



# Quarterly Update

July – September 2008

This Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 July and 30 September 2008. It is also available to be read online or downloaded at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

## IDMC Developments

### Kate Half, New Head of IDMC



On 1 July, Kate Half joined the IDMC team as its new Head. Previously, she worked for 15 years, primarily in East Africa, as Programme Director for ACF, Oxfam GB and

Save the Children UK. She also worked as Humanitarian Affairs Officer for OCHA, and as a humanitarian consultant, including in management training. More recently, she worked in Paris in the development of institutional partnerships for ACF.

### Nina M. Birkeland, New Head of Monitoring and Advocacy



On September 1, Nina M. Birkeland joined IDMC as its new Head of Monitoring and Advocacy Department. Nina has worked as a researcher and practitioner with internally

displaced persons and refugees since 1992, with a focus on humanitarian, development and environmental issues related to forced migration. She has worked with NRC and universities, as well as short term consultancies for the UN. She joins IDMC from NRC Uganda where she was Programme Director.

## IDPs High on the Agenda

### GP10 Conference Website

The [Website](#) for the high-level conference "Ten Years of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement – Achievements and Future Challenges" was launched in August. Apart from the programme and participants information, the website presents resources related to the Guiding Principles such as a document collection and a photo gallery.

For the GP10 website, IDMC has recorded a video message from the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Walter Kälin, highlighting the importance of the Guiding Principles and its tenth anniversary. Media information as well as videos and speeches from the conference will be available during the conference.



# Thematic Initiatives

## Displaced Children



A displaced Peuhl girl in Bocaranga, Central African Republic, July 2008.  
Photo: Laura Perez, IDMC

IDMC actively contributed to the work of the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict by participating in its strategic meeting for 2009-2010 and as part of the advisory team for the Watchlist's next report on Myanmar.

IDMC conducted a mission to the Central African Republic (CAR) from 9 July to 7 August as part of research for a country report on the situation of displaced children in CAR which will be published in November.

## Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

In July, IDMC's Adviser on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) conducted a joint field mission with the Country Analyst to Côte d'Ivoire in preparation for a report on HLP and displacement in the country. Against a background of tensions over the control and use of land, and the implementation of a law reforming rural land ownership, the report will focus on the impact of land disputes on the displaced, and on existing formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms. This thematic report will complement previous IDMC research on mechanisms to address land disputes in informal or customary ownership settings, and will identify good practices with a view to informing national and international response.

## Urban displacement

At the beginning of September, the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University and IDMC jointly launched the final reports of the pilot studies on urban displacement in Khartoum (Sudan), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Santa Marta (Colombia).

For each city, the studies compared the situation of both displaced and non-displaced populations and highlighted their specific vulnerabilities. Findings from the Abidjan pilot study were used by the humanitarian news agency IRIN at the end of September in an article on urban IDPs.

The aim of the Tufts-IDMC urban displacement project is to help all organisations which assist and promote the rights of IDPs in conflict-affected countries, by enabling them to collect and analyse information on people in less visible situations of displacement within towns and cities.

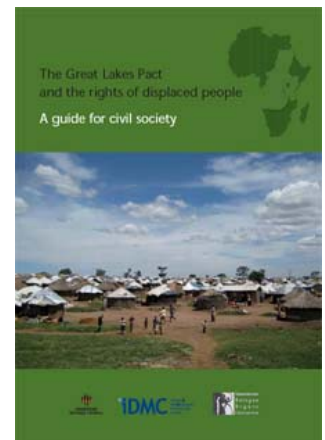
## Submissions to the Human Rights Council

IDMC made submissions reviewing the situation of IDPs, as well as achievements and gaps in the national response to internal displacement for Israel, Colombia (to be examined during the UPR 3<sup>rd</sup> session 2008), Senegal Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation (to be examined during the UPR 4<sup>th</sup> session 2009).

IDMC submissions for these countries can be found at the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/search.aspx>

## Great Lakes Guide

Following the entry into force in June 2008 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in Africa's Great Lakes region (the Great Lakes Pact), IDMC and the International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) released a guide entitled *The Great Lakes Pact and the Rights of Displaced People: A Guide for Civil Society*. The Guide, which can be downloaded in English or French at [www.internal-displacement.org/greatlakes](http://www.internal-displacement.org/greatlakes), aims to help NGOs and civil society organisations to use the Pact to promote the rights of refugees and IDPs in the region.



The Great Lakes Pact contains a number of instruments which stand to benefit the millions of displaced people in the region, most notably the Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Populations. The IDP Protocol is the first legally binding regional instrument that requires member states to incorporate the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into their national laws.

# Country-Based Reporting and News on IDPs

## Website statistics July-September 2008

- 20,000 monthly visitors
- 55,000 monthly visits
- 24,000 documents downloaded per month
- 5,500 subscribers to IDMC news

## Country profile updates

- Azerbaijan 14 July
- Lebanon 23 July
- Somalia 29 July
- Guatemala 12 August
- Philippines 19 August
- Sri Lanka 27 August
- Bosnia and Herzegovina 28 August
- Georgia 29 August
- Occupied Palestinian Territory 10 September
- Dem. Republic of the Congo 30 September

All these and earlier updates are available on the IDP database at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

## News alerts

IDMC published ten news alerts, which included 55 stories on displacement events in 23 countries. Over 5,600 subscribers can access an archive of alerts and request weekly notifications from any country at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/subscribe>.

## Press releases

IDMC published two press releases, one in English and French to accompany the launch of the bilingual publication *The Great Lakes Pact and the Rights of Displaced People: A Guide for Civil Society*, and the other to help highlight the existence and situation of people forcibly displaced in Zimbabwe, following the publication of a special report on the situation.

## Interactive photo gallery

In September, IDMC developed a new format for an interactive photo gallery on internal displacement in Senegal's Casamance region. The gallery shows pictures of villages affected by displacement taken by photographer Martin Evans. Visitors can browse the gallery by geographical location or by selected themes to learn about the challenges and successes of the villages' reconstruction. The gallery is available at:

[www.internal-displacement.org/countries/senegal/photos2008](http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/senegal/photos2008)



## IDMC information in media in countries affected by internal displacement

IDMC is recognised as a source of reliable, objective, non-partisan information by reporters in countries in which there is forced displacement: during this quarter, national media in Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sudan and Uganda made reference to IDMC information.

## Measuring governance in Africa

IDMC figures have been used in the compilation of the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, a comprehensive ranking of sub-Saharan African nations according to governance quality.

# Monitoring and Advocacy

## AFRICA

### Central African Republic (CAR)

IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to the Central African Republic (CAR) from 9 July to 7 August 2008. The mission's objective was two-fold: to research the situation of internally displaced children, including their protection and assistance needs, and gather relevant information for the next update of the CAR country profile. Resulting products to be published in October and November include: (1) a special country report on displaced children in CAR; (2) a short article on displacement in northern CAR for NRC's website; and (3) a short article for Forced Migration Review on CAR. IDMC also briefed the new OHCHR desk officer for CAR.

### Côte d'Ivoire

In July, IDMC conducted a field mission to look into the current situation of internally displaced people in the west of the country and to analyse obstacles in the way of their return. The mission focused specifically on land and property issues, as they are essential to finding durable solutions. This had been highlighted by the Representative of the Secretary General on the human rights of internally displaced people in his country visit recommendations 2006.

Information gathered during this mission will be used for the next Cote d'Ivoire profile update and will inform a thematic report on land and property issues.



Returnee house in Zou, Côte d'Ivoire: seeking protection behind barbed wires. July 2008. Photo: Barbara McCallin. IDMC

### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In September, IDMC released a update on internal displacement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The update highlights the displacement situation in North Kivu Province, where two-thirds of the at least 1.25 million displaced Congolese are located. Despite an agreement signed in Goma between the government

*Displacement in DRC was in September 2008 at its highest level since the official end of the war in 2003*

and various factions in January, displacement in North Kivu was in September 2008 at its highest level since the official end of the war in 2003. An estimated 100,000 people fled a wave of violence in the

province at the end of August 2008, and further thousands have fled to neighbouring countries. During his first visit to DRC, the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs called upon the government to speedily enact a legislative framework for the protection of IDPs, and urged the international community to support this endeavour.

### Senegal

In September, IDMC made a written submission to the Universal Periodic Review on the situation of IDPs in the southern Senegalese region of Casamance. Drawing from information shared by local NGOs based in Ziguinchor, Casamance's regional capital, IDMC highlighted the IDPs specific vulnerabilities with regard to their right to life, freedom of movement and residence, and their economic and social rights.

Recommendations to the Government of Senegal included providing adequate protection to IDPs from threats by insurgents, engaging the separatist group MFDC so that neutral actors would be allowed to undertake humanitarian demining and mine action activities, and strengthening the development of livelihood opportunities in areas of displacement and of return.

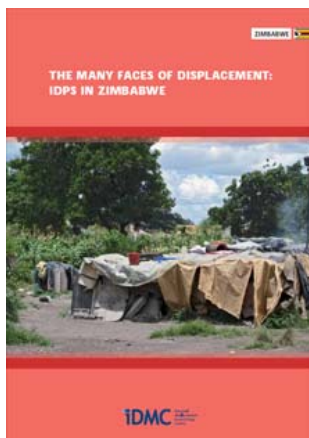
In conjunction with the UPR submission, IDMC published an interactive photo gallery of affected villages in Casamance.

## Somalia

In July, IDMC released a country update on Somalia, highlighting the deterioration of the already desperate displacement situation. Fighting between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces and their Ethiopian allies, and insurgents including the Islamic Courts Union, has led to displacement on a scale never before witnessed in Somalia. Insecurity and conflict have continued in and around Mogadishu, with the IDP population reaching 1.1 million. Coping strategies for host families in many parts of Somalia have already been stretched to the limit over the past years, and the overall crisis facing the growing IDP population has been compounded by the effects of drought, deepening insecurity, hyperinflation (especially of food prices) and currency devaluation.

## Zimbabwe

In August, IDMC published a Special Country Report on Zimbabwe. While there has been much attention on the political situation in Zimbabwe in recent months, as well as on the acute food shortages in the country, there has been less attention on Zimbabwe's displacement crisis. The IDMC report *The Many Faces of Displacement: IDPs in Zimbabwe* documents the plight of different groups of people who have been displaced as the result of government policies and action.



These include an estimated 200,000 farm workers and their families (a total of one million people) who lost their homes and their livelihoods as a result of the fast-track land reform programme which started in 2000, as well as an estimated 570,000 people who were made homeless by Operation Murambatsvina, an urban clean-up operation in 2005.

Follow-up advocacy with UN agencies has led to a higher profile of the issue of internal displacement in the planning for the humanitarian response for 2009. In collaboration with OCHA, IDMC organised a briefing for donor governments on 16 September to present

its findings and make recommendations on funding specific interventions to address the special needs of IDPs in Zimbabwe. Findings of the report were also presented at a parallel Human Rights Council event organised by UN Watch on 19 September.

## AMERICAS

### Colombia

In September, IDMC and a representative from NRC in Colombia met with the European representative of Peace Brigades International, and attended a presentation from Colombia's Ombudsman office on a report they released on the sexual and reproductive rights of displaced women.

### Guatemala

In August, IDMC released a final update for Guatemala, clarifying that IDMC will no longer actively monitor the Guatemalan situation, as the conflict ended almost 12 years ago, and the relevance of an IDP category is questioned. The update nevertheless outlined some outstanding issues, including the investigation of crimes perpetrated during the conflict, resettlement and redistribution of land for IDPs, covered under 1996 peace accord, but never implemented.

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### Sri Lanka

In August, IDMC released a country update on Sri Lanka. The report focused on the worsening humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka where a sharp escalation of the conflict has forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes since May 2008.

*Escalation of the conflict in Sri Lanka has forced tens of thousands of people to flee since May 2008*

The report called attention to the deteriorating security situation that has severely restricted the access of aid agencies to internally displaced people. IDMC urged

the government to improve its response to the needs of the displaced and to establish a secure humanitarian environment to enable agencies to operate.

In September, IDMC provided information on the shrinking humanitarian space in Sri Lanka and the dire situation of 200,000 IDPs for the NGO Statement delivered at the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of UNHCR's Executive Committee.

## Philippines

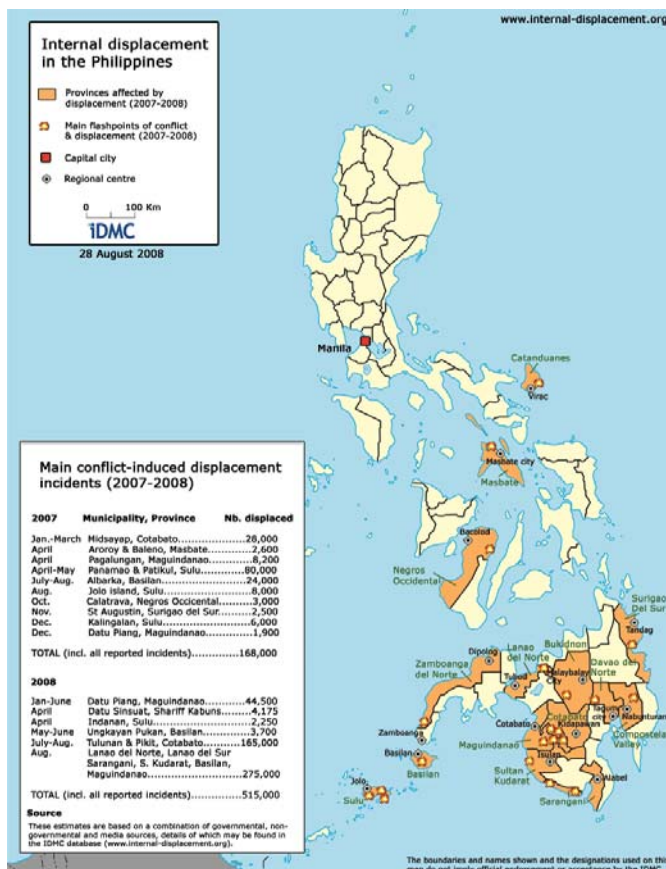
In August, IDMC released a country update on the Philippines. Following the breakdown of peace talks between the Muslim rebels of the MILF and the government in early August, an estimated 160,000 people

were displaced in North Cotabato and neighboring provinces on the island of Mindanao (see the IDMC map below).

As the situation further deteriorated, the number of new IDPs increased to

nearly half a million. The report highlighted the lack of a coherent government IDP strategy and encouraged the international community to step up its involvement in the peace process to ensure that recent gains made are not completely lost to the current upsurge in fighting.

*The report urged the international community to step up its involvement in the peace process*



## EUROPE

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

In August, IDMC released a country update on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The figure of 125,000 registered IDPs in Bosnia and Herzegovina is likely to remain stable in view of the limited number of returns over the past three years and the lack of support for other durable solutions such as local integration.

Many Government figures indicate that over one million IDPs and refugees have returned to their homes since the end of the conflict, but many returns haven't been sustainable due to pervasive discrimination and lack of employment and possibility of self-reliance.

### Georgia

In August, IDMC released several consecutive overviews of the IDP crisis in Georgia. In early August some 150,000 ethnic Georgians and Ossetians fled military offensives by Georgia and the Russian Federation, as well as attacks by armed gangs. IDMC reported on the

*59,000 IDPs were unable to return home, particularly ethnic Georgians from South Ossetia*

continuing changing IDP figures, and reported on the national and international responses to the emergency, and pointed out gaps.

As of September 2008, some 59,000 IDPs were unable to return to their homes, particularly ethnic Georgians from South Ossetia. They join some 220,000 to 240,000 IDPs previously displaced in the early 1990s from Georgia's secessionist territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

### Azerbaijan

In July IDMC released a country update on Azerbaijan. Some 570,000 people remain internally displaced in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani government has resettled more than 90,000 IDPs to new villages since 2001. While this group now lives in better houses, the land surrounding their homes is often infertile, there are few employment opportunities and some villages are located within kilometres of the line of contact with

Nagorno-Karabakh and far from other communities. The remaining IDPs continue to live in collective centres, mud shacks, abandoned apartments and with relatives. With few jobs in rural areas, many IDPs are dependent on government assistance and are migrating to the cities in the hope of finding work.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Lebanon

In July, IDMC released a country update on Lebanon and the situation of over 24,000 people, mainly Palestine refugees and a small number of Lebanese remain displaced from Nahr el-Bared camp in northern Lebanon following three months of fighting there in 2007 between Fatah al-Islam and the Lebanese army.

*Among the most pressing concerns is to ensure adequate temporary accommodation for people displaced from Nahr el-Bared*

Among the most pressing concerns is to ensure adequate temporary accommodation for refugee families, as well as addressing their loss of livelihoods. Displaced communities have raised

concerns about their security and free movement, particularly as security measures have tightened as sporadic attacks and clashes continued to be reported in northern Lebanon in June 2008. The report also underlined concerns of estimated 40,000 to 70,000 people remain displaced from the 2006 July-August War.

### Israel, Syria & Occupied Palestinian Territory

IDMC submitted a brief to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism established by the Human Rights Council in Resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 concerning Israel. This brief underlined IDMC's concerns regarding forced displacement in Israel, the Occupied Arab territories of Golan Heights of Syria, and Palestinian Territory (consisting of West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza). It underlined that the situation of displacement in Israel, in particular in OPT, has largely been neglected by the international community.

IDMC reported on displacement in Israel, caused by Israeli policies towards Palestinians and Bedouin

Israelis, as well as by conflict between Israel and its neighbours. Forced displacement has had a significant impact on peoples' enjoyment of basic rights and their standard of living. Legal mechanisms have often failed to provide effective remedies, and compensation is only rarely provided.

In September IDMC released a country update on OPT. The report underlines that displacement has a long

*IDMC also reported on the displacement caused by Israeli policies towards Palestinians and Bedouin in Israel*

history in OPT, as both a consequence and cause of the Israeli-Palestinian/Arab conflict over resources and land.

Certain patterns of displacement in their severity and consistency attest to a policy of forced displacement for

the purpose of acquiring land, redefining demographic boundaries, and divesting Palestinians of ownership guaranteed under international law.

In other instances internal displacement is the direct result of violence stemming from incursions and human rights violations. There is also clear evidence of indirect displacement as the "closure regime" has made the situation of residents of Palestinian enclaves untenable.



Residents of Bethlehem and surrounding villages separated from their olive groves and lands by the Wall. Photo: Elodie Guego, NRC

# Training and Protection

## Training workshops in the OPT

These two workshops in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) conclude 2008 IDMC's in-depth training project which targeted key humanitarian and human rights actors among UN agencies and civil society organisations working on displacement issues in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Workshop on the protection of displaced Palestine refugees in the West Bank	
Location	Jerusalem, OPT
Date	17-18 July
Participants	UNRWA staff members
Number	35

During the Jerusalem workshop, participants agreed to consider as displacement population movements caused by the separation wall, the restrictions on free movements, and violence from settlers against local communities. It was also acknowledged that displacement

in the West Bank should be seen as a major protection crisis putting the human rights of Palestine refugees at serious risk, which UNRWA should assess, so as to provide an adequate response.

*Displacement in the West Bank should be seen as a major protection crisis, putting human rights of Palestine refugees at serious risk*

Using herding communities as an initial case

study, the participants drafted a plan of action detailing the main components of UNRWA's response. Participants agreed that UNRWA response to the displacement crisis of Palestine refugees in the West Bank should be the result of a protection-oriented synergy among all UNRWA core programmes. UNRWA response should aim to protect UNRWA refugees from arbitrary displacement, provide adequate and timely emergency assistance upon displacement, and restore displaced refugees' safety and dignity. These objectives will also require the strengthening and development of protection activities, such as advocacy, legal assistance, and information campaigns.

Workshop on the protection of displaced persons	
Location:	Gaza city – OPT
Date:	21-22 July
Participants:	50% international organizations (including ICRC), 50% international and local humanitarian and human rights NGOs.
Number:	15

The Gaza workshop was planned to provide participants with the relevant tools to respond to the protection needs of displaced people. As a result of the workshop, participants agreed on a series of concrete actions to take in order to improve the awareness of displacement in the Gaza Strip, and develop the adequate response.

Actions comprise the following components:

- Ensure that reliable, relevant and up-to-date information on displacement in Gaza is available;
- Conduct training on the protection of IDPs;
- Strengthen awareness of rights of displaced people;
- Ensure that communities at risk of displacement, as well as displaced people have access to assistance and development programmes; and
- Mainstream displacement into advocacy initiatives.



Workshop in Gaza, July 08. Participants proposed mechanisms to inform communities about their rights. Photo: Christophe Beau, IDMC

## Training module on protection coordination

IDMC finalized a concept note for the development of a training module on protection coordination, to be used to train people charged with the coordination of national protection cluster working groups. The development of the modules is a project of the Learning Task Force of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group. A pilot training workshop based on these new modules is scheduled for early December 2008.



## Review of protection training materials

IDMC has training modules on the protection of IDPs which incorporate all relevant international legal, policy and operational standards. IDMC training materials have been shared with partners (in particular within the Protection Cluster and its Learning Task Force) and are a key resource for all those in charge of field training.

With the aim to provide up-to-date information to workshops' participants and to consolidate lessons learned from past training workshops, IDMC started a new revision of its training materials in September. Its objective is to ensure that IDMC training reflects and is in line with key legal and policy developments pertaining to the protection of IDPs, such as the inter-agency IDP Protection Handbook, the IDP profiling guidance, and the development of legal instruments on the protection of IDPs in Africa. A protection expert, Doris Knoechel has been recruited as a consultant until December 2008 to undertake the revision.

## IDP Voices



Currently, IDMC is working on two audio-visual presentations based on the IDP Voices gathered in Colombia and Georgia. One presentation focuses on the protection

of Colombia's displaced people presenting personal experiences which illustrate the fact that people had to flee to save their own and their families' lives. The other presentation shows the living conditions and mindset of Georgia's long-term displaced. The videos will be launched on the occasion of the GP10 conference in October in Oslo and then made available on IDMC's video page [www.youtube.com/idpfilms](http://www.youtube.com/idpfilms).

## Financial situation

### Financial summary

Amount pledged as of 30 June: \$ 2,540,000

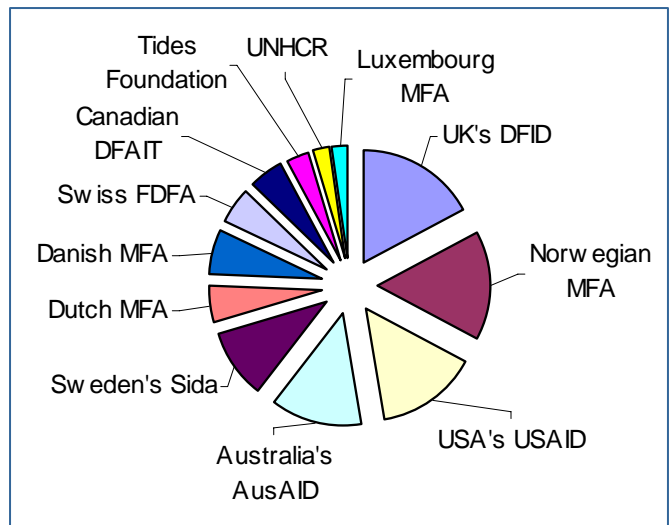
Amount received as of 30 June: \$ 1,970,000

Expenses as of 30 September: \$ 1,940,000

## Thank you for supporting IDMC

We would like to particularly thank UK's DFID, the Norwegian MFA, USA's USAID, Australia's AusAID, Sweden's SIDA, the Dutch MFA, the Danish MFA the Swiss FDFA, the Canadian DFAIT, Tides Foundation, UNHCR and the Luxembourg MFA for their pledged or received contribution 2008.

## Pledged/received contribution Jan-Sept 2008



## Donor consultation

A donor consultation will be held at IDMC on 13 November from 14.30 to 16.00 to present and discuss the plans and activities for 2009, following the internal IDMC strategic planning. A pre-consultation document will be sent prior the consultation to donors to enable an enhanced dialogue during the consultation.

IDMC, established by the Norwegian Refugee Council, is the leading non-governmental body monitoring conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide.

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