



Quarterly Update

Introduction

This edition of the Quarterly Update covers the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's activities between 1 October and 31 December 2005. It is also available electronically at www.internal-displacement.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.

New name and website

In November, the Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council changed its name to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The name change was accompanied by a re-launch of the IDMC's website and its online IDP database (now available at www.internal-displacement.org). The IDMC believes that the new name better reflects the main focus of its work: monitoring situations of internal displacement, advocating for solutions to the plight of the world's 25 million internally displaced people, and strengthening the capacity of actors on the ground to improve their responses to IDP crises. The Centre continues to be an integral part of the Norwegian Refugee Council and its mandate remains unchanged.

The IDMC's new website provides free and easy access to comprehensive and frequently updated information and analysis on all situations of conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide. A newly-created inter-active IDP map opens an additional gateway to the over 50 country pages currently featured on the IDMC's website. Each country page serves as a portal to IDP-related reports, news, maps and other resources. Several thematic resource pages are also available on the new website.

IDPs high on the agenda

The last three months of 2005 were marked by ongoing consultations regarding the cluster ap-

proach. The IASC Principals welcomed the cluster approach in their December meeting. Relevant actors were involved in meetings and briefings aimed at keeping them informed and up to date on UNHCR's progress in implementing the approach. The IDMC was closely involved in these consultations, including by actively participating in meetings of the Protection Cluster Working Group.

In light of UNHCR's new roles and responsibilities regarding IDPs, it is clear that NGO partnerships will be essential for the successful implementation of the cluster approach. NRC has clearly stated its support for UNHCR's role in the cluster approach, and in line with this, NRC is engaging in a bilateral dialogue with UNHCR on drafting a new MoU outlining the terms of the strategic partnership between the two organisations.

Monitoring & Advocacy

Fact-finding missions

In the last quarter of 2005, the IDMC's Monitoring and Advocacy Department conducted fact-finding missions to four of the IDMC's priority countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Somalia, and Uganda. These missions served to gather information on the displacement crises and strengthen networks with national and international actors on the ground.



Internally displaced children in a settlement in Bossaso, Puntland, Somalia. (Photo: A. Nadig)

On the basis of the information gathered in Somalia, the IDMC has updated the country profile included in the IDP database and published an in-depth country report. In addition, the IDMC has been involved with the Somalia Country Team in developing a survey aimed at improving the data available on the number and location of IDPs in the country and in preparing training workshops on IDP protection (see below under Training and Protection). The Uganda mission served to collect information to update the country profile and to prepare a report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the UN Representative on IDPs following his last visit to Uganda (see below).

Country profile updates

From October to December 2005, the IDMC updated nine country profiles, each including an Overview summarising main developments and concerns:

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|---------------|-------------|
| Angola | 4 October |
| Turkey | 7 October |
| Uzbekistan | 18 October |
| Turkmenistan | 18 October |
| Sudan | 29 October |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 7 November |
| Afghanistan | 5 December |
| Uganda | 12 December |
| Guinea | 29 December |

The Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan updates were launched with a press release highlighting main concerns and recommendations. This generated some media reports covering the findings of the updates. All updates are available on the IDMC website at www.internal-displacement.org.

Uganda advocacy group

In December, the IDMC initiated the first meeting in Geneva of a working group bringing together NGOs working on northern Uganda. The overall goal of the group, which the IDMC will continue to coordinate, is to ensure that advocacy messages formulated in the field and at the UN in New York reach the relevant actors in Geneva. The group will also formulate policy recommendations aimed at enhancing the humanitarian response to the displacement crisis in northern Uganda. The group has already briefed OHCHR and OCHA, and has scheduled a briefing for concerned governments in February.

Support to RSG-IDPs

The IDMC continued its support to the Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs (RSG-IDPs), including by providing input for his missions to Sudan and Georgia.

In order to contribute to promoting the use of the recommendations made by the RSG-IDPs and strengthen follow-up by national authorities, the IDMC began preparing monitoring reports on the extent to which recommendations have been implemented by governments and other actors. Three reports are planned to be published in 2006: on Russia, Turkey and Uganda. Each report is being prepared together with national non-governmental partners in an effort to engage civil society groups in the process.

The research for the Uganda report, conducted in collaboration with the Refugee Law Project of the Makerere University, began in October 2005 with an IDMC fact-finding mission. The Refugee Law Project continued the research following the mission. The RSG's recommendations call for the enhancement of activities in five broad areas: protection, humanitarian access, livelihood opportunities for IDPs, durable solutions/return and efforts to resolve the conflict.

In November, the IDMC participated in the second meeting of the steering group that was set up by the RSG-IDPs to guide the development of a legislator's manual aimed at promoting the integration of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into national legislation.

Report on human rights of IDPs in Serbia and Montenegro

As part of its efforts to strengthen national civil society capacity to address IDP issues, the IDMC decided in December to support the Serbian NGO Group 484 in preparing a report on the human rights of IDPs in Serbia and Montenegro. The NGO, which has worked on IDP issues in the past, was requested to focus on areas where information is lacking. Publication of the report is expected in March 2006.

Great Lakes IDP Protocol

The IDMC provided comments on the draft Protocol on internally displaced persons which is currently being developed in the framework of

the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

Training & Protection



A participant from WFP shows his diploma from the training workshop in El-Fasher, North Darfur.

UN Country Team training

The IDMC conducted two workshops on the protection of IDPs in Sudan on the initiative of the Protection Steering Group and supported by UN OCHA and UNDP. The first workshop was held in El Fasher, Northern Darfur and targeted about 35 participants from UN agencies. The second workshop was held in Khartoum and focused on the situation of those displaced by the North South conflict. Participants included 35 people representing national authorities (HAC), United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies, international and national NGOs.

Training support to national human rights institutions

On 26-28 October, the IDMC attended a workshop for national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the Asia Pacific Region, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and hosted by the Sri Lankan Human Right Commission, with the support of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) and the Brookings/Bern Project on Internal Displacement. The objective of the workshop was to reflect on efforts made by NHRIs and the APF to engage on issues concerning the human rights of IDPs. The workshop was also attended by civil society organisations and UN agencies (UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA). The IDMC gave a presentation on the support which NGOs can provide to NHRIs (www.asiapacificforum.net/training/workshops/idp/papers/nrc.doc).

Within the framework of its collaboration with the APF and Brookings, the IDMC continued the training of NHRIs and organised a workshop for the Human Rights Commission of Nepal (NHCR) on 13-15 December. The workshop targeted NHRC's staff members from all substantive divisions. Participants from NHRC's regional offices were also present. During the final session of the workshop, participants prepared an action plan detailing activities which the various branches of the Commission can undertake to contribute to the protection of IDPs, in line with the Commission's strategic plan. The workplan was presented to the Commissioners, who expressed their support.

Support to other actors

On 4 November, the IDMC was invited by the European Council of Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to facilitate a session on IDPs in a workshop which they organised for officials, lawyers and NGOs from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. About 60 participants attended the session on IDPs in Moscow.

The IDMC was asked by the International Federation of the Red Cross to conduct a three-hour training on the protection of IDPs for staff members at headquarters in Geneva. 14 people attended this training.

Training in Colombia

A training workshop on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement was held in Sasaima, Colombia, on 8-10 November 2005 for a total of 27 staff members of the NRC office and associated local NGOs. The purpose of the training was to increase knowledge of the Guiding Principles and protection methods.

In preparation of the training, the trainer participated in a fact-finding mission conducted by the IDMC Colombia country analyst to Santa Marta in the Caribbean north and to Cucuta, bordering Venezuela.



Training workshop on the Guiding Principles in Sasaima, Colombia (Photo: A. Birkenes)

Some voices from the workshop in Colombia:

- "To tell you the truth I am very grateful to be taken into consideration for this workshop and I believe that what I have learned will be useful for me in my every day life"
- "We learned about international conflicts and to compare experiences, this will help us to find solutions in our own context of Colombia."

Advanced Training on Humanitarian Action

The IDMC was invited to give a lecture on refugees and IDPs and humanitarian response in October at SIDA's Civil Society Centre in Härnösand, Sweden. This training, which targeted the higher management of Swedish humanitarian NGOs and their partner organisations, was jointly organised by SIDA and the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research within Harvard University. 95% of the participants thought that this session was "useful" or "very useful".

Financial Situation

On 19 November the IDMC held a donor consultation to present its plans for 2006 and engage in a dialogue with donors about the future direction of the Centre.

List of IDMC Donors – 2005

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| DFID (U.K.) |
| Norwegian MFA |
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| Italian MFA |
| Switzerland MFA |
| Oak Foundation |
| South Africa MFA |
| UNHCR (NGO Unit) |

* SIDA contribution for 2005 will be spent in 2006.

The IDMC would like to thank all of its donors for their generous support in 2005 and hopes that this positive trend will continue in the future.



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