UGMP), a coalition of ten Ugandan organisations and six Dutch NGOs monitoring trends

in good governance and democracy in Uganda. After the presentation, the UGMP established links with organisations advocating for peace in northern Uganda in other capital cities and signed onto recent NGO letters to the UN Security Council. While in The Hague, the IDMC also conducted briefings on northern Uganda with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Criminal Court.

Continuing its focus on Europe, the IDMC took part in a hearing in the European Parliament in Brussels on northern Uganda. The IDMC used the hearing to launch a second edition of *Only Peace Can Restore Confidence to the Displaced*, and supported the Refugee Law Project to present its research findings to the parliament. After the hearing, the IDMC organised a consultation with NGOs from across Europe aimed at formulating a common advocacy plan directed at the EU. Using the hearing as a starting point, Brussels-based NGOs have continued to lobby members of the European Parliament to adopt a resolution on the conflict in northern Uganda.

## **Turkey**

In July, the IDMC together with the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) held a public panel discussion in Ankara on the progress made in addressing Turkey's internal displacement situation. The event took place to launch "Overcoming a Legacy of Mistrust: Towards Reconciliation between the State and the Displaced", a report which takes stock of the progress made on implementing the recommendations made by the UN Representative on IDPs following his visit to Turkey in 2002. The report was prepared by the IDMC in partnership with, and based on field research by, TESEV. Among the key speakers who opened the panel were Ambassador Hansjörg Kretschmer, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey, and Joost Lagendijk, Member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee. The launch was widely attended by civil society organisations, government and UN representatives as well as the media.

Echoing one of the key messages of the report, the European Commission's progress report on Turkey's preparation for EU membership called on the Turkish government to address the issue of reconciliation in relation to past human rights violations committed against internally displaced persons

such as killings, disappearances, torture and the burning and destruction of property. A number of other findings of the joint IDMC-TESEV study were also reflected in the European Commission progress report. The IDMC and TESEV concluded in their joint study that a durable and sustainable solution to the internal displacement problem in Turkey cannot be achieved without a reconciliation process.

At an international symposium on internal displacement in Turkey organised by TESEV in Istanbul in December, the IDMC made a presentation on the role of civil society in addressing internal displacement, stressing the importance of strengthening partnership between the government, NGOs, and the international community in order to identify and implement solutions for the displaced in Turkey. The intervention also outlined the multiple roles which civil society organisations play in situations of internal displacement, including provision of material and legal assistance, information collection, monitoring and reporting, and advocacy for the rights of the displaced. The IDMC also attended the launch of a national IDP survey in Ankara upon the invitation of the government.

An article on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs in Turkey was published in November in a journal of the Norwegian Council for the Rights of the Kurdish People, a politically independent human rights organisation.

### **Palestinian Territories**

Large numbers of Palestinians have been forced to leave their homes as a direct result of the Wall built by Israel in the occupied West Bank, according to a study presented in September by the IDMC and BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights on the margins of the Human Rights Council meeting. In East Jerusalem alone, tens of thousands of people have been forced to change their place of residence as a direct result of the construction of the Wall, according to the study which for the first time comprehensively documents displacement caused by the West Bank Wall in the Jerusalem area. Following its launch in Geneva in September, the report was presented in December in Ramallah, Palestinian Territories. The IDMC also published two articles on internal displacement in the Palestinian Territories in *Forced Migration Review* 26 published in August 2006. The IDMC-BADIL report on displacement caused by the

West Bank Wall contributed to increasing debate on and acknowledgement of the issue of internal displacement in the Palestinian Territories.

The IDMC published an article "*Can the IDP label be used in Israel/Palestine?*", published in *Forced Migration Review* 26. The article, which aims to clarify the usefulness of the IDP concept in the Israel-Palestinian conflict, was also posted on Reliefweb and on several Palestinian websites.

### **Russian Federation**

Together with the Russian NGO "Memorial", the IDMC launched a joint report on the internal displacement situation in the north Caucasus in October 2006 in Moscow. The report assesses the extent to which the recommendations of the UN's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons have been put into practice since a country visit to the Russian Federation in 2003.

The report concluded that conditions for the displaced population in the North Caucasus have improved in some respects in recent years, but that the displaced continue to face serious obstacles to return and reintegration in their areas of original residence. Speakers at the launch event included representatives of IDMC, "Memorial" NGO UNHCR and the Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation. More than 30 people attended, including representatives from the government, media and the diplomatic and humanitarian community. The event was widely covered by Russian and international media. UN OCHA quoted the report in its 2007 Inter-Agency Transitional Workplan for the North Caucasus.

In November 2006, IDMC led an interactive presentation on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement at a seminar organised for CIS judges and immigration officials in St. Petersburg, Russia. The seminar was organised by ECRE and UNHCR and led to increased contact with government officials in Russia and Azerbaijan, as well as lawyers working on IDP cases in St. Petersburg.

### **Colombia**

As part of the ongoing humanitarian reform process, the IDMC participated in an IASC Mission to Colombia in September. The main objectives of the mission were to brief the IASC Country Team on the humanitarian reform process, to identify how the humanitarian response in Colombia could be strengthened and whether implementation of the cluster approach would be helpful



in the country. After visiting Chocó, Antioquia, Nariño and Suacha, the mission recommended that a Humanitarian Country Team be established and work through three thematic groups (clusters) including one on protection headed by UNHCR.

The IDMC, together with the International Commission of Jurists, initiated the establishment of an advocacy working group on the conflict in Colombia. The purpose of the working group is to exchange information on activities on and in Colombia, strengthen advocacy activities, improve information flow on the current situation in the country as well as identify issues of common concern. The group met for the first time in March - it has since briefed the office of the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs in preparation for his visit to Colombia, and has sent letters to EU member states and the G-24 group calling for action on Colombia by the UN Human Rights Council.

### **Georgia**

Following the visit in December 2005 of the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, the IDMC undertook a 10-day fact-finding mission to Georgia to gather data on IDPs in the country and advocate for increased attention to their plight. During the mission, the Georgian Minister for Refugees and Accommodation, who is the government's focal point on IDPs, declared to IDMC its readiness to develop and implement with the support of other ministries, national NGOs and the international community a strategy improving IDPs' current living conditions. IDMC supported the development of this strategy IDMC partnering with a national NGO providing legal advice to IDPs in order to conduct consultations with IDPs on the strategy, and to give concrete recommendations to the Georgian government on the subject. Recommendations will be detailed in a report published in 2007. IDMC also developed with NRC's Georgia office a briefing paper for the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, prior to his visit to Georgia at the end of 2006. The paper, which highlighted key concerns regarding the situation of IDPs in Georgia, was found very useful in preparing for the Representative's work in Georgia, according to his office.

### **Central African Republic**

Responding to the deterioration of the neglected IDP crisis in the Central African Republic, the IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to the country in October 2006. The mission focused on the most affected areas in north-



*Head of IDMC, Elisabeth Rasmusson, being briefed on food distribution by NRC staff in Uganda.  
(Photo: Jesse Bernstein, March 2006)*

western CAR, collecting first-hand information on the situation of IDPs, mapping protection gaps, identifying protection concerns and formulating recommendations. The mission contributed to drawing attention to the protection crises in the CAR. The IDMC submitted a briefing note to a group of agencies and donors ahead of an inter-agency mission to the Central African Republic in November 2006.

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

The IDMC undertook several missions to Côte d'Ivoire in 2006 to raise awareness of the IDP situation amongst humanitarian and political actors in the country, and to contribute to the setting up of an NRC office in the country.

### **Serbia and Montenegro**

The IDMC supported the research for, and publication of, a report on the human rights of refugees and IDPs in Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo. The report, drafted by the Serbian NGO Group 484, was launched on World Refugee Day in June 2006 and received coverage from the national press and television. Group 484 was further invited to present their report before a Parliament Commission. The IDMC sponsored sections of the report documenting issues where information was lacking, such as the implementation of the Roma National Strategy and its impact on the situation of Roma IDPs, implementation of the IDP strategy in Montenegro, the consequences of forced return from abroad on internal displacement, and the situation of IDPs and returnees in Kosovo.

### **Iraq**

In March, the IDMC participated in a panel at a conference in London aimed at discussing solutions for displaced Marsh Arabs in Iraq. Eighteen tribal leaders, Iraq's Minister of Finance and other Iraqi government representatives participated, as well as representatives of international organisations, NGOs and research institutions. The keynote address was given by Walter Kälin, UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs. The meeting report was published by the AMAR foundation in March 2006.

### **Lebanon**

The IDMC seconded its Middle East Country Analyst to Lebanon to support the NRC country team as Protection & Policy Adviser during July and August when hundreds of thousands of Lebanese fled their homes as a result of Israeli military operations. In this function the Country Analyst contributed to an assessment of the IDP situation, participated in Protection Cluster meetings and further developed NRC's protection work with the displaced during the period of displacement and on return. Throughout the war, the IDMC constantly updated its website with accurate information on the daily situation in Lebanon.

### **Azerbaijan**

In a seminar organised by UNHCR and NRC in Azerbaijan for government officials in November 2006, the IDMC gave a presentation on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. This presentation allowed for direct contact and exchange with government officials on issues of concern regarding IDPs in Azerbaijan.

### **Somalia**

The IDMC carried out a fact-finding mission in February to Bossaso (Puntland) and Merka to assess the situation of IDPs in Somalia. The mission focused particularly on making contact with civil society groups, as it was carried out in connection with an IDMC training workshop on IDP protection, provided for local NGOs and national NGO staff. The Centre also provided support to an IDP profiling exercise led by the Somalia UN Country Team. The profiling, conducted in several parts of Somalia to improve the availability of IDP data, served to field-test the profiling guidelines drafted by the IDMC (see above). In September, the IDMC participated in a profiling workshop organised in Nairobi. The Centre's efforts to engage other Geneva- and Nairobi-based NGOs in a more structural information exchange on the situation in Somalia were met with increasing interest.

### **Ethiopia**

The IDMC provided a report on the internal displacement situation in Ethiopia to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The report highlighted that in situations of resource scarcity, ethnic tensions were often exacerbated by the Ethiopian government's policy of ethnic federalisation. Ethnic tensions are one of the main causes of conflict displacement.

### **Sri Lanka**

In a press release accompanying a country profile update released in November 2006, the IDMC drew attention to the deteriorating internal displacement and overall human rights situation in Sri Lanka. The press release, which was widely quoted by the Sri Lankan and international press, pointed in particular to the problem of the widespread impunity of the conflicting parties in committing gross human rights violations by displacing tens of thousands of civilians who were subsequently to a large extent cut off from humanitarian aid.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

The IDMC, through a staff member serving as Vice-Chair of the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, provided input for a major report entitled *Struggling to Survive: Children in Armed Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*. The IDMC was a speaker at the report launch at the United Nations in New York, and conducted follow-up advocacy including a radio interview on Radio Canada on displaced children in the DRC. Recommendations of the report have been mentioned by members of the UN Security Council as well as by the UN Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict.

The UN Human Rights Committee took into account in its deliberation with the DRC government IDP-related concerns brought up by the IDMC.

### **Bangladesh**

Following a fact-finding mission to the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh in late 2005, the IDMC published a special advocacy report in March 2006, urging the Bangladesh authorities and the international community to focus on the issue of displacement in the region and conduct an in-depth and independent survey to identify the number of displaced people, their living conditions and the specific challenges they face.

# The IDMC in the media

## A few examples of media reports quoting IDMC staff and reports published in 2006

*Press Service News Agency (IPS), 17 February 2006*

### Homeless But Not Stateless, Living in Limbo Inter

Forced by war or humanitarian disasters to flee their homes but keeping within the borders of their own countries, 12 million so-called "internally displaced persons" (IDPs) face a legal and human tragedy in Africa... "It is unlikely that IDPs will ever get a legal status similar to that of refugees, mainly because governments fear this would weaken the principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs," Jens-Hagen Eschenbaecher of the International Displacement Monitoring Centre told IPS. In some cases, the governments themselves were the most responsible for displacements, he said... There is no U.N. agency dedicated to helping IDPs. While it has no specific mandate to aid this group, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees acts as the ad hoc lead on IDP matters -- which has led to criticism that IDPs are treated as less important than refugees. "What is needed is action by the Security Council and donor countries to hold governments accountable for failing to protect citizens, in line with the notion that states have a responsibility to protect, as adopted by the U.N. Summit last year," Eschenbaecher said...

*Associated Press (AP), 22 March 2006*

### U.N.: 2 million people became refugees in their own countries in 2005

About 2 million people were forced from their homes by conflict or abuse last year but remained within their own countries, joining one of the world's most vulnerable and neglected groups, according to a U.N.-commissioned report released Wednesday... A disproportionately high number of internal refugees are subject to attacks, rape, looting and other human rights abuses, the Norwegian Refugee Council said in its 2005 study on internal displacement. The total of "internally displaced persons," or IDPs, at the end of last year was 23.7 million, down from 25.3 million in 2004, mainly because of the successful return home of hundreds of thousands of Congolese. But the report stressed that the overall number of internally displaced was still alarmingly high, with many receiving no protection at all from their governments. "A disturbingly

high number of governments not only failed to provide adequate assistance to IDPs on their territory, but worse, were themselves behind the deliberate displacement of parts of their population," Elisabeth Rasmussen, who heads the refugee council project, said in the report.

*Reuters, 22 March 2006*

### U.N. official accuses African leaders over homeless

...The report, from the Norwegian Refugee Council which runs an Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre in Geneva, showed an overall drop of 1.6 million last year in global figures after four years in a row when totals were over 25 million. Centre officials said this was largely due to people returning to their homes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), southern Sudan and elsewhere as political leaders moved to end long civil conflicts. But the report said 600,000 had been driven from their homes in the Zimbabwean crackdown on urban shanty dwellings, and hundreds of thousands more had been uprooted by fighting in Colombia, the DRC, Iraq and Sudan...

*Financial Times, 23 March 2006*

### Urgent call to help displaced people

An international group monitoring internal displacement yesterday called for urgent measures to help the world's 24m internally displaced people and called on donor nations and the UN to put more resources into conflict prevention and peace building. The Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre said internally displaced people (IDPs) were among the most vulnerable victims of conflict. In 16 of the 50 countries affected by conflict-related displacement governments or their proxies were directly responsible for uprooting people from their homes.

*Reuters AlertNet, Newsblog*

### 26 April 2006

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre is ringing the alarm bell on West Africa, where it says conservative estimates put the current number of people displaced in their own countries by conflict at around a million. In a report released today, it says urgent efforts are needed to address the region's acute potential for spiralling instability and massive population movements. It calls on both West African governments to improve their response to displacement and on the international community to help prevent and end conflicts. While major wars have now



stopped in Liberia and Sierra Leone, smaller-scale conflicts and violence are ongoing in many West African states.

*VOA, 28 April 2006*

#### **Ethiopia Asked to Help Identify IDPs**

A new report calls on the Ethiopian government to help count the country's IDPs, or internally displaced people. The Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Service says estimates of the number of IDPs in Ethiopia vary widely. It says recognition of who is officially considered internally displaced is a politically sensitive issue that can affect international assistance. "The main concern is that certain groups of IDPs don't get recognition from the government. And it is my understanding that this can impede their access to food distribution. And also whenever they have protection issues, being IDPs those issues are not being addressed." ... The report says if the internally displaced are not recognized, they may be forced to fend for themselves and try to find food. Nadig says they are "basic survival issues." It calls on the Ethiopian government to work closely with the United Nations to conduct a survey of the IDPs.

*IRIN, 8 May 2006*

#### **IRAQ: Displaced from 2003 still homeless, say analysts**

Local aid agencies warn that families displaced immediately following the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 still remain homeless... Dina Abou Samra, a Middle East analyst at the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) agreed with this assessment. "The media has focused much attention on those displaced within the last weeks [victims of sectarian violence]," she said. "But it's urgent that the needs of many other groups of displaced people are also addressed." She went on to say that such people – many of whom have remained homeless for almost three years – should be provided with shelter, food and access to clean water and health services. According to experts, the reasons for the large-scale displacements are myriad. "Displacement has been caused by spontaneous returns [of large ethnic populations to certain areas], general insecurity and sectarian violence," said Abou Samra. "Also, many refugees returning to Iraq are becoming internally displaced, due to reasons like insecurity and the lack of housing and basic services." ...

*Turkish Daily News, 4 June 2006*

#### **Report urges gov't to address sad legacy of mutual mistrust between state, displaced**

Despite improved government response, problems remain in protecting the rights of Turkey's displaced populations, says a report published by the Istanbul-based Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation and the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. Although the Turkish government has taken a number of important steps to improve its response to the needs of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDP) as a result of the conflict in the country's Southeast, the displaced still face significant obstacles in receiving just compensation for lost properties and support for integration, return or resettlement, said a report published last week by the Istanbul-based Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. The report, titled "Overcoming a Legacy of Mistrust: Towards Reconciliation between the State and the Displaced," was drawn up by three members of the TESEV Working and Monitoring Group on Internal Displacement in Turkey, as part of a democratization program being conducted by TESEV...

*Reuters, 16 November 2006*

#### **130,000 Sri Lankan refugees cut off from aid-group**

Uprooted by fighting, 130,000 people in Sri Lanka have been cut off from international assistance and are vulnerable to serious human rights abuses, a Norwegian aid group said on Thursday. Renewed conflict in the island's north and east between the government and Tamil Tiger (LTTE) rebels has displaced about 200,000 people in all, the Norwegian Refugee Council said. "The government as well as the LTTE have severely restricted access to conflict areas under their control, thus leaving ... displaced people and other affected populations without adequate international protection and humanitarian assistance," the aid group said in a report.

It urged both sides to allow international humanitarian organisations access to the affected populations... The report put the total number of internally displaced in Sri Lanka at 600,000 to 800,000, including some 450,000 people who remain homeless due to the tsunami in December 2004. More than 3,300 people have been killed this year in the violence and it "may be spreading to areas hitherto spared or on the fringes of the fighting", the report said...

# Training and Protection

## Key facts

- ▶ 20 workshops in 13 countries
- ▶ Over 600 people trained from field-based human rights and humanitarian organisations
- ▶ Four training of trainers workshops for 60 trainers
- ▶ Training materials translated into Arabic and Turkish
- ▶ Support to the development of the inter-agency IDP protection handbook

IDMC training conducted in the field strengthened the mobilisation of key actors in better addressing the protection needs of IDPs. The IDMC responded to requests from UN organisations to train their partners and other relevant institutions, but also developed training projects with other bodies, such as NRC and Panos. A total of 20 workshops, including four Trainings of Trainers, were conducted in 2006, targeting about 600 persons, mostly from national and local authorities and civil society organisations. The workshops contributed to an enhanced protection response on the ground by supporting key projects such as the creation of monitoring networks and mobilising all relevant actors to contribute to a collaborative protection effort. Furthermore, the IDMC training triggered the development of other training initiatives by country-based organisations to raise awareness on the protection rights of IDPs among other target groups.

## Approach to training

The IDMC training continued to make a considerable contribution to the development of field-based capacities to address IDP protection concerns. The training, based on participatory modules, has consistently enabled participants to review key standards and tools developed to help social workers on the ground identify and analyse IDPs' protection risks, in consideration of factors such as age, gender, disability and background. Within the framework of 2- to 3-day workshops conducted at the country level, participants applied these standards and tools to their country situations and collaborated to identify key protection concerns and potential solutions.

To maximise the impact of its training activities, the IDMC systematically initiated strategic partnerships with field-based organisations, to ensure that its training would be part of an integrated effort to respond to the displacement crisis at the country level. Cooperating with UN protection agencies, such as UNHCR, OCHA (including in cluster

countries) and NRC was instrumental in ensuring that our training provided a real support to key protection initiatives, such as the development of monitoring networks, in particular to improve the information available on the situation of IDPs, especially in areas with little access for international aid groups (Somalia, Central African Republic, Timor-Leste).

The IDMC prioritised training targeting bodies with a mid- to long-term involvement in the protection of IDPs on the ground. Such actors include mainly national and local authorities (including national human rights institutions, as in Timor-Leste) as well as civil society organisations (for instance in Turkey, Guinea Conakry, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Lebanon). The workshops were often used as an opportunity to bridge the communication gap between authorities and the NGO community by promoting a common understanding of key protection standards and stimulating a collaborative response to IDP protection concerns (Nepal, Côte d'Ivoire). The IDMC training also promoted the involvement of other relevant humanitarian agencies into collaborative protection efforts (WFP in Sudan).

Partnerships with field-based organisations also proved indispensable to ensure workshops were followed up, in particular through the continuation of the training efforts to reach out to other relevant bodies in the country (Côte d'Ivoire, Turkey, Colombia, Timor-Leste). The IDMC workshops helped to develop training capacities in the field through the training of trainers for people conducting education and mobilisation activities on the ground. The participatory nature of IDMC training workshops has always been greatly appreciated by the participants and stimulated other training initiatives.

## Training in cluster countries

The IDMC conducted a series of training workshops in countries where the cluster policy has been rolled out. The objective was to support UN Country Teams (UNCT) in building partnerships with their counterparts in national and local authorities, as well as civil society organisations.

In **Somalia**, the UNCT contacted the IDMC to provide training to NGO workers and UN staff members. Two workshops were held to reach out to the humanitarian community in Puntland and in South-Central Somalia. In the words of a humanitarian affairs officer for OCHA Somalia, IDMC training had a "very apparent impact" on the capacity of NGOs to contribute to the protection of

IDPs. The training strengthened the capacity of field-based actors to better identify the protection needs of IDPs in Somalia, refer to their rights under international law, and review their activities through a rights-based approach. Also, these workshops were a first step towards the creation by UNHCR of networks of field-based NGOs to monitor the situation of IDPs and track population movements in areas where the UN has no presence, particularly in South-Central Somalia. The training also highlighted the need to revise the Somali version of the Guiding Principles, and triggered the publication of a new translation in 2006.

Upon the request of the UNCT, the IDMC also facilitated a meeting between UN agencies and the NGO community in Nairobi, to review the Joint IDP Strategy for IDPs in Somalia and ensure that NGOs could provide their input.

As a follow-up, it was agreed with the UN Country Team that a similar training should also be provided to national and local authorities in 2007.

In **Central African Republic**, the IDMC was requested by UNHCR to conduct a workshop for humanitarian monitors. These monitors were recruited by CARITAS in partnership with UNHCR to collect information on the displaced households and communities in the provinces of Ouham and Ouham-Pendé, the most severely affected by forced displacement of civilian population in the country. These areas have hardly any humanitarian presence, and the creation of a monitoring network to document trends and patterns of displacement and protection concerns was the prerequisite to a strengthened response from UNHCR and its partners. The training also highlighted the need to ensure that the Guiding Principles are available in a language accessible to local aid workers. As a result, a version of the Guiding Principles in Sango was prepared in 2006. Furthermore, the IDMC training materials were used by UNHCR to train others, including civilian and military authorities.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the IDMC implemented three workshops targeting government ministries, prefectures, civil society and the Forces Nouvelles rebels from several parts of the country. These workshops were hosted by OCHA and co-facilitated with OCHA and UNHCR, which assumed the Cluster lead in the second half of 2006. The main objective of two of the workshops was to support UN efforts in Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen the capacity of the government to implement its plan of action for the protection of IDPs. The third workshop aimed to empower local and national NGOs to play their roles in the process and enable them

to effectively engage in assisting and advocating for IDPs. As a means of increasing the impact of the protection workshops, NRC Côte d'Ivoire and IDMC agreed to organise a training of trainers for selected participants in 2007 on the basis of which NRC Côte d'Ivoire would initiate a series of workshops to be facilitated by and for other national and local organisations throughout the country.

### Training in partnership with UN agencies

OCHA in **Guinea Conakry** approached the IDMC to conduct a workshop for national and local authorities, NGOs as well as UN bodies in the province of Guinée Forestière, where armed incursion from Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2000 and 2001 displaced up to 360,000 people. While the displacement crisis in Guinea can no longer be considered an emergency situation, following the return home of most IDPs, discussions during the workshop highlighted the precarious situation of those displaced households who have not been able to return and would prefer to integrate into the local communities. The IDMC compiled a report to inform the UN Country Team in Conakry about the participants' recommendations to support the return communities and alternative solutions for the vulnerable ones still in displacement.

The IDMC concluded an agreement with UNDP **Turkey** to develop a capacity-building project for civil society actors engaged in the protection and assistance of the populations displaced by the conflict in South-Eastern Turkey. A first workshop was conducted in June for 35 members of Turkish NGOs. As a follow-up, the IDMC organised a training of trainers for 25 persons, mostly selected from the participants of the June workshop.

For this project, the IDMC developed a series of modules reflecting the priority concerns relating to internal displacement in Turkey. Furthermore, a module was also developed to review basic skills applicable to advocacy activities with the authorities. The modules include materials for the participants and detailed guides for the trainers. The IDMC also wrote a paper reviewing the capacity of NGOs in Turkey to engage in advocacy activities relating to the protection of IDPs, and identifying a series of recommendations to the NGO community, the Turkish NGOs and the UN agencies. Both the modules and the paper have been translated into Turkish and can be downloaded from the UNDP website.

The IDMC has been informed that participants greatly appreciated the quality of the training materials provided



*Qualified trainers who have successfully completed a Training of Trainers workshop facilitated by IDMC in Côte d'Ivoire. (Photo: Mateusz Tuniewicz/IDMC)*

and that they used the modules to train their own organisations. Göc Der, a major IDP solidarity network in Turkey, also organised two workshops at the community level. However, it should be noted that financial constraints have hindered many NGOs from conducting more workshops on their own. UNDP Turkey has therefore continued its efforts to get more support from the donor community to help Turkish NGOs to develop follow-up training activities.

In **Timor-Leste**, the IDMC organised in cooperation with UNHCR a workshop on the protection of IDPs for the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PHRJ), the independent national Human Rights monitoring body, and its NGO partner the Human Rights Monitoring Network (RMDH). In line with similar trainings organised by the IDMC in 2005 for other National Human Rights Institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, this workshop targeted a key actor for the protection of IDPs. Indeed, the PHRJ, in partnership with the RMDH, plays an active role in the monitoring of the displacement crisis in the country, based on an agreement with UNHCR, which supports the strengthening of their capacity to monitor return movements. The workshop also included members of the Women's NGO Network (Rede Feto) involved in providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs, and staff of the Ministry of Labour and Community, in charge of the protection and assistance of IDPs, the reconciliation process and the return of IDPs.

In addition to the support given to the protection monitoring network, the workshop also contributed to stimulating the development of further training activities by country-based institutions to reach out to other relevant actors in

the country. Follow-up training was conducted by UNHCR in Dili and in other districts for the newly-recruited staff of the Provedor's office, other staff members of the Ministry of Labour and Community, officers of the East Timor defence forces and the national police, local authorities and IDPs. Furthermore, UNHCR included a module on the protection of IDPs into the induction training provided to the UN Police Forces. Staff members of the Human Rights Unit of the UN mission in Timor-Leste were also trained.

In **Sudan**, the IDMC supported the training of WFP staff members on the protection of IDPs and returnees. One workshop was organised for WFP staff in South Sudan, while a second workshop targeted staff engaged in Darfur and the Transitional Areas. This project was part of WFP's initiative to strengthen the protection impact of its food assistance and followed a series of consultations conducted worldwide among WFP staff and partners on the issue. During the workshops, the participants first reviewed WFP's activities through a protection lens, highlighting the risks to which beneficiaries can be exposed in relation to food distribution and other WFP projects, and identifying solutions to mitigate them. Participants also reflected on how WFP should contribute to a better protection of IDPs and returnees, in particular through an enhanced cooperation with protection actors in the country, including the national and local protection working groups. It was agreed that WFP should strengthen its participation in such mechanisms, with a view to raising protection concerns and coordinating field activities towards a strengthened protection on the ground. The framework document for WFP's emergency operations in Sudan for 2007 records WFP's endeavour to integrate protection into its field operations and highlights the need for similar training to be developed to reach other staff. WFP is planning to deploy a staff member in 2007 to Sudan to help WFP team to mainstream the workshops' recommendations.

In **Lebanon**, the IDMC developed and implemented a training programme for humanitarian actors in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNHCR Lebanon. These workshops, held in Beirut and Tyre, targeted people who deliver assistance and protection directly on the ground, including social workers of the Social Development Centres, which are in charge of state social welfare assistance at the local level, and NGOs. These workshops took place after the majority of those displaced during the conflict with Israel in the summer 2006 were able to go back to their homes. However, the discussion during the workshops highlighted the fact that many of those who have been unable to return belonged to vulnerable groups (female heads of households, elderly). Furthermore, it was acknowledged that many returnees were living in

precarious conditions following the destruction of their properties and other assets. The training also resulted in an increased participation of NGOs in the protection working group led by UNHCR in South Lebanon.

### Other training projects

The IDMC conducted a workshop for 23 participants from the government and national civil society organisations based in Kathmandu and involved in the protection of IDPs in **Nepal**. These workshops were hosted by the NRC office in Nepal and sessions were co-facilitated by staff from the NRC, UNHCR, OHCHR and OCHA offices in Kathmandu. The workshop aimed to establish a common understanding among national NGO and governmental representatives of the UN Guiding Principles definition and standards for protection. The workshop facilitated an exchange of views among between NGOs and government representatives on IDP issues and enabled participants to review the latest draft national policy.

In **India**, the IDMC teamed up with Panos South Asia to organise a workshop for civil society organisations, journalists and researchers in Northeast India (the states of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh). For most participants, this workshop exposed them for the first time to international protection standards as they apply to the Indian context. The partnership with Panos, which works with the media and aims to put critical debates into the public domain, aimed to increase the analysis and coverage of internal displacement in the local and national media in Northeast India. In particular, local NGOs were encouraged to work with the media to draw public attention to internal displacement.

The IDMC supported the development of training resources among NRC field offices. A training of trainers was organised for NRC staff members coming from 12 different country operations and engaged in protection training activities. IDMC training modules were distributed to the participants and used by them during the workshop to conduct training sessions. The training greatly enhanced the skills of the participants, in particular with regard to participatory techniques and interactive exercises. The training was also an opportunity to share the experience developed by NRC Georgia regarding training on the Guiding Principles for displaced communities. This experience based on forum play, a training approach involving drama, has proved very successful in raising awareness of their rights among the displaced population and reflecting with them on practical ways to enforce them.



*IDMC facilitated 20 workshops in 13 countries in 2006. This photograph was taken at a training of national actors in Sudan. (Photo: Christophe Beau/IDMC)*

Following this workshop, the IDMC and NRC **Colombia** decided to develop a training of trainers on forum play to support efforts to disseminate relevant protection messages to different target groups (authorities, IDPs, etc.) and to help these actors to work out solutions. Two workshops of a series of four were already conducted in 2006, targeting participants from NRC, NGOs and universities working on education and legal aid programmes for IDPs. Through the participants' education activities, it is estimated that a total of 2,200 persons, including 400 children and 800 adolescents, have benefited from the new training skills. The training of trainers in Colombia will be continued and completed in 2007.

### Support to inter-agency protection initiatives

The IDMC decided to contribute to the development of the inter-agency IDP protection handbook, led by UNHCR. This handbook will fill a major gap in the capacity of international agencies to address IDPs' protection needs in the field, in particular within the framework of the protection clusters at the field and national level. The handbook will provide practical and field-oriented guidance on roles and responsibility, the development of protection strategies and the implementation of relevant activities. The IDMC agreed to draft the chapter of the handbook devoted to protection interventions and activities, which coincide partly with activities where NRC has developed an expertise in the field. A consultant was hired to conduct research on the topics documented in the chapter and drafted thematic papers reflecting relevant policies and practices. This project will be completed in 2007.



## Training Workshops 2006

Tbilisi, Georgia	20-24 January	NRC field-based staff members*	23 participants (from 12 countries)
Bossaso, Somalia (Puntland)	6-10 March	Humanitarian actors (NGOs and UN agencies)	45 participants
Merka, Somalia	12-14 March	Humanitarian actors (NGOs and UN agencies)	35 participants
Harnosand, Sweden	14-16 May	NGOs sponsored by SIDA	25 participants
Ankara, Turkey	6-9 June	Turkish NGOs	30 participants
Nzérékoré, Guinea Conakry	28-29 June	Representatives of national authorities (including police and gendarmerie), and NGOs	38 participants
Fusagasugá, Colombia	28 August-1 September	NRC staff, NGOs and universities working on education and legal aid programmes for IDPs*	15 participants
Guwahat, India	1-3 September	Local NGOs and journalists	30 participants (India training)
Van, Turkey	4-7 September	Turkish NGOs*	25 participants
Fusagasugá, Colombia	13-17 November	NRC staff, NGOs and universities working on education and legal aid programmes for IDPs*	14 participants
Dili, Timor-Leste	5-7 October	Staff of the Human Rights Provedor, and other human rights and humanitarian actors	44 participants
Bossangoa, Central African Republic	23-26 October	Humanitarian monitors	32 participants
Rumbek, Sudan	29-30 November	WFP staff members (South Sudan)	25 participants
Khartoum, Sudan	4-5 December	WFP staff members (Khartoum, Darfur and Transitional areas)	25 participants
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	5-7 December (3 workshops)	Representatives of government, Forces Nouvelles and civil society organisations	103 participants
Beirut, Lebanon	1-8 December	Staff of the Social Development Centres	30 participants
Tyre, Lebanon	18-20 December	Social Development Centres and NGOs	30 participants
Kathmandu, Nepal	20-22 December	Government officials and civil society organisations	23 participants

\*Training of trainers

## Civil Society

In 2006, the IDMC has continued to support and maintain contact with civil society groups active in promoting the rights of IDPs, in both national and local contexts. The IDMC's engagement with civil society cuts across all programme activities, including training, direct project support and collaborative research aimed at filling knowledge gaps and building the capacity of local groups to collect and disseminate information on internal displacement.

### IDP Network

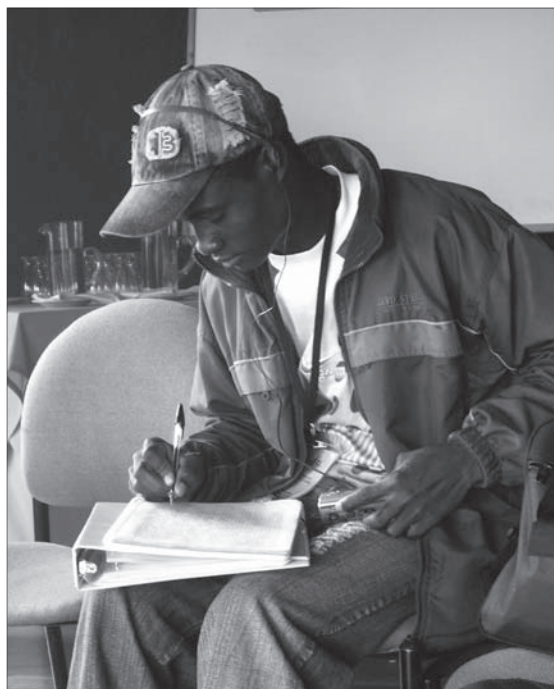
Following a request from several IDP community leaders and organisations in June 2005, the IDMC developed an international web-based network of national organisations working to advance the rights of IDPs. This network was launched in February 2006 and provides a platform for members to share descriptions of their work, best practices, and their contact details.

The IDP Network page can now be viewed in three languages: English, French and Spanish. By establishing the IDP Network the IDMC seeks to provide a platform for IDP communities to express their views and needs, and to exchange lessons learned and best practices in responding to situations of internal displacement. The Network currently has 24 members and is continuing to grow.

In the framework of the Network, the IDMC had planned to organise an international meeting of network members in 2006. Due to internal capacity issues which relate to an increased demand for IDMC engagement in various forums and projects, the Centre decided to postpone this meeting to 2007. Convening the meeting in 2007 will also allow sufficient time for the network to grow and for its members to communicate on a collaborative basis on the issues of most concern to them. Holding the meeting in 2007 will also ensure that it is held in conjunction with an international policy forum, such as the Executive Committee of UNHCR or the Human Rights Council.

### Life stories

In an effort to amplify the voices of IDPs, the IDMC has initiated a project which collects life histories amongst displaced persons. This project is currently being piloted in Colombia, one of the IDMC's priority countries, and the work is conducted in collaboration with NRC Colombia, several local civil society groups, IDPs and *Panos London*,



Participant in the Life Story Project, Colombia.  
(Photo: Anne-Sophie Lois/IDMC).

an organisation with expertise in collecting and working with oral testimonies. The first workshop to prepare the collection of life histories was held in Bogota on 24-28 April with 12 participants. By giving displaced people the opportunity to speak out in their own words on issues which concern them rather than having their needs and priorities interpreted by outsiders, the IDMC hopes to contribute to the empowerment of IDPs and civil society organisations and to illustrate internal displacement with a human face.

#### Three comments from IDPs during the workshop

*“The best thing that has happened to me in the last year is being alive, and being able to work despite the threats facing me. In working, I am ‘fighting’. I want to continue to be the pebble in the shoes of those who want to harm the community.”*

*“I believe that how organisations talk about displacement is very different from how ordinary people talk about displacement... I feel that organisations do not always respect communities.”*

*“Having the opportunity to tell your life story can be therapeutic; it can be a restoring and empowering experience.”*

The project has collected life stories of over 50 individuals directly affected by displacement in Colombia. Two workshops were held in July and September with Colombian NGOs and IDPs involved in the collection of testimonies in order to share experiences so far and to provide on-going support and advice. This included sessions on psycho-social support provided by the participating psychologists. Other activities included interviewers undertaking thematic analysis of their own interviews, discussions and planning around dissemination, and also learning about the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by relating the issues and stories from their own testimonies to these Principles.

#### **Comment from a participant in Colombia**

*“It’s a great effort to give voices to those who have been silenced and crushed as effects of the armed conflict, and it’s extremely positive to create motivated groups to work on this.”*

The Life Story Project in Colombia continues to develop. Recent work has concentrated on the development of guidelines for editing the collection of testimonies, and on deciding upon advocacy strategies to promote the project. A principal advocacy project is the launch of a book that brings together a collection of oral testimonies. The launch is anticipated to take place in the first half of 2007. The launch is timely as 2007 has been declared by UNHCR, CODHES and the Roman Catholic Church in Colombia as *the Year of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons*.

#### **Support to civil society organisations**

In Colombia, the IDMC supported its local partner Yira Castro in setting up regional IDP committees in Cundinamarca, Santander, Valle de Cauca, Norte de Santander, Bolivar, Huila and Cauca in Colombia. The regional committees are recognised by the state as the IDPs’ legitimate channel to voice their concerns within the framework of the National System of Integrated Assistance to IDPs (SNAIPD) and the National Committee of IDP organisations in Colombia (Mesa Nacional de



*Participants in the Life Story Project, Colombia.  
(Photo: Anne-Sophie Lois/IDMC)*

Organizaciones de Población Desplazada). The initiative has helped to strengthen the capacity of IDPs to promote durable solutions in a constructive dialogue with the state, which is primarily responsible for meeting the assistance and protection needs of IDPs.

The IDMC stepped up its efforts in 2006 to involve civil society organisations in its monitoring, advocacy and training activities. A number of major reports on IDP situations released during 2006 were published together with civil society groups, drawing on their research and knowledge of the local context. This contributed to actively involving civil society into addressing situations of internal displacement in the respective countries. Examples include the reports on the implementation of the recommendations made by the UN Representative on the IDP situations in Uganda, Turkey and Russia, as well as the report on displacement caused by the West Bank Wall.

The IDMC also prepared a workshop aimed at supporting NGOs from the Great Lakes region to promote the implementation of an IDP protocol adopted by the member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The workshop is scheduled to take place in April 2007.



## Financial report

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's income continued to increase as shown in the contribution lists for 2005 and 2006 below. Total income received for 2006 was \$2,037,096, an increase of more than 50 per cent over the previous year. The IDMC carried out a mid-year budget revision to reflect increased demands for the Centre's services and activities. The revision resulted in an increase of 10.5 per cent compared with the initial 2006 budget. The IDMC received sufficient contributions to fully cover its revised budget. The amount of \$115,163 will be carried forward to 2007 as it consists of earmarked cluster funds to be spent before the end of March 2007.

The IDMC is very grateful to all its donors and considers their generous support, along with the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from its stakeholders, as recognition of its work and further motivation for its activities aimed at promoting respect for the rights of the world's internally displaced people.

By the end of the year, the Centre had 16 donors, including 12 governments or governmental development agencies, one private foundation, three UN agencies UNHCR, OCHA-IDD<sup>2</sup> and UNDP<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the IDMC received funding, through UNHCR, from the Norwegian government under the Global Cluster Appeal 2006-07. All except one government donor contributed to the Centre's core budget<sup>4</sup>.

Even though the funding situation has improved considerably during the last couple of years, the IDMC's financial situation is still far from stable and predictable as most contribution agreements have to be renewed every year. The IDMC therefore strives to obtain more multi-year agreements and welcomes the timely receipt of funding.

### Progress reports and feedback

Throughout the year the IDMC kept stakeholders regularly informed of the progress and development of the Centre's activities and financial needs. Besides meetings and phone contacts, the IDMC sent out Quarterly Updates and other information material to its donors and other interested persons and made these reports available on its website.

<sup>2</sup> OCHA-IDD contributed financially to the development of the IDP profiling guidelines

<sup>3</sup> UNDP contributed to in-country training activities

<sup>4</sup> DFAIT-Canada's contribution was for direct project expenses, not including any fixed costs.

## Contributions to the IDMC

Donors and contributions	2006%	Income USD* - 2006	2005%	Income USD - 2005
United Kingdom - DFID	17.10%	335,212.71	18.54%	279,119.73
Norway - MFA	16.71%	327,573.49	15.83%	238,330.48
UNCHR - Cluster funding from Norwegian MFA (until March 31, 2007)	14.03%	275,000.00		
Australia - AusAID	11.29%	221,350.54	15.40%	231,876.97
Sweden - SIDA	9.70%	190,073.64	11.41%	171,788.13
Denmark MFA	6.79%	133,119.00	5.35%	80,557.54
Canada - DFAIT	6.24%	122,302.32	7.02%	105,655.07
United States of America - USAID	0.00%	0.00	6.64%	100,000.00
Netherlands MFA	3.57%	70,000.00	4.65%	70,000.00
Netherlands - Stichting Vluchteling	3.40%	66,720.00	4.39%	66,042.58
Italy MFA	2.71%	53,177.35	3.16%	47,592.18
Oak Foundation	0.00%	0.00	2.64%	39,815.26
Switzerland MFA	1.98%	38,825.00	2.76%	41,621.57
Luxembourg MFA	1.67%	32,707.84		0.00
IDD - OCHA - IDP data collection consultancy	1.63%	32,000.00		0.00
Switzerland MFA - for training workshops	1.00%	19,679.59		0.00
South Africa - MFA	0.60%	11,843.47	0.99%	14,978.34
UNDP (for training workshops)**	0.53%	10,462.00		
UNDP (for NGO training)**	0.51%	10,000.00		
UNHCR - NGO Unit	0.51%	10,000.00	0.66%	10,000.00
NRC Uganda - for training services**			0.54%	8,070.00
<b>Total income 2006</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,960,046.95</b>		<b>1,505,447.85</b>
<b>Surplus of 2005 contributions carried forward into 2006</b>		<b>192,212.77</b>		<b>-192,212.77</b>
<b>Amount received for cluster funding for Jan-March 2007</b>		<b>-115,163.42</b>		
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,037,096.30</b>		<b>1,313,235.08</b>

## EXPENDITURE

<b>Expenses 2006/2005</b>	<b>Expenses USD** 1.01.06 - 31.12.06</b>	<b>Expenses USD** 1.01.05 - 31.12.05</b>
<b>IDMC Monitoring and Advocacy</b>		
Staff costs	821,397.15	682,287.52
In-country data collection and advocacy	112,500.21	25,967.73
Urban displacement study	27,508.17	0.00
Support to IDP's profiling	30,091.67	0.00
Publications	75,408.71	24,837.45
Editing/Translations	13,553.42	0.00
IT hardware and software	25,633.90	29,211.60
IT maint.telecomm., database hosting	77,179.76	73,962.78
Marketing/New corporate identity/Advertising/Miscl.	13,047.60	35,474.88
Grass roots Fund	0.00	21,818.84
<b>Sub Total IDMC Monitoring and Advocacy</b>	<b>1,196,320.59</b>	<b>893,560.80</b>
<b>Protection and Training Activities</b>		
Staff costs	150,340.51	113,084.11
Workshops for UN country teams	21,705.34	17,714.67
Training support to NRC field miss/civil soc./humanit.actors	63,506.28	38,564.58
Consultant fee for training workshops	11,595.82	4,259.92
Contrib.to the dev.of training mat./capacity proj./TOT's	31,649.87	26,018.05
Two TOT's Colombia/Cluster funds	42,240.77	0.00
IDP Protection training - Ivory Coast. Cluster funds	36,863.46	0.00
Training workshops to Somalia/Nepal/CAR/Lebanon cluster funds	36,037.49	0.00
<b>Sub Total Protection and Training activities</b>	<b>393,939.54</b>	<b>199,641.33</b>
<b>Civil Society project</b>		
Staff costs	39,347.82	0.00
Civil society support	70,794.26	0.00
IDP network development	6,256.84	0.00
Oral Testimony Project	45,490.32	0.00
<b>Sub Total Civil Society Project</b>	<b>161,889.24</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Fixed Costs IDMC</b>		
Staff costs	148,845.83	106,276.86
Travel expenses	5,852.37	1,692.63
Office equipment/furniture	5,384.75	14,713.64
Office cost	124,864.19	97,349.63
<b>Sub Total Fixed Costs</b>	<b>284,947.14</b>	<b>220,032.76</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,037,096.51</b>	<b>1,313,235.09</b>

\*\* Expenses recorded at the average contributions received exch.rate

Exchange rate CHF/USD : 1,2519 for 2005

Exchange rate CHF/USD : 1.2239 for 2006

Geneva, March 21, 2007



**Paul Nesse**  
NRC Resident Representative in Geneva

The Norwegian Refugee Council  
Chemin de Balexert 7-9  
1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)  
Switzerland

Oslo, 21 March 2007

### Auditor's report for Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) project 2006

We have audited the financial report concerning The Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) activities related to the IDMC project in Geneva. The financial report 2006 comprises contributions and expenses for the period 1 January – 31 December 2006. The total expenses amounted to USD 2,037,097. The total installments received from 16 donors are USD 1,960,047. USD 192,213 is carried over from the IDMC project for 2005. The total surplus carried forward of USD 115,163 consist of earmarked cluster funds to be spent in the period 1 January to 31 March 2007. For costs incurred in CHF, the NRC has used an average rate for conversion from CHF to USD of 1.2239. The financial report is the responsibility of the NRC. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report 2006 as required by the Norwegian Act on Auditing and Auditors.

It is the NRC's responsibility to manage and use the funds received from the donors according to the agreements between the donors and the NRC. Our responsibility is to ensure that administration of the donors funds take place in a satisfactory manner and that the financial reporting properly reflects the project.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Norwegian Act on Auditing and Auditors and generally accepted auditing standards in Norway. Our report is in accordance with The Norwegian Institute of Public Accountants (DnR) auditing standard RS800 "Auditor's report on audit engagements with special purpose." Generally accepted auditing standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about:

- The financial report is free of material misstatement
- The internal control of the entity is satisfactory to ensure correct reporting and also satisfactory securing donor funds, including assets acquired in accordance with the donation
- The NRC has complied with the contract conditions in the donation agreements with the donors

#### The audit include:

- Examining, on a test basis the evidence supporting the amounts in the financial report, evaluation of the used accounting standards together with an assessment of the contents and presentation of the financial report
- Examination of NRCs asset management and accounting- and internal control systems
- Examination of selected parts of the material that support complying with the donation agreements
- Examination of the average exchange rate used



We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion:

- The financial report 2006 presents fairly the projects result
- The NRC's management have fulfilled its duty to properly register and document the accounting information required by Norwegian law and regulations, together with satisfactory securing donor funds, including assets acquired in accordance with the donation
- The management have complied with the contract conditions in the donation agreement between NRC and the donors

ERNST & YOUNG AS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Romskaug', written over a horizontal line.

Tommy Romskaug  
State Authorised Public Accountant (Norway)

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