



QUARTERLY UPDATE

July - September 2005

Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the Global IDP Project's activities between 1 July and 30 September 2005. It is also available electronically at www.idpproject.org.

The **Quarterly Update** should be read along with the 2005 Annual Appeal, which outlines the main objectives, activities and financial needs for the year.



The Global IDP Project published an in-depth report on the IDP situation in Serbia and Montenegro following a fact-finding mission to the country. The photo shows an elderly woman and child in IDP camp Zitovac, Mitrovica (photo: Civil Rights Programme, Kosovo)

IDPs high on the agenda

The Global IDP Project played an active role in discussions about the strengthening of UNHCR's role vis-à-vis IDPs in the framework of the humanitarian reform process, including in numerous meetings with NGO partners, donors and UN agencies. In line with its position paper on the Collaborative Response circulated in June, the Project supported the decision to assign UNHCR as global lead agency for IDP protection, emergency shelter and camp coordination and man-

agement. The Project has participated in the Protection Cluster Working Group, and organised and chaired a session during the Annual Consultations with NGOs preceding this year's UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in Geneva on 28 September. The Project also published several articles on the future of the Collaborative Response to IDPs, including in the latest editions of Refugee Survey Quarterly and Forced Migration Review.

In late August, the head of the Global IDP Project participated in a donor briefing in New York, organized by the Norwegian Mission. The briefing provided an opportunity to present the Project and inform participants about the developments in the international response to IDPs as seen from the Geneva perspective. It also served to highlight the need for donor support for UNHCR's new role vis-à-vis IDPs, and to encourage stronger language on IDPs in the final UN summit document which was under discussion at the time. The head of the Project also met with New York-based NGO partners to discuss the Humanitarian Response Review and UNHCR's role on IDPs, and to lobby for support to the process. Following the successful visit in August, the Project plans to continue establishing closer contacts with New York-based actors.

Monitoring & Advocacy

On 11 August 2005, the Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced persons were endorsed by the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights. The Global IDP Project actively supported and contributed to the drafting process of the Principles. The Project also participated to an expert panel on housing and property restitution held in Geneva on the occasion of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights.

The Project participated in a panel on international actors at a conference on internal displacement in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region which was held in Gaborone, Botswana in late August. The Project's presentation was focused on training on the Guiding Principles as an important tool to enhance the capacity of national and international actors to address situations of internal displacement. The conference, which was attended by representatives of all SADC member states, was organised by UNHCR and the Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement.

In September, the Project made a presentation on the role of international NGOs in addressing internal displacement at the first Course on the Law of Internal Displacement, organized by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law and the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs. The course was attended by government officials and NGO representatives from countries affected by internal displacement.

Country profile updates

During the summer months, the Global IDP Project published two in-depth reports on the internal displacement situation in Rwanda and Serbia and Montenegro, as well as eight regular Country Profile updates.

Philippines	23 September 2005
Serbia and Montenegro (in-depth report)	22 September 2005
Sri Lanka	1 September 2005
Liberia	25 August 2005
Burundi	15 August 2005
Uganda	10 August 2005
DR Congo	29 July 2005
Nepal	14 July 2005
Iraq	11 July 2005
Rwanda (in-depth report)	8 July 2005

The Rwanda report concluded that five years after the government and the international community took internal displacement off their agenda in Rwanda, many of the 650,000 people displaced during a Hutu-led insurgency in the northwest of the country in the late 1990s still live under

squalid conditions in makeshift settlements. The report, which followed a fact-finding mission to Rwanda, recommends that the government and the international community revisit their current approach and address this situation as a humanitarian concern. The findings of the report contributed to bringing back attention to a vulnerable group of people largely forgotten by the international community. The findings of the report were communicated through a press release, as well as at a briefing to international agencies in Geneva in June.

The Serbia and Montenegro report found that while insecurity and uncertainty over Kosovo's final status continue to hamper the return of an estimated 250,000 internally displaced people, the governments of Serbia and Montenegro have yet to take effective measures to ensure that the displaced have full access to their rights and social services without discrimination. The report is based to a large extent on information gathered during a fact-finding mission to the country. The findings of the mission were shared with the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, who visited Serbia and Montenegro shortly afterwards.

All updates are available from the online IDP database at www.idpproject.org.

Fact-finding missions

In late September, the Global IDP Project conducted a fact-finding mission to Cote d'Ivoire to assess the situation of the country's 500,000 IDPs and the national and international response to the displacement situation. An in-depth report on the IDP situation in Cote d'Ivoire will be published in October.

Training & Protection

In September, the Global IDP Project facilitated two workshops on the protection of IDPs in Banda Aceh and Meulaboh, Aceh, Indonesia with the support of NRC office in Aceh. Although primarily focusing on the protection of people displaced by conflict and violence, the Global IDP Project's training component decided to exceptionally extend its training support to actors

involved in the post-tsunami recovery process. A total of 65 people took part in both events. The workshops were first planned to be held in March 2005 but had to be postponed as the Indonesian police denied its permission.



A special effort was made to include local actors permanently based in Aceh – in other words, those who will stay after the departure of international agencies from the province, including national and local authorities, local NGOs, and representatives of displaced communities.

Dissemination of the Guiding Principles through the local press

Mr. Jaka, a journalist from *Waspada*, a Medan-based daily with circulation in Aceh, was invited to the workshop in Meulaboh. Mr. Jaka had already published four stories on the post-tsunami areas. In the course of the workshop he became interested in the Guiding Principles, of which he had had no prior knowledge. “I have been writing about the difficult conditions of IDPs in Aceh without knowing that the document defining the rights of IDPs ever existed”, he said. “I am glad to discover that there are clear international standards of conduct in the situation of displacement. I intend to count upon the Guiding Principles when exposing the vast amount of work that still has to be done to improve the lives of IDPs in Aceh.” Mr. Jaka expressed a strong interest in producing a series of articles in which he would call on the relevant principles applying to a particular problem highlighted in the story. He suggested that CARDI-NRC involve the national press organisations, PWI (Indonesian Journalist Association) and AJI (Independent Journalist Alliance), as well as relevant free-lance journalists in disseminating the Guiding Principles in the province and Indonesia as a whole. During the

workshop, Mr. Jaka published an article about the event in his paper.

The workshops highlighted key concerns of communities displaced by the tsunami, in particular housing conditions and access to livelihood. The discussions also revealed other, often more hidden, concerns, such as the lack of security in camps, limitations to the freedom of movement, lack of access to public services, and the information limbo in which IDPs are often left by humanitarian actors. The special vulnerability of displaced women was also confirmed, particularly with regard to information and participation, security, and livelihood.

Recommendations from the workshops were compiled and circulated to participants and other key actors in both English and Bahasa. The NRC office in Aceh will ensure the concrete follow-up of selected recommendations, including the activation of protection working groups and the continuation of Guiding Principles training in other locations in Aceh.

The workshop was also used as an occasion to promote a strengthened involvement of the provincial office of the National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia (Komnas Ham) in the protection of IDPs.

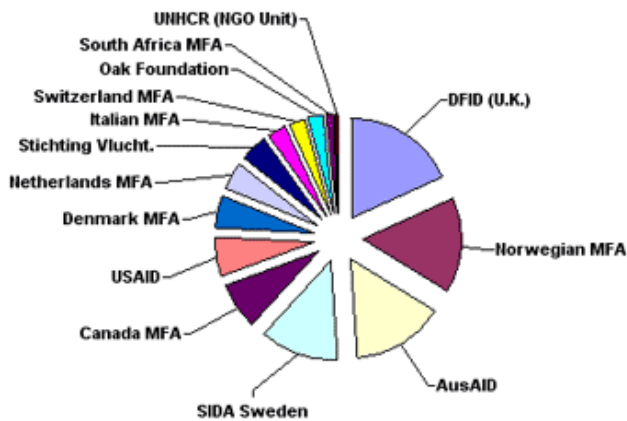
Training modules

During the period, the Project finalized an introductory module on the protection of IDPs for the Reach Out training programme on refugee law. The module was tested in a Reach Out “training of trainers” workshop in Uganda and edited with the support of the Reach Out team. The module is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic. The revision of the Project’s module was also pursued.

Financial Situation

Thank you for supporting the Global IDP Project!

**Contributions received/pledged for the year 2005
(as of 30 September 2005)**



The Global IDP Project is pleased to inform its donors that it has been able to fully cover its budget with pledged and received contributions. The chart above indicates the Project's current donors which include eleven governments, two private foundations, UNHCR and NRC Uganda (cost recovery).



Global IDP Project
Chemin Balxert 7-9
CH-1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 799 07 00
Fax: +41 22 799 07 01
E-mail: anne-sophie.lois@nrc.ch