



Quarterly Update

October - December 2006

Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's activities between 1 October and 31 December 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)

Paul Nesse has been appointed the new NRC Resident Representative in Geneva. Paul is a long-time staff member of NRC, and most recently was Head of the Legal Counselling project for NRC globally.

IDPs high on the agenda

During the last quarter of 2006, the IDMC continued to be actively involved in the humanitarian reform process, in particular in the framework of the protection cluster. In various humanitarian forums, the IDMC raised IDP-related concerns and underlined the need for a continued focus on IDP issues since there has not yet been much tan-

gible improvement in the situation of affected people on the ground.

Monitoring & Advocacy

Report on Russia's implementation of UN recommendations

Together with the Russian NGO "Memorial", the IDMC launched a joint report on the internal displacement situation in the north Caucasus on 10 October 2006 in Moscow. The report assesses the extent to which the recommendations of the UN's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons have been put into practice since a country visit to the Russian Federation in 2003.

The report concluded that conditions for the displaced population in the North Caucasus have improved in some respects in recent years, but the displaced continue to face serious obstacles to return and reintegration in their areas of original residence. Speakers included representatives of IDMC, "Memorial", UNHCR and the Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation. More than thirty people attended the event, including representatives from the government, media and the diplomatic and humanitarian community. The event was covered largely by Russian media, but also by BBC Russian Service, Caucasian Knot, Caucasian Times and *Gazeta*. UN OCHA quoted the report in its 2007 Inter-Agency Transitional Workplan for the North Caucasus.

IDP profiling Guidelines

In October, the IDMC participated in an inter-agency workshop in Nairobi aimed at collecting field experience and best practices on profiling IDP populations. The workshop was an important contribution to the IDMC's work on finalising draft inter-agency IDP profiling guidelines. At the same time, the field-testing of the guidelines continued in Somalia where the country team is con-

ducting a major IDP survey. In an article published in *Forced Migration Review*, the IDMC reviewed some of the protection implications of IDP profiling. The profiling guidelines are expected to be presented for endorsement in spring 2007.

Fact-finding mission to the Central African Republic

The IDMC, together with NRC Oslo, visited the northwestern prefectures of Ouham and Ouham Pendé in the Central African Republic from 21 to 28 October 2006 to collect first-hand information on the situation of internally displaced people, identify protection concerns and formulate recommendations. Insecurity is prevailing in the northern prefectures due to highway banditry, rebel activities and abuses by security forces including the Central African Armed Forces, the Presidential Guard and armed groups from Chad. An in-depth report on the IDP situation in the Central African Republic is expected to be published in early 2007.



Burned and abandoned village in Bébouara, Foaïleng, October 2006

Urban displacement

Preparations have continued for the launch of the IDMC’s urban displacement study. A preparatory visit was undertaken, in early November, to Khartoum, Sudan, where the first of three case studies will be carried out. The second case study will take place in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire. The purpose of the project is to test methodologies for identifying and profiling urban IDPs and to offer recommendations on how to better address situations of urban displacement.

Report on neglected IDP situation in Kenya

On 19 December, the IDMC launched a report on the neglected internal displacement situation in

Kenya. The report warned that increasing political tensions in the run-up to the 2007 elections may cause further displacement in a country already struggling to respond to the needs of an estimated 400,000 people internally displaced by previous political violence, continuing ethnic clashes, violent cattle raids and government evictions.

The report, “I am a Refugee in My Own County: Conflict-Induced Displacement in Kenya”, documents the plight of Kenyans displaced by violence and human rights abuses and raises concern over the near absence of any systematic national or international response to the protection and assistance needs of the affected populations. Whilst people displaced by drought and other natural disasters normally receive considerable assistance, attention to Kenyans uprooted by conflict and human rights violations is ad-hoc and inconsistent, according to the study. Failing to respond to conflict-induced internal displacement poses an acute threat to Kenya’s long-term peace and security, the IDMC said in a statement.

Turkey

Echoing one of the key messages of a study jointly published in July by IDMC and TESEV on internal displacement in Turkey, the European Commission’s progress report on Turkey’s preparation for EU membership called on the Turkish government to address the issue of reconciliation in relation to past human rights violations committed against internally displaced persons – such as killings, disappearances, torture and the burning and destruction of property.

A number of other findings of the joint IDMC-TESEV study were also reflected in the European Commission progress report. The IDMC and TESEV concluded in their joint study that a durable and sustainable solution to the internal displacement problem in Turkey cannot be achieved without a reconciliation process.

At an international symposium on internal displacement in Turkey organised by TESEV in Istanbul in December, the IDMC made a presentation on the role of civil society in addressing internal displacement, stressing the importance of strengthening partnership between the government, NGOs and the international community in order to identify and implement solutions for the

displaced in Turkey. The intervention also outlined the multiple roles which civil society organisations play in situations of internal displacement, including provision of material and legal assistance, information collection, monitoring and reporting, and advocacy for the rights of the displaced. The IDMC also attended the launch of a national IDP survey in Ankara upon invitation by the government.

Displacement caused by West Bank Wall

Following its launch in Geneva in September, the report on displacement caused by the Wall built by Israel in the West Bank was presented on 11 December in Ramallah, Palestinian Territories. The report, jointly published by IDMC and the BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, documents for the first time comprehensively the displacement caused by the West Bank Wall in the Jerusalem area.

Country profile updates

During the last quarter of 2006, the IDMC published nine regular country profile updates. Each included an Overview summarising main developments and concerns:

Somalia	2 October
Cote d'Ivoire	9 October
Pakistan	10 October
Nepal	16 October
Bosnia & Herzegovina	25 October
DRC	31 October
Sri Lanka	16 November
Lebanon	15 December
Afghanistan	22 December

All updates are available from the online IDP database at www.internal-displacement.org.

New staff

Hermione Holland joined the IDMC staff in October as Special Assistant to the Resident Representative.

Training & Protection

Central African Republic (CAR)

In October, the IDMC provided support to UNHCR and Caritas in the Central African Republic for the training of the Caritas humanitarian

observers deployed in Ouham and Ouham Pende, the regions most seriously affected by internal displacement, which have very little humanitarian presence. Their mission is to collect data on IDPs' humanitarian situation and needs and broader protection concerns.

With the objective of raising their awareness on the background and rationale of their monitoring work, the participants reviewed the IDP definition and discussed the protection risks to which victims of forced displaced are exposed according to their age and gender. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement formed the basis of all discussions. In the second part of the workshop, UNHCR presented the survey forms that are to be used by the Monitors to document the situation of individual households and villages. Participants reviewed the forms in detail and were trained on how to collect and record relevant information.

Timor Leste

The training team partnered with the UNHCR field office in Timor Leste to conduct a workshop for national and local NGO and Governmental actors involved in the protection of some 150 000 IDPs in Dili and the districts since political and civil unrest in April and May 2006.

The overall aim of the workshop, part of UNHCR's ongoing capacity-building activities, was to introduce participants with the international legal framework and standards for the protection of IDPs to make use of the Guiding Principles as a protection tool in their monitoring work. Of the 44 participants in attendance, the majority were Human Rights Monitors from the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ) and its NGO partner the Human Rights NGO Monitoring Network (RMDH.) Also in attendance were members of the Women's NGO Network (Rede Feto), the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion (MTRC.)

Côte d'Ivoire

The training team conducted three workshops in Abidjan for a total of 103 participants representing government ministries, prefectures, civil society and the Forces Nouvelles from all parts of the country. During his mission in April 2006, the Representative of the Secretary General for the

Human Rights of IDPs, Walter Kälin, had noted that the IDP crisis stemmed from an inadequate response to the needs of IDPs by the authorities and, to some extent, by the international community.

These workshops were hosted by OCHA and co-facilitated with OCHA and UNHCR, which assumed Cluster lead in the second half of 2006, with the objective of strengthening the capacity of the Government to implement its plan of action and to empower local and national NGOs to effectively assist and advocate for the protection of IDPs.

Sudan

In December, the IDMC and WFP conducted two workshops for 50 WFP staff members and NGO partners in Sudan. The workshops were held in Rumbek (South Sudan) and Khartoum (for participants stationed in Darfur, and the Central, East and Three Areas – CETA).

The training project was developed within the framework of WFP's initiative to better integrate protection into its field programmes. Following the training needs assessment mission undertaken in April-May 2006, the IDMC training team and WFP's Emergencies and Transitions Unit designed workshops with the objective of strengthening the capacity of WFP staff and partners to contribute to the overall protection of displaced people and returnees.

Participants included programme officers and field monitors who are in charge of designing, implementing and monitoring food aid activities on the ground. Participants reviewed the international framework for the protection of these populations and discussed what protection means in the wider context and within WFP. The training also raised the awareness of protection risks facing WFP beneficiaries within the context of WFP food aid distributions and in general. The training focused on incorporating a protection lens into food assistance planning and implementation. Participants also were briefed on existing protection initiatives and structures in Sudan, in particular the UN-led protection working groups at the national and local levels.

Nepal

The training team conducted a workshop for 23 participants from the government and national civil society organizations based in Kathmandu and involved in the protection of IDPs in Nepal. These workshops were hosted by the NRC office in Nepal and sessions were co-facilitated by resource-persons from the NRC, UNHCR, OHCHR and OCHA offices in Kathmandu.

An estimated 200,000 people have been internally displaced in Nepal by ten years of war, which has claimed more than 13,000 lives and affected all districts of the country. One of the major obstacles to assessing the scope of forced displacement and planning for return has been related to the weakness of the government's IDP definition and policy.

The workshop aimed to establish a common understanding among national NGO and governmental representatives of the UN Guiding Principles definition and standards for protection. Participants remarked that the participatory nature of the workshop provided, for the first time, the opportunity for NGO and government representatives to discuss IDP issues and review the latest (and greatly improved) draft national policy.

Colombia

The second of four Training of Trainers' was carried out in Colombia was a focus on drama and forum play. The training took place in Fusagasuga in mid-November. Fourteen participants from NRC Colombia, national universities and partner organisations attended the workshop. All participants are directly involved in work with displaced persons and through their daily, weekly and/or monthly education activities a total of 1890 persons have benefited from their new skills, including 400 children and 800 adolescents.

Lebanon

IDMC conducted two workshops for humanitarian actors in Lebanon, in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs and UNHCR. The first workshop held in Beirut targeted 30 workers of the Social Development Centres, in charge of social welfare assistance at the local level. In Tyr, South Lebanon, participants included also representatives of international and

local NGOs active in the protection and assistance of returnees and IDPs.

The objective of the workshop was to raise the awareness of international legal standards and policies relating to the protection of IDPs and returnees, and highlight the responsibilities of national authorities towards displaced people and returnees. Whereas the crisis of displacement in the summer 2006 has rapidly subsided with the early return of the vast majority of IDPs, discussions during the workshop highlighted the need for continued attention on those who have not been able to return, particularly relating to the precarious situation of returnees.

Civil Society Project

The Life Story Project

The Life Story Project in Colombia continues to develop. Recent work has concentrated on the development of guidelines for editing the collection of testimonies, and on deciding upon advocacy strategies to promote the project. A principal advocacy project is the launch of a book that brings together a collection of oral testimonies. The launch is anticipated to take place in the first half of 2007. The launch is timely because 2007 has been declared by UNHCR, CODES and the Catholic Church in Colombia as *the year of the rights of the internally displaced persons*.

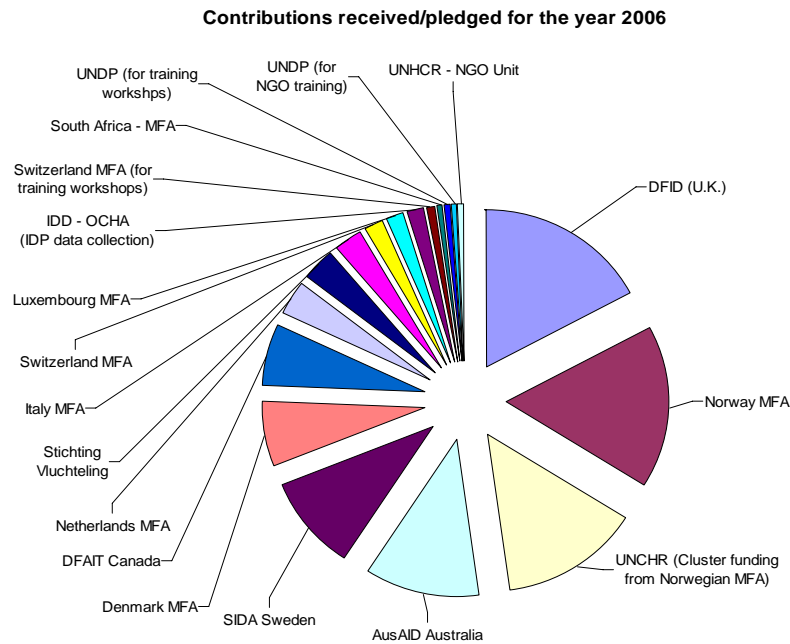
The planning of a new Life Story Project for Georgia has started together with Panos London and NRC Georgia. This project will be rolled out in March 2007.

Finally, the Civil Society department continues to give support and advice to several projects which are under development within IDMC, among them the Great Lakes Project and a study on gender and IDP legislation.

Financial Situation

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre closed its books for 2006 on a very positive note. The Centre's activities have expanded and its fundraising results have been excellent. We are pleased to inform you that the total income received for 2006 was USD 2,037,096, an increase of more than 50% over the previous year.

The IDMC carried out a mid-year budget revision to reflect increased demands for the Centre's services and activities. The revision resulted in an increase of 10.5 % compared with the initial 2006 budget. The IDMC received sufficient contributions to fully cover its revised budget. We are sincerely grateful for the enormous support you as donors have demonstrated through increased contributions and multi-year commitments.



Contributions received/pledged for 2006.

Thank you for supporting the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre!

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