



Quarterly Update

January-March 2008

Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the activities of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 January and 31 March 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.

IDMC Developments

New Communications Department

Following the 2007 restructuring process within IDMC, and to improve capacity to pass information and expertise to decision-makers and media, the new Communications Department was created. This Department is responsible for the IDP Voices project, editing and publishing, web development and external relations.

Arnhild Spence, new Resident Representative in Geneva



On 10 March 2008, Arnhild Spence succeeded Paul Nesse as Resident Representative of NRC in Geneva. Ms Spence has broad and varied experience from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a range of international organisations and think tanks, including NATO, the EU, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs. She has recently worked in OCHA and IFRC to strengthen system-wide coordination of humanitarian operations, policy and financing. A key priority for NRC in Geneva is to further

develop our partnerships with the UN system, not least through a continued active participation in the implementation of humanitarian reform.

New web assistant

In March, Rachel Dolores joined IDMC as new Database and Web Assistant. By increasing the capacity of its web team, IDMC is strengthening the support to its core activity, the Global IDP Database, to ensure timely and high-quality publication of country information. Apart from maintaining and developing the IDMC's main website, the web team's priorities for 2008 are the further development of the IDP Voices website, the production of audio-visual information material and the review of the format of the IDP Database.

New country analyst

In March, Laura Perez replaced Mpako Foaleng as Country Analyst for West and Central Africa

IDPs high on the Agenda

Tenth anniversary of the Guiding Principles

2008 will mark the tenth anniversary of the UN's Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. With NRC in Oslo, IDMC provided input in the development of the agenda for a special event to be held in Oslo in October. The two-day event will comprise a high-level conference, with representatives of governments and UN officials, followed by a conference for practitioners and IDP advocates, to review the impact and use of the Guiding Principles and their further promotion. IDMC has also taken the lead to organize a special panel on the Guiding Principles during UNHCR annual consultations on June 26.

Good Humanitarian Donorship

In February, IDMC attended the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) working group meeting on displaced persons in emergency settings chaired by Ky Luu, Director of USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. The terms of reference for the case studies were discussed during the meeting and an update on the studies will be provided at the GHD implementation group in April.

Joint advocacy on Colombia

Since the selection of Colombia as one of its priority countries, IDMC has built up a broad range of contacts with civil society institutions and contributed to bridge the gap between IDPs and decision-makers nationally and internationally. IDMC has produced one in-depth report on the general IDP situation, one thematic report on the nexus between commercial activity in conflict zones and displacement, one book of life stories and one website as part of the IDP Voices project, one study on the urban displacement situation, and numerous briefing papers, presentations and articles.

As part of efforts to enhance the rights of IDPs, IDMC carried out in March an advocacy mission to high-level decision makers in Washington and New York in close collaboration with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). After meeting IDMC and WOLA in Washington, the US Congress started to reconsider its support to oil palm plantations as a means to mitigate forced displacement and eradicate coca growing in Colombia.



Presentation of the Colombia IDP voices project at Brookings Institution, Washington. Photo: Arild Birkenes, IDMC

NGO-UNHCR retreat on protection

IDMC took part in the third NGO-UNHCR Global Retreat on International Protection in March, where protection under the cluster approach, and the lead agency role of UNHCR for the global protection cluster were discussed. NGOs highlighted the need for UNHCR to develop a qualified protection workforce dedicated to IDPs. IDMC also advocated for more consistency in the UN protection response, and the particular need for protection advocacy work in challenging human rights environments.

Thematic initiatives

Housing, land and property activities

In February, IDMC participated in a conference organised by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London on “Land, Conflict and Humanitarian Action”. The conference gathered land and humanitarian practitioners and academics and highlighted the importance of addressing land disputes in the immediate post-conflict phase; this would call for a better understanding of land issues by humanitarians and increased cooperation with land experts. The conference highlighted the benefits which could be obtained from the combination of both areas of expertise.

The IDMC Advisor on housing, land and property (HLP) continued to participate in the Protection sub-cluster on HLP and contributed to the drafting of the sub-cluster’s workplan for 2008.

Displaced Children

In March, IDMC made a written submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding Uganda’s obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

IDMC served on the Advisory Team of a report on Sri Lanka by the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict. This report sought to highlight the violations against children caught in the armed conflict in Sri Lanka, and to urge policy-makers to take immediate action to protect children in the country.

IDMC also provided input on an advocacy document prepared by the Watchlist for UN Security Council members that called for a new resolution on Children in Armed Conflict in order to build on the gains achieved so far, address existing gaps, and ensure progress in ending violations of the rights of children.

Urban displacement

The third and last in a series of three urban displacement studies was carried out in Santa Marta, Colombia in January and February in collaboration with the NRC country office. The study is a joint IDMC/Tufts University undertaking. The IDMC consultant organised interviews of 900 households to reflect population estimates, living conditions and protection issues of the IDPs compared with non-displaced people within the city. The results of the Santa Marta study will be used, with the results from two other studies carried out in Khartoum and Abidjan, to develop a research tool to assess assistance and protection needs in urban settings. The three cases studies and the overall findings and conclusions will be presented at a seminar in Geneva on 27 May.

In March, the Brookings Institution hosted a half-day seminar in Washington focusing on key findings from the urban displacement study. The seminar was aimed at an academic and humanitarian public to present the findings and get feedback on the methodology.

Human rights-based advocacy with UN system

IDMC continued its rights-based advocacy activities in co-operation with the UN human rights system. The office contributed three reports to treaty bodies, in this instance, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In addition, IDMC continued its engagement in the Human Rights Council's new Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and made submissions regarding situations of internal displacement in two countries to be reviewed during the second session of the Review in May 2008.

Protection Cluster

IDMC continued to participate in the coordination and cooperation initiatives developed in the framework of the global Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG). It contributed to the finalisation of the PCWG workplan for 2008, with the view of ensuring feasibility given available resources and capacity.

IDMC's contribution to inter-agency initiatives will focus primarily on the dissemination of the inter-agency IDP Protection Handbook, support to coordination with regard to training (including with the mapping of training resources) and contribution to the development of training modules on protection coordination, and tools for protection information management. IDMC also participated in the PCWG working group on housing, land and property.

The IDP Website

Key facts January - March 2008

- 21,000 monthly visitors
- 54,000 monthly visits
- 25,000 documents downloaded per month
- Visits from 177 countries
- 5,500 subscribers to IDMC newsletters

News alert

IDMC published ten news alerts, which included 48 stories sourcing essential news on displacement events in 26 countries. News alerts present a summary of displacement situations as they develop, and they are now published on a weekly basis to keep readers up-to-date. Readers can access an archive of alerts and request weekly notifications from any country at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/subscribe>.

Web developments

On the occasion of the photo exhibition "Europe's Darkest Corner: Photographs from Chechnya 1994-2007" in the European Parliament, IDMC developed a web page with photo galleries and conference information. Pictures are by six well-known photographers including Heidi Bradner, Thomas Dworzak, and Mikhail Galustov, and they were taken in the last decade in Chechnya and Ingushetia. The page is available at www.internal-displacement.org/chechnyaevent.

Country profile updates

Mexico 22 January 2008
Myanmar (Burma) 14 February 2008

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

Otherwise the publication of country updates gave way, as always during the first months of the year, to the compilation of information for IDMC's annual review of displacement, "Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2007".

Monitoring & Advocacy

Africa

Uganda

In January, IDMC organized a briefing on the situation in northern Uganda for donor missions and UN agencies (OCHA, UNHCR, UNDP). The event was hosted by the Permanent Mission of the UK in Geneva. The NRC's Protection and Advocacy Advisor in northern Uganda, Jessica Huber, provided an overview of the current challenges there. Her presentation was followed by a discussion on the role of Uganda's donors and UN agencies in facilitating the transition from humanitarian emergency to early recovery and development.

Following the donor briefing, the IDMC country analyst for Uganda worked closely with OCHA to set up a Uganda contact group in Geneva. IDMC co-chairs the Uganda NGO group in Geneva, and in that capacity coordinated a letter to the US mission in Geneva on the occasion of the release of a US Congressional letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon regarding the situation in northern Uganda. The NGO letter called on the US to lead by example in providing generous funding for Uganda's Peace, Recovery and Development Plan.

Zimbabwe

IDMC conducted a field mission to Zimbabwe in February to look into the current situation of internally displaced people in the country. After the mis-

sion, IDMC briefed the IASC in Geneva, and had meetings with OHCHR, OCHA (DPSS and GMCS), UNHCR (PCWG, DIPS, IDP Support Section, Africa Bureau, and the Statelessness Unit), and with the RSG's staff at UNHCR. The meetings focused on IDP protection, and the challenges faced by the Protection Working Group in Zimbabwe.



30 families, evicted from their homes in 2005, living in makeshift shelters in Mbare, Harare. Photo: Katinka Ridderbos, IDMC

Kenya

IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to Kenya in March to assess the post-election displacement situation and in particular the protection and assistance needs. The mission identified gaps and problems in the response provided. Of particular concern was the Kenya's government return and resettlement programme outlined in the "National Reconciliation and Emergency Social and Economic Recovery Strategy Paper" and which carried a time frame of 100 days for return, considered unrealistic by most stakeholders. IDMC raised these concerns both at the IASC and the Global Protection Cluster Working Group meetings in Geneva. Information gathered during the mission will be used to prepare a report as well as to update the Kenya country profile in June.

Asia

Sri Lanka and Pakistan

In February, ahead of a UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session, in which the Council assesses the human rights record of its member states, the IDMC submitted reports on Pakistan and Sri Lanka, focusing on the human rights abuses and protection concerns of internally displaced people in the two countries. Recommendations in the reports included a call to the Government of Pakistan to stop the army from carrying out indiscriminate bombardment of villages which is causing the displacement of civilians, and to the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that all returns of internally displaced persons are voluntary and based on their informed

consent. Material from the IDMC submissions has been incorporated in the UPR shadow reports on Pakistan and Sri Lanka compiled by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

India

In March, IDMC submitted a report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by its state parties. The IDMC report noted that while the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of IDPs in India is generally restricted, the different levels of assistance and protection provided by authorities to various displaced groups often leads to further denial of these rights.

Myanmar (Burma)

In February, IDMC released a country update on Myanmar (Burma) which has one of the worst internal displacement situations in Asia. While most international attention has focused on the conflict between the military government and pro-democracy forces, IDMC has consistently strived to emphasize a second, lesser known, conflict in the country which has involved massive human rights violations and caused the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people belonging to ethnic minorities. In its latest update, IDMC highlighted how despite intense international focus on the human rights situation in Myanmar (Burma) in 2007, forced displacement, as a result of conflict and human rights violations, is ongoing on a large scale in minority ethnic areas.

Middle East

Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israel, Syria

IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Syria (Golan Heights), Israel and Jordan in late February and early March. IDMC visited over 16 urban and rural localities to gather information for country updates and further develop advocacy activities.



Palestinian Israeli Bedouin with his grandchild in an unrecognised Bedouin village in Negev. Photo: Karim Khalil, IDMC

In February, IDMC prepared a joint advocacy document which was submitted at the seventh session of the Human Rights Council session on the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the OPT. The document highlighted the protection and humanitarian concerns related to forced displacement there. IDMC emphasised the continuing forced displacement in contravention of human rights and humanitarian law, and the humanitarian needs to be addressed in the OPT and particularly in Gaza. IDMC networked with several agencies in the OPT, particularly members of the Displacement Inter-Agency Working Group. A joint advocacy document elaborated by NRC, CARE International, MSF and other NGOs in the OPT was presented at the seventh session of the Human Rights Council.

Iraq (Amman, Jordan)

A brief mission was made in early March to Amman, Jordan, to acquire first hand knowledge on recent development in the humanitarian response in Iraq. Discussions were held with the IDP Working Group, and meetings were held with organisations including UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, NCCI and IOM. Based on these discussions, an updated brief was developed to raise awareness on the situation of displacement in Iraq, and initiatives are currently being discussed for possible advocacy activities. A briefing was provided in March on the displacement situation in Iraq to a Congressional mission of the United States Government Accountability Office.

Europe

Russian Federation

IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to the Russian Federation in March 2008, to assess the human rights situation of IDPs from Chechnya living outside the North Caucasus. During the mission, IDMC visited seven areas and interviewed 40 IDPs and the lawyers representing them.

With the information collected, IDMC made a submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and will publish an in-depth report at the end of May. The report will be sent to European institutions (European Union, Council of Europe and OSCE), UN agencies (UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR), other international organisations (World Bank, ICRC, Danish Refugee Council), the Government of the Russian Federation, international human rights organisations, Russian human rights NGOs and the media.



Pyatigorsk, Russia: an elderly IDP woman from Chechnya. Photo: Nadine Walicki, IDMC

The Americas

Colombia

In February 2008, the Washington Office for Latin America (WOLA) and IDMC conducted a joint fact-finding mission to establish the relations between palm oil cultivation and internal displacement in Nariño and Cauca in southern Colombia. The mission met with representatives of local and national authorities and representatives of the Afro-Colombian community councils in the two departments.

In March, preliminary findings indicating that palm oil plantations aggravate the internal displacement situation in Colombia were presented to US Congress, Library of Congress, USAID and US State Department officials, researchers and international institutions and NGOs in Washington and New York.



Palm oil plantations in Cauca, southern Colombia. Photo: Arild Birkenes, IDMC

Training and Protection

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Title	Inter-Agency seminar on the protection of IDPs in the West Bank
Location	Bethlehem
Date	27-28 March
Participants:	Members of the inter-agency displacement working group (UN agencies, international NGOs, Palestinian and Israeli civil society organizations)
Number	30

Context

Internal displacement has long been ignored by national and international organisations working in the OPT. Following an assessment mission in January, IDMC developed and conducted the workshop jointly with OCHA's Displacement and Protection Support Section.

Objectives

The workshop aimed to ensure that members of the displacement working group assess the protection risks and needs of IDPs in the West Bank using a common framework based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and other relevant approaches.

The workshop participants aimed to develop an appropriate coordinated workplan in accordance with their responsibility, mandate, and capacities, in response to IDPs' protection needs in the West Bank.

Content

The participants reviewed the Guiding Principles definition of an IDP and its relevance in the OPT. Presentations of existing patterns of forced displacement in the West Bank were given by various NGOs and discussed by the participants. The international legal framework applicable to the protection of IDPs was also detailed, with the support of the UN OHCHR and the ICRC. They then identified existing protection concerns facing IDPs and mapped the current response and gaps, both with regard to prevention of displacement and protection during displacement (emergency and post-emergency phase).

Finally, the participants developed a draft action plan indicating activities and steps which should be undertaken collectively or individually by organisations on behalf of the group.

Outcome

Participants agreed on a common action plan for the displacement working group, despite their very different mandates, with some being operational and others more advocacy-oriented. The workplan identified priority activities, and responsibilities for their implementation; it is to be used as the action framework by the group.

The workshop also brought some clarification on the IDP definition and its relevance in the OPT. Though not strictly IDPs, displaced refugees in the OPT fall also victims of forced displacement, and it was agreed that they should also be in the focus of the working group.

As this workshop addressed displacement in the West Bank, it was agreed that a training workshop should also be conducted for the relevant organisations in the Gaza strip. Furthermore, the UN agency for the Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) is considering to strengthen its role in protection issues and has approached the IDMC to plan a workshop for its staff.



Training session in Bethlehem, OPT. Photo: Christophe Beau, IDMC

Togo

Title	Training component of an evaluation mission
Location	Lomé
Date	30-31 January
Participants:	Staff and commissioners of the Togolese Human Rights Commission
Number	26

Context

IDMC teamed up with the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement to develop a partnership with the Togolese Human Rights Commission (THRC) to strengthen its capacity to address issues of internal displacement in Togo.

Following the Declaration made by African National Human Rights Institutions in October 2007 about the protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, IDMC joined the Brookings evaluation mission and facilitated a workshop on internal displacement in Togo.

Objectives

The workshop component of the evaluation mission aimed to give staff and commissioners the opportunity to assess internal displacement in Togo using the UN Guiding Principles. Also, it aimed to permit participants to examine the role of the THRC in the context of the roles and activities of other organizations working in Togo.

Content

Through group and plenary discussions participants identified the groups of IDPs in Togo and assessed the response to the displacement which occurred in 2005 following election-related violence. The assistance provided to refugees displaced by the same events was significantly greater than to IDPs and institutional gaps were highlighted. The successful efforts made by the THRC and other organisations in the year leading up to the December 2007 elections were considered to demonstrate the important role of the THRC in contributing to the prevention of displacement.

Outcome

The staff and commissioners of the Togolese HRC gained new knowledge about the UN Guiding Principles, the situation of the displaced in Togo and the national and international response mechanisms in particular. The THRC undertook to incorporate IDPs into their work plan and formulated recommendations to the Government to develop a legal framework, organise a national forum, put in place a data collection mechanism and national response mechanism.



Training session in Nakuru, Togo. Photo : Kim Mancini, IDMC

Kenya

Title	Workshops on IDP Protection and the UN Guiding Principles
Location	Nakuru and Eldoret
Date	5-6 and 26-27 March
Participants:	Government authorities, Kenya Red Cross and other Kenyan NGOs, Kenya National Commission for Human Rights, IRC, UNHCR, UNDP
Number	46

Context

Following the displacement of an estimated 300,000 people in Kenya due to post-electoral violence in December 2007. UNHCR Kenya, on behalf of the IASC Protection Cluster, asked IDMC to provide protection training support for workers assisting IDPs on the ground.

Objectives

The primary aim of the workshops was to support the field workers to examine the displacement situation and the humanitarian response on the basis of their experience using the Guiding Principles and other existing frameworks. The workshops also served as the basis for an advanced “Training of Trainers” workshop to follow in April and for future training activities.

Content

Participants analysed and examined the risks and needs of IDPs as well as their organizations’ respective roles and assistance activities in light of the Guiding Principles and the human rights of IDPs.

The sessions carried out included: the IDP definition and profiling IDP populations; prevention and protection against arbitrary displacement; the protection risks and needs of IDPs during displacement; obstacles to and conditions for return and other durable solutions; the international human rights and humanitarian law basis of the Guiding Principles; state responsibility to protect; and humanitarian response.

Outcome

Participants identified inadequate knowledge of the Guiding Principles and human rights of IDPs, data collection on IDPs, response to the needs of IDPs in host communities and coordination. They undertook to disseminate what they had learned to colleagues and fellow NGO workers. They highlighted the need to empower IDP communities with this information but noted a need for support from international partners to increase the scope of their activities.

IDP Voices

IDP Voices on Colombia presented in USA

In March, IDMC presented core topics and messages from the IDP Voices project on Colombia in two seminars, in Washington and New York. One seminar with two panel discussions was organised in cooperation with the Brookings Institution in Washington, and around 100 participants attended; the other was organised by IDMC and held at the Church Centre in front of the UN in New York, and around 20 participants attended. Meetings were also held with members and staff members of the US Congress, Library of Congress, USAID and US State Department officials, researchers and concerned international institutions and NGOs in Washington and New York.

Most stakeholders, particularly in the US Congress, USAID and US State Department were well informed about the critical displacement situation and grateful to obtain fresh perspectives on the consequences of US policies for the IDPs in Colombia.

IDP Voices in Georgia

A new www.idpvoices.org page on Georgia was developed in three languages; English, Georgian and Russian.

IDMC also developed a rights-based section on that website based on 29 edited life stories from people from Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

A book on thirteen of these stories was as well developed in the three languages. The book will be launched in Tbilisi, Georgia on 30 April together with NRC Georgia. An audiovisual presentation was developed for the event, based on several life stories.



The IDP Voices project website, at www.idpvoices.org

Financial situation

Financial summary

Amount appealed for 2008: \$3,488,000

Amount pledged as of 31 March: \$1,251,634

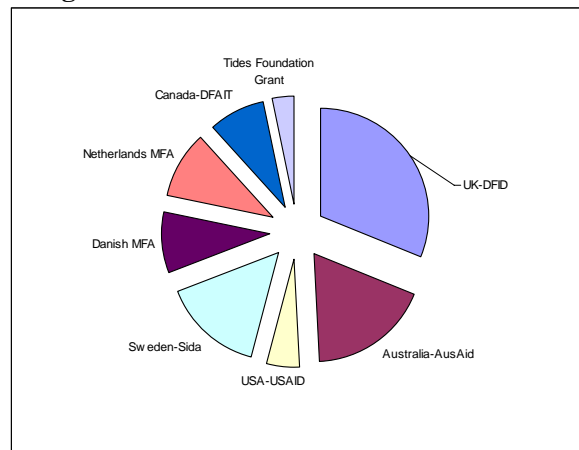
Amount received as of 31 March 2008: \$250,227

IDMC received the audit approval from Ernst & Young for the accounting 2007.

Thank you for supporting IDMC!

During the first quarter, 43 per cent of the budget was covered by pledges and received contributions. In this regard, we would like to thank particularly UK-DFID, Australia-AusAID, USA-USAID, Sweden-SIDA, the Danish MFA, the Netherlands MFA, Canada-DFAIT and Tides Foundation for their pledged or received contribution 2008.

Pledged/received contribution Jan-March 2008



Cash flow situation

We would like to raise your attention on the need to receive pledged contributions on an appropriate time-line. We had received at the end of this period only 16 per cent of the pledged contributions, which put IDMC in a delicate cash flow situation. We encourage our donors, when possible, to proceed to the fund transfer as soon as possible to enable us implement smoothly our projects.

Cluster Appeal

IDMC has mainstreamed its **cluster activities in its appeal** and therefore will not request any additional fund through the Global Capacity Building Appeal. Cluster activities amount \$500,000 for April 2008-March 2009 and correspond to HLP, Profiling and Training workshops in cluster countries.

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