



# Quarterly Update

January – March 2007

## Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the activities of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre between 1 January and 31 March 2007. It is also available to be read online or downloaded at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

The **Quarterly Update** should be read along with the **2007 Annual Appeal**, which outlines the main objectives, activities and financial needs for the year.



*In 2007 IDMC have continued to undertake fact-finding missions to countries affected by internal displacement.  
(Photo: Arild Birkenes, IDMC)*

## IDPs high on the agenda

### **An active role in the protection cluster**

The IDMC continued to support UNHCR's strengthened role on IDPs, and took an active role in the global protection cluster, in particular by contributing to ongoing standard-setting exercises. This included the IDMC's work with OCHA on developing inter-agency guidelines on IDP profiling (see below), the development of methodologies for profiling urban IDPs, and the contributions to the inter-agency handbook on housing and property restitution and to the IDP protection handbook (see also below under training and protection).

In its policy interventions, the IDMC continued to underline the importance of improving the response to IDP situations, and raised concerns about the lack of attention to situations where the cluster approach is not implemented.

### **IDP profiling guidelines nearing completion**

In January, the IDMC embarked on the final phase of the development of inter-agency guidelines on IDP profiling. The draft guidelines were discussed at a February meeting of the stakeholders in Geneva and a UNHCR/UNFPA workshop for research institutions in Brussels in March; they are now being prepared for discussion at the Protection Cluster Working Group.

### **Promoting the implementation of the Great Lakes Pact among local civil society groups**

In early 2007, the IDMC, in partnership with the International Refugee Rights Initiative, began national consultations as part of its project to involve NGOs in the implementation of the IDP-related protocols within the new Pact on Security, Stability and Development. The Pact was adopted by the members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in December 2006. The consultations took place in Uganda, Kenya and Burundi and aimed to prepare for a regional

civil society workshop on implementing the protocols, to take place in April 2007. The IDP-related protocols require states of the region to incorporate the Guiding Principles into national legislation, and ensure that returning refugees and IDPs are able to exercise their rights to property and land. The project has been made possible thanks to the support of DFAIT of Canada.

### **IDMC Head takes up Uganda assignment**

The Head of the IDMC and NRC Resident Representative in Geneva Elisabeth Rasmusson began a one-year leave of absence in January to take up an assignment as UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Uganda. During her absence, Paul Nesse is fulfilling her function as Resident Representative, and Jens-Hagen Eschenbächer is carrying out her role as Head of IDMC.

### **IDMC's organisational development**

Following an initial review of the IDMC's organisational structures carried out by an independent consultant in early 2007, and in view of the ongoing expansion of the Centre's activities, the need for a more thorough organisational development process was identified, to enable the IDMC to adapt and respond to the challenges and opportunities it faces. The IDMC has embarked on a longer-term process of development, which will be implemented progressively throughout 2007-2008.

### **New staff**

Marzia Montemurro joined the IDMC in March 2007 as Country Analyst for West Africa. Jacqueline Shahinian joined the IDMC as Office /Administration Assistant in January.



*A displaced woman in Soroti, Uganda.  
(Photo: Arild Birkenes, IDMC)*

## **Monitoring & Advocacy**

### **Country profile updates**

Although the Monitoring and Advocacy Team focused on preparing the IDMC's yearly Global Overview of the worldwide IDP situation, six regular country profile updates were published during the first quarter of 2007. Each included an overview summarising main developments and concerns.

Burundi	23 February
Azerbaijan	5 March
Philippines	14 March
Myanmar (Burma)	28 March
Uganda	28 March
Iraq	30 March

In addition, the IDMC published an in-depth report on the internal displacement crisis in the Central African Republic. All these and earlier updates are available at the IDP database at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

### **Focus on Uganda**

In the first quarter of 2007, the IDMC continued to engage in advocacy efforts regarding the conflict and humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda. In January 2007, the IDMC and NRC Uganda's Protection and Advocacy Adviser held briefings on the humanitarian situation with representatives of UN organisations including OCHA, UNHCR and UNICEF, as well as with the NGO Group on northern Uganda. In addition, the UK Mission to the United Nations hosted a donor briefing where NRC and the IDMC put forward a number of recommendations urging donors to continue to fund humanitarian programmes and maintain awareness of the situation in northern Uganda. The briefing was attended by the full OCHA donor support group in Geneva.

The IDMC also continued to lobby on behalf of IDPs at the UN Security Council. In March, in conjunction with the visit of the Special Envoy for LRA-affected areas and former Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano, the IDMC as part of a consortium of NGOs wrote to Security Council members urging that they issue a Presidential Statement to welcome the appointment of the Special Envoy and express support for the Juba peace talks. Soon after the departure of Special

Envoy Chissano, the Council issued a Presidential Statement on the Juba process, the appointment of Special Envoy Chissano, and the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda.

Also in March, the IDMC held a briefing for Geneva stakeholders in collaboration with the Small Arms Survey, on the impact of armed violence and the proliferation of small arms in the Karamoja region of eastern Uganda. The region has recently experienced extreme violence and conflict. The briefing, attended by NGOs, donor governments and UN officials, served to inform the broader community on the root causes of the violence and its resulting effect on vulnerable groups in northern and eastern Uganda.

### **Somalia**

The IDMC convened a meeting with Geneva-based NGOs in January to discuss and coordinate advocacy initiatives on Somalia. NRC Somalia's Policy and Advocacy Adviser gave a brief update on the deteriorating security situation in Somalia. Representatives of seven NGOs and the ICRC attended the meeting.

### **Central African Republic**

In January 2007, the IDMC published a special report on the situation of internal displacement in the Central African Republic (CAR), following a fact-finding mission undertaken in late 2006. The report documents the plight of Central Africans displaced by violence and human rights abuses, and raises concern over the lack of any systematic national response to the protection and humanitarian needs of the affected populations.

It calls on the Government to put an end to human rights violations committed by the security forces, to reinforce attempts to find political solutions to the ongoing conflicts, and to seek increased international support for any process of recovery which may follow the current cycle of violence and instability. The report concluded that there is an urgent need for more humanitarian organisations to respond to the needs of IDPs in the country.

In February 2007, the IDMC participated with Care International, World Vision and NRC Oslo in an inter-agency assessment mission aimed at analysing needs for operational responses. Their findings were presented to the humanitarian

community at a debriefing and through a report published in March. As a result, NRC decided to open an office in the capital Bangui, focusing initially on emergency education.

Also in March, the IDMC made a presentation on the gaps in the current humanitarian response in CAR on the occasion of the meeting of the Human Rights Council organised by the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs.

### **Fact-finding mission to Ethiopia**

The IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to Ethiopia, which included a number of meetings in Addis Ababa and a field trip to northern Oromiya, Hararghe and the Somali region, to collect information on people displaced by conflict and natural disaster. A special report is being prepared.

### **Sri Lanka side event at Human Rights Council**

The IDMC helped to organise a side event during the March Session of the Human Rights Council. The Centre presented a regional overview of internal displacement in Asia and provided background documents on the country's IDP situation.

### **Usability study for IDP database**

In February and March, the IDMC conducted a usability test of its website. The study aimed to assess the site's user-friendliness, design, structure and navigation, and also the quality and relevance of the information available, in particular in the IDP Database section. An online survey of users gathered useful information on how the website is used and on the general level of satisfaction with content and format. The survey also served to highlight the problems encountered by users and their suggestions for improvement.

In a second phase, eight representatives of core client groups completed in-depth 60-minute user tests. They performed a number of carefully selected tasks on the website while being recorded on video. The tasks focused on specific features that had been identified as problematic by the online user survey. The analysis of the testing showed that most users were generally very satisfied with the website's overall usability and with the quality of information. At the same time, the study highlighted some areas where improvements could be made. The third phase is ongoing, with the site now being developed to implement the report's main recommendations.

## Training & Protection

### Training workshops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The IDMC conducted two training workshops in eastern DRC at the request of UNHCR. The workshops were held in Goma (North Kivu province) and Bukavu (South Kivu province) in order to reach out to organisations in each province who are not members of the protection cluster working groups.

Each workshop targeted about 30 participants from a broad spectrum of institutions and agencies. Provincial and local authorities including police and military forces were represented, as well as local NGOs whose activities relate to the protection of displaced people. International agencies and NGOs from the protection cluster working groups were also present to enable debate on the response to local situations of internal displacement.

The workshops aimed to build a common framework of standards and references for international and national actors in the Kivu region. Participants reviewed the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Framework for National Responsibility in order to identify the rights of IDPs and the responsibilities of national authorities. They were also briefed on the instruments developed through the Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

All the participants were briefed on the role of the protection cluster working groups, and the initiatives already developed in response to internal displacement. Discussions focused on how to create bridges between cluster and non-cluster organisations, in order to allow national and local NGOs to use the protection cluster as advocates to raise key protection concerns with the relevant authorities.

The workshops concluded with the adoption of recommendations on the collection of data, the strengthening of the legal framework for the protection of IDPs, and the search for durable solutions. The recommendations will be reviewed and disseminated by the protection cluster working groups.

### Training of trainers in Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, the IDMC conducted a training-of-trainers (TOT) workshop for 18 participants. The workshop was developed as a follow-up to the training event conducted in December 2006, and aimed to build the national training capacity to deliver more training on the protection of IDPs to organisations across the country.

The workshop included a series of sessions led by an external consultant on the principles and practices of adult learning and teaching. During the second half of the workshop, the participants were all asked to facilitate sessions based on IDMC modules and facilitator's guides, which were translated into French. At the end of their session, the IDMC training team gave participants detailed feedback on to the training techniques used, and their time management and facilitation approaches.



*The trained trainers after attending an IDMC TOT event in Côte d'Ivoire, March 2007.*

*(Photo: Mateusz Tuniewicz, IDMC)*

The TOT was developed in cooperation with NRC in Côte d'Ivoire, and with the support of UNHCR and OCHA. This TOT was meant to create a pool of trainers to enable NRC to hold workshops in other localities and cities.

Most of the participants were selected from the December 2006 event to ensure that they had sufficient knowledge of the issue. However, it also appeared that several trainers would need further support on the topic to be more at ease when conducting training. Recommendations on addressing this need were shared with NRC.

*Feedback from participants at the IDMC TOT in Côte d'Ivoire*

“We are now fully equipped to disseminate the Guiding Principles among any target groups and in all locations.”

“I think that I have learned a lot and that I will be able to disseminate the Guiding Principles within our structure.”

“I was impressed by the trainers’ methodological approach and the organisation around the workshop.”

### **Training the UN Country Team in Kenya**

The IDMC was approached by OCHA Kenya to facilitate a one-day seminar for the UN Country Team in Kenya on IDPs. This request followed the December 2006 release of the IDMC report which highlighted the plight of people displaced by conflict and violence in the country. The “UN Orientation on Internal Displacement in Kenya” was held in Nairobi and was officially opened by UN Resident Coordinator Elizabeth Lwanga, who welcomed some 15 participants from the various agencies of the Country Team, including OCHA, UNICEF and UNHCR.

The meeting was followed the next day by a workshop targeting members of Kenyan civil society. The 25 participants discussed the civil society response to the issue of conflict-induced displacement in their country, and committed to reinforce their cooperation, in particular through joint advocacy initiatives.

### **Inter-agency IDP Protection Handbook**

The IDMC continued to work on the drafting of the chapter on protection interventions and activities for the inter-agency IDP protection handbook. Thematic research papers prepared by an external consultant were reviewed in line with guidelines set out by UNHCR, in particular to make information more readable and digestible for field-based practitioners. The chapter includes eleven self-standing thematic sections, covering advocacy, capacity building, family unity, documentation, legal counselling, information dissemination, prevention, profiling, presence, material assistance, and evacuation.

## **Civil Society Project**

### **Capacity building for national groups**

The third of four Forum Play TOT training events was delivered in Fusagasuga, Colombia, on 5-9 March 2007. The 12 participants were NRC Colombia staff and emergency educators working for a number of NGOs and Universities. Presently, their work directly benefits 2,200 displaced children, adolescents and adults from four regions: Bogota (Souacha), Santa Marta, Cucuta and Pasto.

*Comments from participants in the Forum Play training in Colombia:*

“We have managed to include the use of Forum Play in the curriculum for the school children”

“The methodology of Forum Play facilitates the work with youth so that they can increase their awareness on several issues in a natural way”

### **IDPs tell their life stories**

The Life Stories Project in Colombia involves the recording, compilation and publishing of the experiences of the country’s displaced people. Between January and March 2007, 19 individual life stories were selected, and the editing process began. The book, to be published in Spanish and English, will be launched in Bogota on 27 June 2007.

A new Life Story project has been developed in Georgia together with Panos London, NRC Georgia and various civil society groups including representatives of IDPs and host communities. 16 participants attended a workshop on 26-31 March 2007 in Tskneti, Georgia, to learn about interview techniques, security issues, and the psycho-social aspects of recounting life stories. Georgian writer Guram Odisharia was invited as a keynote speaker and shared his experiences of collecting the life stories of people in the Caucasus.

*Comments from participants in the IDMC Life Story Project in Georgia:*

“Hearing one life story is already helping one person, and we will hear many of them.”

“People may think that their stories are not important, but in fact they are. We are looking for the hidden knowledge inside the person.”

A web page for the life stories project is being developed, which will link to the current IDMC page, but which can also be accessed independently. The aim of this website is to give a voice to internally displaced people so that they can tell their life stories in their own words. While the stories and voices will provide valuable insight when read in isolation, they may also act as a valuable tool to balance official discourse and traditional discussions of conflict and its consequences. The web page will be launched in Summer 2007.

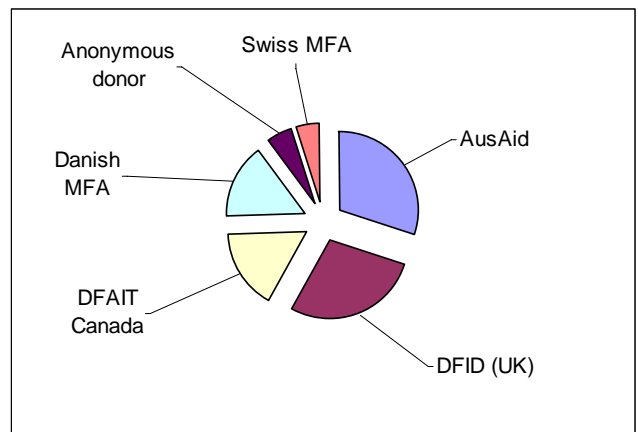


*Displaced women and children in the Central African Republic, where the humanitarian situation continues to worsen. (Photo: Hortence Mpako Foaeng, IDMC)*

## Financial Situation

The IDMC has started the year on a sound financial footing and has been able to raise around 40% of its budget at the end of the first quarter. We are confident that more donors will continue to support the Centre’s activities and make financial contributions accordingly.

### Contributions received/pledged for the year 2007 (as of 31 March 2007)



### Global Cluster 2007

IDMC is seeking to raise \$481,000 through the 2007 Global Cluster Appeal. Cluster funds will be directly targeted at IDMC protection training, the continued development of the inter-agency IDP Profiling Guidelines, and a property restitution project. IDMC participated fully in the Protection Cluster throughout 2006 and has remained a key partner of UNHCR, as cluster lead, in developing and implementing the Work Plan for 2007. We welcome the commitment of donors to the Global Cluster Appeal.

Thank you for supporting the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre!

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