



Quarterly Update

(January–March 2006)

Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the Global IDP Project's activities between 1 January and 31 March 2006. It is also available electronically at www.internal-displacement.org.

The **Quarterly Update** should be read along with the 2006 Annual Appeal, which outlines the main objectives, activities and financial needs for the year.



Children at a recently opened market place in an IDP settlement in Bossaso, Somalia (Photo by Erin Mooney/NRC)

IDPs high on the agenda

In March the IDMC launched its Global Overview, a yearly publication on global IDP-related trends and developments, in Geneva. On the occasion of the launch, a press conference was held with Jan Egeland, the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Elisabeth Rasmusson, the Head of the IDMC. The launch of the report was covered by all major international news agencies as well as several newspapers and broadcast media.

Following a decision by the IASC Working Group on the need for an inter-agency framework for IDP data collection, the IDMC, with the help

of a consultant, began drafting guidelines on how to count IDPs. The guidelines are aimed at providing governments and UN Country Teams with a practical tool to be used to come up with better IDP data. In many countries monitored by the IDMC, no or only rough estimates of the number of IDPs are available. As a next step the draft guidelines will be tested in the field.

As coordinator of the Geneva NGO Uganda Working Group, the IDMC was invited by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, to participate in the Ministerial Meeting on the Situation in Northern Uganda, the LRA and its Regional Implications. At the meeting, the IDMC presented an NGO press statement which highlighted a number of concerns regarding the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda and urged donor governments and the UN to take concerted action to both resolve the conflict and enhance humanitarian efforts.

Monitoring & Advocacy

The first quarter of 2006 was marked by the preparation of the yearly Global Overview published in March. The Global Overview, which has become the major reference on global IDP-related developments, includes a number of regional overviews as well as nine thematic sections covering issues such as women and children, health and nutrition, property and civil society involvement.

As part of its advocacy work, the IDMC has started to engage in the UN treaty body mechanisms. During the first quarter of the year, the IDMC provided input to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on the internal displacement situation in Ethiopia and to the Human Rights Committee on IDP-related concerns in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A number of issues were taken up by the Commit-

tees in their deliberations with the respective governments.

On 17 March 2006, in Kampala, Uganda, the IDMC launched *Only Peace Can Restore the Confidence of the Displaced*, researched and produced in collaboration with a local human rights group, the Refugee Law Project of Makerere University. The report is the first in a series of reports that assess the implementation of the recommendations made by the UN's Special Representative on IDPs. The launch of the report in Kampala was held in conjunction with a humanitarian donor mission facilitated by OCHA's Internal Displacement Division and led by Dennis McNamara. McNamara participated in the launch, as did a number of diplomats, heads of UN agencies, government of Uganda representatives and the full Kampala press corps. The launch was covered in international and national press, and the report will also be used as a central document in the upcoming conference on the implementation of the Ugandan IDP Policy organised by the Brookings Institution.



At the Uganda launch in Kampala, from left: Reporter from WBS television station; Lucy Hovil, Senior Researcher at the Refugee Law Project; Sylvia Tamale, Dean of Law, Makerere University; Dennis McNamara, Head of IDD/OCHA; Elisabeth Rasmusson, Head of IDMC (Photo by Noah Gottschalk, RLP)

In March, the IDMC's Iraq country analyst participated as one of the panellists in a conference in London aimed at discussing solutions for displaced Marsh Arabs. Eighteen tribal leaders, Iraq's Minister of Finance and other Iraqi Government representatives participated, as well as representatives of international organisations, NGOs and research institutions. The keynote address was given by Walter Kälin, Representative

of the UN Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs.

New staff

Matthias Thiemig joined the IDMC staff in March as Database/Research Assistant.

Country profile updates

From January to March 2006, the IDMC updated 5 country profiles, 2 of which were Special Country Reports (Somalia and Bangladesh). Each included an Overview summarising main developments and concerns:

Somalia	10 January
Liberia	9 February
India	9 February
DRC	1 March
Bangladesh	28 March

The Somalia report followed a fact-finding mission carried out late last year. The Bangladesh report was prepared by a consultant who conducted a mission to the country earlier this year. Both reports include comprehensive policy recommendations to governments and other relevant actors. The Somalia report was presented to UN agencies and NGOs in Geneva. The Bangladesh report highlights that the IDP situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts remains unresolved and concludes that the deteriorating political and security conditions contribute to a climate of fear and vulnerability among the minority population in Bangladesh, increasing the risk of future displacement. All updates are available from the online IDP database at www.internal-displacement.org.

Training & Protection

Training Support to the Somalia Country Team

Upon the request of the Country Team in Somalia, the IDMC sponsored and facilitated two training workshops for humanitarian actors in Somalia in March 2006. The workshops were held in Bosaso (Puntland) and Merka (South-Central Somalia) and primarily targeted staff members of local NGOs, as well as international organisations, including UN agencies. The objectives were to raise awareness on international standards relat-

ing to the protection of IDPs, and discuss their relevance to the displacement crisis in Somalia. These workshops were seen as a first step in a training process, which will be further developed by the UN Country Team, to include local authorities, and reach out to displaced and local communities.

The workshops generated considerable interest from the participants, for whom these workshops were the first opportunity to discuss the protection of IDPs in Somalia together with other actors. In Bossaso, the workshop was concluded with the adoption of a set of recommendations on good practices and policies applicable to the protection of IDPs in Puntland. In Merka, the participants agreed to coordinate their efforts more systematically, and spontaneously created IDP working groups.

Upon the completion of the workshops, the IDMC facilitated a one-day meeting in Nairobi, during which the UN Country Team presented the Joint Strategy for IDPs in Somalia to the Nairobi-based NGO community. The meeting allowed NGOs present to give their input into the strategy, which NGOs were also invited to support on the ground.

“One of the key strategic objectives for 2006 is to strengthen the capacity of national actors to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable internally displaced in Somalia. The workshops provide a solid foundation in promoting the Guiding Principles and providing national humanitarian actors with guidance on how to implement the principles.”
Philippe Lazzarini, Head of OCHA Somalia

Building Training Capacity within NRC
The IDMC and NRC Georgia organised a training workshop on the use of forum play and drama techniques as training tools and the revised training modules on the protection of internally displaced persons developed by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The overall objective of the workshop was to provide tools to NRC field-based staff from 12 different countries engaged in training activities with a focus on the protection of IDPs, and thereby enhancing their capacity to develop efficient and relevant training projects.

The workshop was held in Tbilisi Georgia, to give participants the opportunity to learn directly

from the training experience developed by the NRC team there, based a training technique based on theatre, called forum play. This technique, developed by the Brazilian theatre director and politician Augusto Boal in the 1980s, has proved to be an efficient tool for active learning as well as personal and community development and has helped to initiate social and political changes and legal reforms. Forum play has been used successfully by NRC Georgia to disseminate the Guiding Principles among displaced communities and mobilise them to defend their rights.



An example of forum play used in the Georgia workshop (Photo by Christophe Beau, IDMC)

Second, the workshop aimed to train participants as trainers, using the IDMC training modules, as revised in 2005. Each participant received a binder with the full set of the training documents, including facilitator guides, thematic handouts, and materials for exercises and learning activities, as well as a CD-ROM containing all the documents in electronic version as well as a series of other relevant materials. In groups, participants prepared and facilitated selected sessions, and received feedback from the training team and the rest of the participants.

Participants gave very positive feedback on the workshop, which they regarded as a real support to their training activities in the field. Guidance and tips with regard to participatory methodologies were particularly appreciated.

Civil Society Project

IDP Network

Following a request from several IDP community leaders and organisations, the IDMC developed

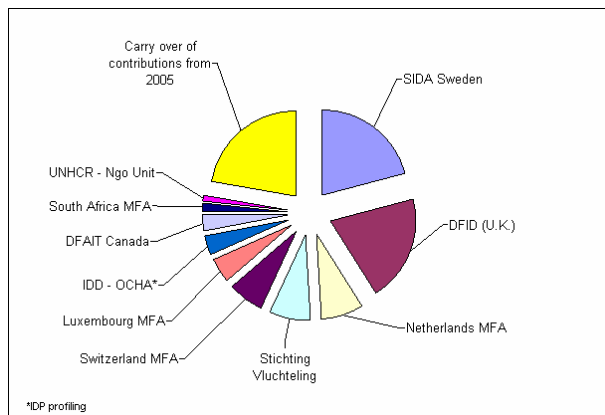
an international web-based network of national organisations working to advance the rights of internally displaced persons. This network was launched in February 2006, and provides a platform for members to share descriptions of their work, best practices, and their contact details. The Network can be found here:

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004D4D42/\(httpPages\)/047232C2416EF022802570C4004BE94D?OpenDocument&count=1000](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004D4D42/(httpPages)/047232C2416EF022802570C4004BE94D?OpenDocument&count=1000)

Financial Situation

Thank you for supporting the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre!

Contributions received/pledged for the year 2006 (as of 15 April 2006)



During the first trimester, IDMC has been able to cover 53 % of its budget with pledged and received contributions including the carryover from 2005. The chart above illustrates the current situation. IDMC would appreciate receiving prompt responses from all other donors in order to ensure the effective running of the Centre and the development of activities as outlined in the Appeal 2006. All contributions are welcome!



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