



Quarterly Update

April- June 2008

Introduction

This edition of the Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 April and 30 June 2008. It is also available to be read online or downloaded at www.internal-displacement.org.

The Quarterly Update should be read along with the 2008 Appeal and Future Strategy, which outlines the main objectives, activities and financial needs for the year.

IDPs high on the Agenda

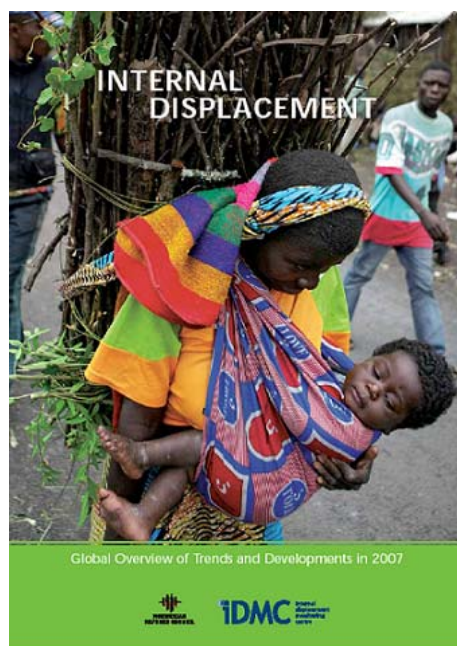
Annual report on internal displacement

In mid-April, IDMC launched its annual report *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2007* at a press conference in Geneva. The report was presented by NRC Secretary-General Elisabeth Rasmusson, with UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres invited as a keynote speaker. The conference was followed by a meeting with donors.



Arnhild Spence, Resident Representative of NRC in Geneva and António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, at the Launch of the Global Overview, Geneva, April 2008. The Global Overview (right) can be downloaded at www.internal-displacement.org/publications.
Photo: Rachel Dolores, IDMC.

In 2007, the estimated number of people displaced within their countries by armed conflicts and violence passed the 26 million mark, the highest global total since the early 1990s. Africa hosted almost half of the global IDP population (12.7 million) and generated nearly half of the world's newly displaced (1.6 million). The region with the largest relative increase in the internally displaced population during 2007 was the Middle East, where a rise of nearly 30 per cent was mainly caused by a continuing deterioration of security conditions in Iraq.



Session on the Guiding Principles

During UNHCR's annual consultations with NGOs in June, IDMC organised a special session to mark the tenth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Panellists highlighted the achievements of the Guiding Principles in providing a framework to enable institutions including national authorities to respond to internal displacement. However, considerable challenges continue to prevent their implementation on the ground. Elizabeth Ferris, co-director of the Brookings/Bern Project on Internal Displacement, called for strengthened efforts to

disseminate the Guiding Principles, including among displaced communities, so they can better advocate for their own rights. She highlighted the need to provide more guidance on how to use the Guiding Principles and make them operational. UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner Erika Feller confirmed that the Guiding Principles have become a monitoring and assessment reference for profiling IDP populations and a framework for developing assistance strategies and training activities with counterparts.

Thematic initiatives

IDP Profiling

In May 2008, IDMC launched the *Guidance on Profiling Internally Displaced Persons* (edited jointly with OCHA's Displacement and Protection Support Section - DPSS) at the opening of an international workshop on IDP profiling in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The workshop, organised by UNHCR and the Institute for Training and Demographic Research (IFORD), aimed to take stock of recent profiling exercises and discuss good practices, and to provide a platform for exchange and networking between academic and humanitarian organisations working on IDP profiling issues.

Urban displacement

IDMC organised a one-day seminar in Geneva in May 2008 to present a provisional release of the study *Profiling Internally Displaced People in Urban Settings*. IDMC commissioned the Feinstein Center at Tufts University to study models to improve the collection of data on populations displaced by conflict into cities. Its main aim was to develop a methodology to estimate the number and distribution of IDPs in urban areas and provide a snapshot of their humanitarian and protection needs in comparison with non-IDPs. The project involved three case studies, in Khartoum (Sudan), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Santa Marta (Colombia).

The seminar included a briefing on the methodology used and the lessons learned for future research into internally displaced urban populations. In the morning, the background of the study was explained and its main findings were

presented to representatives of donor organisations and other decision makers within the humanitarian community. The afternoon session for profiling experts and practitioners addressed the technical details of urban profiling and the practical challenges encountered during the pilot study. The workshop participants provided very useful feedback on ways to refine the methodology and the feasibility of future studies in other cities.



Seminar on urban displacement, Geneva, May 2008
Photo: Rachel Dolores, IDMC

IDMC also presented the study's objectives and methodology at the Yaoundé workshop on IDP profiling and at the Global Protection Cluster Working Group meeting held in Geneva in June. Further inter-agency discussions will explore ways of building on the project's findings.

IDP Law and Policy Manual

In May, IDMC participated in a Vienna seminar to review the draft of the *IDP Law and Policy Manual*. The seminar was organised by the Brookings/Bern Project on Internal Displacement, the Boltzman Institute on Human Rights and the UN's Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs, Walter Kälin. IDMC chaired two sessions and reported on two more.

The seminar represented the last phase of a three-year drafting process overseen by a Steering Committee of experts on IDP issues (UNHCR, ILO, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, and IDMC). Both the *Manual* and the studies will be launched in October on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Housing, Land and Property

IDMC's adviser on housing, land and property issues ran a session on property restitution issues and another one on the IDP Law and Policy Manual at the fourth San Remo Course on Internal Displacement. The Course, led by the RSG on Internal Displacement, is open to participants from governments, administration, parliamentarians and civil society dealing with internal displacement issues.

Displaced children

IDMC served on the advisory team of a report by the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict that assessed the protection and humanitarian concerns of children caught in the Sri Lankan civil war. In collaboration with human rights organizations and Sri Lankan civil society groups, IDMC launched the report in Geneva at a side event to the June session of the Human Rights Council. The event aimed to highlight the impact on children of the humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka; the key note speaker was Philip Alston, the UN's Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions.

IDP database and information

Website statistics April-June 2008

- 24,000 monthly visitors
- 50,000 monthly visits
- 32,000 documents downloaded per month
- 4,500 downloads of the *Global Overview*

Country profile updates

- Côte d'Ivoire 10 April
- Uganda 24 April
- Pakistan 15 May
- Burundi 19 May
- Nepal 19 June
- Senegal 26 June

All these and earlier updates are available on the IDP database at www.internal-displacement.org.

IDP Maps

IDMC has increased its efforts to create maps highlighting IDP information and visualising the geographical distribution and movements of the displaced. IDMC created maps for Senegal, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Philippines. All maps produced by IDMC as well as a broad selection of other IDP maps can be found at www.internal-displacement.org/maps.

IDMC has collaborated with the mapping project SHOW(R) to set up an innovative IDP map putting the country size in relation to the size of the local IDP population. The map is available at <http://show.mappingworlds.nl>.

News alert

IDMC published eleven news alerts, which included 58 stories sourcing essential news on displacement events in 23 countries. Readers can access an archive of alerts and request weekly notifications from any country at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/subscribe>.

Multimedia

In line with efforts to explore multimedia to reach a wider range of stakeholders, IDMC has set up a video page on YouTube, available at www.youtube.com/idpfilms. Visitors to the page can view the flash presentation *A Heavy Burden*, derived from IDMC's IDP Voices project focusing on the living conditions and protection concerns of displaced people in Georgia.

Information source for media

The annual report on the global situation of IDPs received coverage by a broad range of international and national media as well as all the major international news agencies. Several national newspapers published related features, while on the basis of IDMC's IDP figures, the monthly newspaper *Le Monde Diplomatique* created maps for an lead article on the plight of the displaced.

Monitoring and Advocacy

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

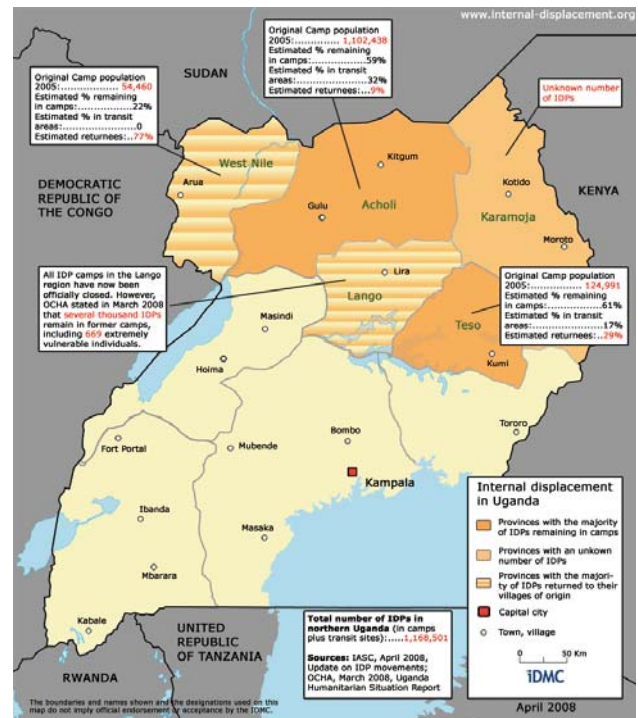
In April, IDMC released a country update on Côte d'Ivoire. Although the 2007 Ouagadougou Peace Accord has enabled some displaced people to return to their homes or resettle in another area of the country, the report highlighted how many IDPs still cannot return or resettle, because of unresolved land and property issues, insecurity in some areas of return and lack of assistance.

In an effort to support local efforts to tackle those challenges, and at the request of the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims, the government's focal point on IDP issues, IDMC and the NRC's country office in Côte d'Ivoire drafted a document on good practices on property restitution and compensation mechanisms. Examples from around the world were drawn from the IDMC's database and consultations with partners in Geneva. The document will inform current government restitution and compensation efforts for IDPs and war victims.

Uganda

In April, IDMC released a country update on Uganda. The peace negotiations between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army came to a halt in early April 2008 when the LRA leader Joseph Kony failed to sign a Final Peace Agreement.

As highlighted in the report, lack of security guarantees for IDPs form a major obstacle to the return process, as does the lack of access to basic services in the return areas. At the same time, humanitarian conditions in the IDP camps remain very poor, while conditions in some transit sites are even worse, with very little access to clean water and sanitation. Meanwhile, the crisis in the north-eastern Karamoja region continues unabated. As documented in the report, forced disarmament operations have led to intense clashes between Karamojong warriors and the Ugandan army, resulting in displacement in and near the region.



Internal displacement in Uganda, April 2008, IDMC

In May, IDMC and the NRC office in Uganda coordinated the release of a global NGO statement *There is Still Hope* in different capitals around the world in a coordinated advocacy campaign. The statement urged the Government of Uganda and the international community not to abandon the peace process in northern Uganda prematurely, and to build on the progress that has been made so far.

IDMC also provided input to the government's *Camp Closure Guidelines*, which set out the conditions under which IDP camps can be closed down in northern Uganda.

The IDMC country analyst gave oral evidence to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Uganda's obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

At the end of June, the IDMC country analyst gave a presentation at a workshop at the Refugee Studies Centre in Oxford on durable solutions for IDPs in northern Uganda and in southern Sudan. The presentation focused on the general expectation that IDPs take charge of rebuilding their own lives and of redeveloping the regions to which they return, regardless of the difficulties they face after having been displaced for many years.

Zimbabwe

Following the elections of March 2008, IDMC published five special bulletins on the Zimbabwe country page with information on internal displacement caused by post-election violence. The bulletins provided lists of documented instances of displacement, using information from Zimbabwean NGOs and faith-based organisations.

Kenya

IDMC participated in an April meeting to launch the Humanitarian Policy Group Policy Briefing *Crisis in Kenya: Land, Displacement and the Search for 'Durable Solutions'*. The Briefing analysed post-election displacement, resettlement and return in relation to land issues in Kenya. The UK Foreign Office, DFID, Kenya Mission to the UK, media, representatives of various INGOs, and academics attended. IDMC highlighted the need for the government to adopt a national IDP policy promoting durable solutions.

IDMC also gave a presentation at the annual Faculty of Social Work seminar in May at the Catholic University, Eichstaett, Germany, on the post-election violence and displacement in Kenya. Participants at the seminar included academics, German NGOs and senior staff from the German immigration department.

Nigeria

In May, IDMC submitted a shadow report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In its report, IDMC drew the Committee's attention to the scope of the problem and the lack of information on the situation of women and girls internally displaced by conflict and generalised violence in Nigeria.

In the course of the consideration of Nigeria's sixth periodic report, the Committee took up some of the questions highlighted by the IDMC, and in its final recommendations, the Committee requested the government of Nigeria to pay particular attention to the needs of IDP women through the adoption of a national policy on internal displacement and the formulation of gender-sensitive plans for IDPs.

Burundi

In May, IDMC released a country update on Burundi. Despite a marked improvement in the security situation, some 100,000 IDPs remain in settlements throughout the country, while an unknown number still live with host families. Many IDPs seem to have to a large extent integrated into the communities of neighbouring towns and villages, but there is little information on their situation. The report highlighted the need to improve the coordination of assistance and the importance of more accurate information on IDPs' needs and aspirations.



*Displaced children in Burundi, 2008.
Photo: Astrid Sehl, NRC*

In May, IDMC coordinated and drafted the NRC part of a joint NRC-UNHCR paper on property restitution to inform a meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on Burundi on land issues. The purpose of the paper was to guide the participants on good practices and lessons learned in other post-conflict countries on resolving land and property issues.

Senegal

In June, IDMC released a country update on Senegal. The overview highlighted the patterns of displacement in Senegal's southern region of Casamance, the existing protection and humanitarian concerns and the obstacles to IDPs' sustainable reintegration. The report suggested that recovery and reintegration efforts, in the form of extended humanitarian mine-clearance operations and conflict resolution mechanisms, should be independent from political solutions to the conflict between the government and the separatist Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC).

Asia

Pakistan

In May, IDMC released a country update on Pakistan. The report focused on the recent displacement of hundreds of thousands of people as a result of military operations against armed opposition groups in the country. The report emphasized that the largest displacement in Asia in 2007 had taken place in Pakistan, and that many of those displaced were receiving little aid as the government denied the access of humanitarian agencies to the IDPs. IDMC urged donors and agencies to press the government to improve their access to the displaced populations.



Internal Displacement in Pakistan, May 2008, IDMC

Nepal

In May, IDMC released a country update on Nepal. Despite a peace agreement signed 18 months ago between the Maoist rebels and the Nepalese government, an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 people displaced by ten years of civil war are still unable to return to their homes.

Most are prevented from doing so by unresolved land and property issues, insecurity and a lack of assistance from the government. For those who

have managed to return home since the end of hostilities in 2006, the main challenge has been to re-establish a livelihood in areas hard hit by the war, where state institutions and services have only been partly restored.

The report drew attention to the lack of reintegration assistance and the instability in much of the country undermining the sustainability of the returns. The government issued a new IDP policy in 2007, but has failed to provide clear guidance on its implementation. IDMC urged the government to approve IDP directives to ensure that the displaced get the assistance they need.



A displaced family in Nepal's southern Terai belt.

Photo: NRC Nepal

Middle East

Israel

On 24 April, IDMC participated in a conference entitled *Palestine/Israel 1948-2008: Breaking the Silence of Displacement* where Palestinian Israeli and Israeli Jewish organisations, activists, lawyers and politicians provided social and political perspectives on questions of displacement and exclusion in Israel.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

At the end of June, IDMC submitted a letter to the newly appointed Special Representative on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967. The advocacy document aimed to brief the Special Rapporteur and underline IDMC's concerns about forced displacement in the OPT. IDMC called upon the Special Rapporteur to address the question of forced displacement, which has largely been ignored by the international community.

Turkey

At the end of June, IDMC took part in informal consultations with representatives of NGOs, civil society organisations and EU delegations and representatives. IDMC also provided a written submission to the Directorate General for the European Commission's Progress Report on Turkey, outlining concerns on situations of displacement from June 2007 to June 2008. The submission underlined the persistent security concerns affecting areas of return, concerns regarding compensation mechanisms, and the need to emphasise durable solutions in national action plans.

Europe

Russian Federation

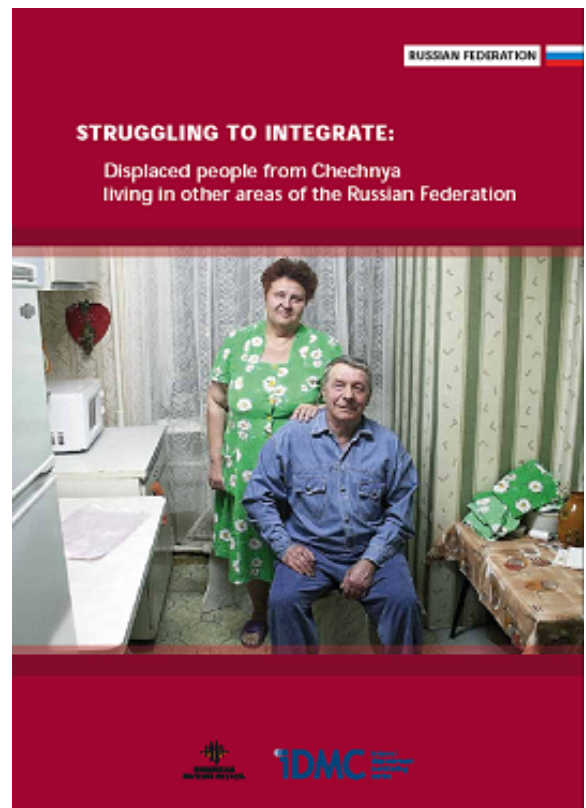
Between 7-11 April, IDMC co-organised an exhibition entitled *Europe's Darkest Corner: Photographs from Chechnya 1994-2007* at the European Parliament. The photo exhibition was followed by a conference on the human rights situation in Chechnya entitled *Human Rights in Chechnya: What Can the EU Do?* The photos can be viewed at www.internal-displacement.org/countries/russianfederation.

Both events aimed at increasing EU officials' awareness of ongoing human rights violations in Chechnya. As a result, a number of members of the European Parliament committed to taking information learned from the events into account in their work. Another outcome of both events was a stronger link between IDMC, NGOs in Brussels and the members of the European Parliament who sponsored the event.



Photos of Chechnya on show at the European Parliament. Photo: Nadine Walicki, IDMC

At the end of June, IDMC published a Special Country Report on the situation of IDPs from Chechnya living outside the north Caucasus. The report entitled *Struggling to Integrate: Displaced People from Chechnya Living in Other Areas of the Russian Federation* followed a fact-finding mission to Russia in March 2008. One of the main findings of the report was that some 15 years on, many of these IDPs are still struggling to integrate at their current residences because they lack documents and permanent housing.



Special country Report on displaced people from Chechnya, April 2008, IDMC

The report recommended that the government facilitate the issuance of documents for IDPs and include IDPs in need of permanent housing in a better funded housing programme. The report will be translated into Russian and sent to the Government of the Russian Federation, European institutions (European Union, Council of Europe and OSCE), UN agencies (UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR), other international organisations (the World Bank, ICRC, the Danish Refugee Council), international human rights organisations, Russian human rights NGOs, and the Russian Human Rights Commissioner and media.

Training and Protection

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Training Assessment Mission

From 12-16 May, IDMC and the NRC country office in Goma, DRC, met with humanitarian and UN counterparts to develop a project proposal for a workshop that would follow up on the mission of the Representative of the Secretary General for the Human Rights of IDPs in February.

The two workshops would respectively target high-level authorities and members of the IASC Protection Cluster at the national level, in particular to focus on state responsibility to protect and assist IDPs. The project proposal will be discussed and developed further by the Protection Cluster members with a view to holding the workshops in November 2008

Kenya

Training of Trainers Workshop (TOT)

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Title | IDP Protection and the UN Guiding Principles |
| Location | Nakuru, Kenya |
| Date | 1-4 April |
| Participants: | NGO workers including Kenya Red Cross |
| Number: | 20 |

Following the two workshops held in Kenya in March 2008, IDMC and UNHCR organised and co-facilitated a trainers' workshop. During the four-day workshop, participants were introduced to the principles of adult learning and explored how to do a learning needs assessment, develop learning objectives and to structure a learning session. They also practiced presentation skills and facilitated a session on a topic relating to internal displacement.

Following the workshop, UNHCR committed to developing a partnership with these Kenyan

NGOs and to devise a training programme to meet the needs in the different regions of Kenya.

Assessment Mission and Training workshop

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Title | IDP Protection and the UN Guiding Principles |
| Location: | Nairobi, Kenya |
| Date: | 7-8 May |
| Participants: | Staff and Commissioners of the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR) and staff of the Ministry for Special Programmes |
| Number: | 25 |

IDMC joined the Brookings-Bern Project in a pilot capacity-building project for African National Human Rights Institutions. Over two days, with input from the Kenya Red Cross, the Kituo Cha Sharia Centre, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya and UNHCR, participants examined the protection risks faced by IDPs, the activities of by different organisations and the principles relating to return and other durable solutions.

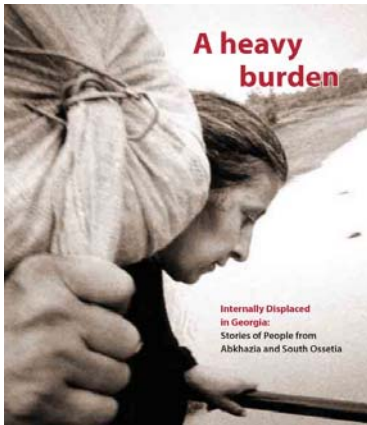
The KNCHR subsequently reviewed its strategy and work plan relative to internal displacement. The KNCHR also had the opportunity to exchange with and better understand how the humanitarian community, in particular the Kenya Red Cross and the UNHCR, is working and has been included in the existing coordination and response mechanisms.



Participants at the workshop in Nairobi, May 2008, present their findings and recommendations to a fictitious inter-ministerial committee in a role play exercise. Photo: Kim Mancini, IDMC

IDP Voices - Georgia

In April, IDMC, NRC Georgia and Panos London presented the Georgian IDP Voices project and launched the book *A Heavy Burden: Internally Displaced People in Georgia: Stories from Abkhazia and South Ossetia*.



A Heavy Burden, published in English, Georgian and Russian, presents 13 accounts of IDPs from Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The stories reveal issues that go beyond typical assistance and protection needs and touch on values, identity, feelings and emotions.

The launch took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, with speeches by the Georgian Deputy Minister of Refugees and Accommodations, a representative of the Abkhaz government in exile, the NRC Regional Director for South Caucasus and Central Asia, and Georgian IDPs.



Launch of the book in Tbilisi, April 2008.
Photo: Anne Sophie Lois, IDMC

In June, IDMC organised a side event to UNHCR's Annual Consultations with NGOs to launch the project in Geneva. Panellists including UNHCR Deputy Director for Europe Udo Janz and Panos London Oral Testimony Director Siobhan Warrington. IDMC also presented an audio-visual presentation highlighting the main messages from the stories.

Currently, the communication department is promoting the IDP Voices materials, the book, the website, and the audio-visual presentation among IDMC's partners and interested organisations. It is our aim that the stories will be widely circulated and used by governments, the UN, NGOs, and IDPs themselves, to give them a deeper understanding of the concerns of people displaced in Georgia.

Financial situation

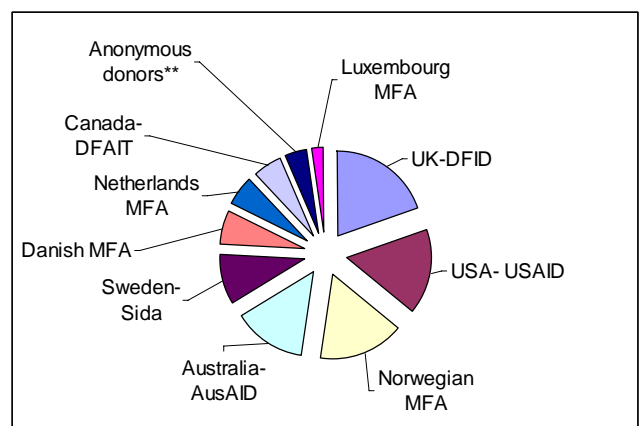
Financial summary

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Amount pledged as of 30 June: | \$ 2,360,000 |
| Amount received as of 30 June: | \$ 840,000 |
| Expenses as of 30 June: | \$ 1,265,000 |

Thank you for supporting IDMC

We would like to particularly thank UK-DFID, USA-USAID, the Norwegian MFA, Australia-AusAID, Sweden's SIDA, the Danish MFA, the Dutch MFA, Canada's DFAIT, the Luxembourg MFA and anonymous donors for their pledged or received contribution 2008.

Pledged/received contribution Jan-June 2008 (Cross-year pledges are calculated pro-rata for 2008 only)



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