



# Quarterly Update

July – September 2007

## Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the activities of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 July and 30 September 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 Appeal and Future Strategy*, which outlines the main objectives, activities and financial needs for the year.

## IDPs on global agendas

### IDPs on the agenda at UNHCR's annual consultations with NGOs

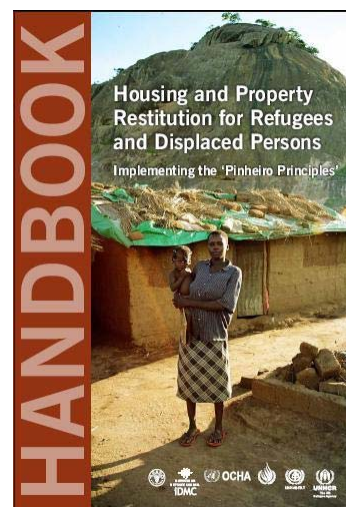
IDMC was extensively involved in UNHCR's Annual Consultations with NGOs, contributing to debate on IDPs issues over the three days of the event. Over 270 national and international organisations attended the September consultations, to raise issues and exchange views with each other and staff of UNHCR. IDMC moderated a session entitled *Humanitarian reform: Responding to IDP situations in non-cluster countries*, which looked at the agency's approach to IDP situations in countries where the cluster approach is not applied.

The session contributed to a better understanding among NGOs of what they can expect from UNHCR, and looked at strategies on how UNHCR and NGOs can work together to improve national and international responses to IDP situations, taking into account lessons learned from the evolving nature of UNHCR-NGO cooperation in countries where the cluster approach is already in place.

## Property Issues

### Publication and distribution of the property restitution handbook

The handbook was published in July 2007 following its joint preparation by OCHA, OHCHR, UN-HABITAT, UN-FAO, UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Building on the Pinheiro Principles on Housing and



Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons which were approved by the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights in August 2005, the handbook aims at providing practical guidance to people working on housing and property restitution issues. The handbook is currently being distributed to NRC field offices and relevant partners.

### Conference on housing rights in Budapest

In September 2007, IDMC took part in a conference organised by the Commissioner for Human Rights to the Council of Europe. The participants examined the housing situation in Europe and the existing legal remedies to enforce housing rights through the European Court for Human Rights and the European Social Charter. IDMC's presentation focused on the property restitution for refugees and internally displaced people in the Balkans. The conference will result in an issue paper on housing rights and a set of guidelines on how to implement housing rights to be published in 2008.

## **Displaced children**

IDMC participated in a half-day meeting between NGOs and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict in September 2007. During the session, NGOs discussed how to best advance the rights of children affected by armed conflict, including the rights of displaced children.

## **Submission on children's rights in Georgia**

In July, IDMC supported NRC's submission on Georgia to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The report, which draws extensively on the latest IDMC update on IDPs in Georgia, provided insights into the main problems faced by internally displaced children, including separate schooling and feelings of isolation, as well as the possible consequences for displaced children following the development of the Georgian state strategy on IDPs.

## **Displaced women**

In June IDMC submitted a shadow report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, for consideration by the Committee of Kenya's periodic report. IDMC drew the Committee's attention to the situation of internally displaced women in the country, highlighting a number of substantial constraints they face in realising the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Following the July-August session, the Committee called on the government of Kenya to take steps to address the protection of displaced women in the country, and expressed concern about the lack of information provided by the government about refugee and internally displaced women. The Committee urged the government to take action alongside the international community to protect these women from all forms of violence, and improve the mechanisms available for redress and rehabilitation.

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

In September, IDMC participated in a retreat organized by UNHCR for the contributors to the inter-agency IDP protection handbook, for

which IDMC is one of the main contributors. Participants reviewed the various chapters, before presenting the draft to the members of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group. From October 2007, the draft handbook will be disseminated to field personnel to use and test over a period of six months before submitting their comments.

## **IDP news alert service**

From 6 September IDMC's email news alerts became a weekly service, to enable distribution of timely and relevant news on displacement to subscribers, and to ensure that the situations of internally displaced people remain on the agendas of humanitarian and human rights decision-makers. During the month of September, 26 news items were published, covering 19 of the 50 or more countries affected by conflict-induced internal displacement.

To subscribe to the IDP news alert and RSS news-feed services, and to receive notifications of updated country reports and profiles, visit the IDP database at [www.internal-displacement.org/news](http://www.internal-displacement.org/news).

## Monitoring & Advocacy

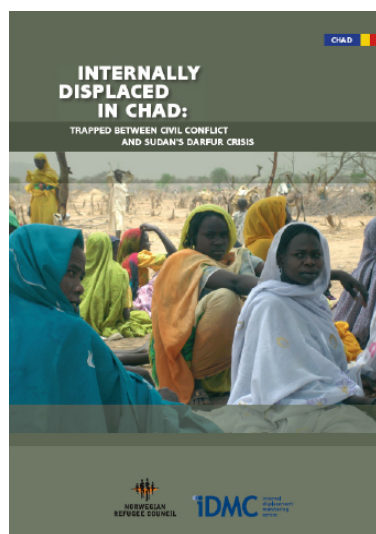
### Responding to the Burma crisis

In view of the large-scale democracy protests in Burma in September and the government's subsequent crackdown, IDMC issued a press release emphasising the need for the international community to develop a joint response to the political, and interlinked humanitarian and human rights crises, in Burma. While much international attention has focused on the violent repression of democracy activists in Burma, IDMC sought to highlight the lesser-known plight of ethnic minorities who for years have fled their homes as a result of persecution and human rights violations perpetrated by the Burmese army, creating the worst forced displacement crisis in all of Asia.

IDMC provided a statement for the special session of the Human Rights Council on Burma in October and urged the Council to investigate the human rights abuses of democracy activists and ethnic minorities, committed by the government. In discussions with the Special Rapporteur on Burma, who may be going on a fact-finding mission to the country, IDMC encouraged him to assess the violations of the human rights of ethnic minorities groups during his trip.

### Chad – special report follows IDMC mission to eastern Chad

In July 2007 the IDMC published its first country profile and a report in English and French on the internal displacement situation in eastern Chad. *Internally displaced in Chad: Trapped between civil conflict and Sudan's Darfur crisis*



*crisis* draws attention to the plight of the Chadians, including women and children, displaced by violence and human rights abuses, and raises concern over the low level of preparedness of international humanitarian bodies.

The report also calls on the authorities in Chad to step up efforts to ensure that IDPs can access adequate living conditions, and to reduce tensions between displaced populations and host communities by reinforcing local traditional and religious conflict resolution mechanisms. The report concludes by underlining the need for more systematic, better planned and more effective coordination, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

The report was presented at the IASC meeting dedicated to the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad, and it was also used as a background paper by a donor mission to Chad.

### Fact-finding mission to Côte d'Ivoire

Following the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement in March 2007, IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to Côte d'Ivoire from 15 to 28 September. The purpose of the mission was to collect information on the situation of IDPs and on the patterns and numbers of returns in light of this latest peace agreement, to identify protection concerns and to map gaps in both the national and the international response.

IDMC met representatives of a number of key institutions and stakeholders in Abidjan, visited villages affected by displacement in the west of the country in the former "Zone of Confidence" and met IDP returnees and relevant agencies in Bouaké, in the north of the country. Information gathered from this mission will be used for the update of Côte d'Ivoire's country profile and for the development of an NRC/IDMC advocacy strategy.

### Democratic Republic of Congo

In September 2007, IDMC and NRC, along with other NGOs, co-drafted and signed a letter calling for government and international action to improve the deteriorating humanitarian situation in eastern DRC. Earlier that month, NRC and IDMC issued a joint press release on the urgent need to protect IDPs in North Kivu. At least 529,000 people have been displaced in eastern DRC in 2007 by clashes between the national army and dissident groups.

## Sri Lanka fact-finding mission and special country report

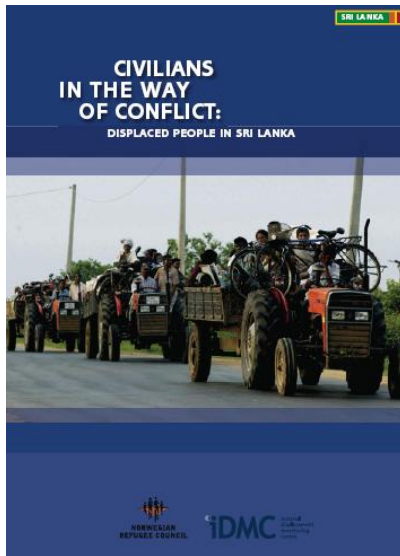
In response to reports of forced returns of IDPs by the government of Sri Lanka, IDMC undertook a fact-finding mission to the country from 25 June to 8 July 2007.

The mission focused on eastern Sri Lanka's Trincomalee district, from where reports of forced returns have been originating, as well as western Sri Lanka's Puttalam district where a minority Muslim population in a protracted displacement situation remains largely forgotten by the international community.

By interviewing internally displaced people, and local and international humanitarian and human rights agencies, IDMC was able to verify that forced returns had indeed been taking place, and develop recommendations accordingly. The findings and recommendations from the mission have been published in September in a special country report entitled *Civilians in the Way of Conflict: Displaced People in Sri Lanka*.

IDMC went on to brief Sri Lanka's donors in Geneva on the protection concerns of IDPs, especially related to forced returns. In a letter to the UN Humanitarian Affairs Chief and ERC John Holmes, prior to his Sri Lanka mission in August, IDMC highlighted critical concerns facing the displaced and urged the ERC to look into these issues during his mission.

IDMC has regularly been participating in meetings with human rights and humanitarian NGOs in New York as part of its advocacy efforts to bring an end to violations against IDPs in Sri Lanka. Recently, IDMC was invited to join the advisory team for the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict's upcoming Sri Lanka report. The Watchlist is a network of NGOs that monitors and reports on violations against



children in specific conflict areas and uses these reports to urge action by the UN Security Council and other policy makers.

## Advocating for Uganda's IDPs

In the previous Quarterly Update we reported that the IDMC/NRC had submitted written evidence to the International Development Committee of the UK Parliament. The Committee's report, *Prospects for Sustainable Peace in Uganda*, came out in July 2007. It referred to the IDMC/NRC submission on several occasions, and a number of key recommendations made by IDMC/NRC were reflected in the Committee's own recommendations. Most notably the Committee followed IDMC/NRC input on the need for the donors to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the people in northern Uganda where the humanitarian crisis persists despite the ending of hostilities brought about by the peace process, and on the need to prioritise funding for police training.

Prior to the BBC HARDtalk interview with Ugandan Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa that was broadcast on 24 September 2007, the IDMC country analyst for Uganda briefed a BBC journalist from HARDtalk, the BBC's flagship news programme shown on BBC World and BBC News 24. The programme was broadcast on 24 September 2007, and used and attributed the information that IDMC had provided in the section of the interview dedicated to the situation in northern Uganda.

## Regular country profile updates

Turkey	26 July
Liberia	27 July
Russian Federation	13 August
Zimbabwe	20 August
Israel	30 August
Timor-Leste	7 September
Guinea - summary of outstanding issues	September

All these and earlier updates are available at the IDP database at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

## Training and Protection

### IDMC training in Somalia

IDMC conducted two training workshops in Somalia in July, for local and provincial authorities in South-Central and Puntland, at the request of the UNHCR and OCHA country offices.

The first workshop in Baidoa was attended by representatives of the relevant ministries of the Transitional Federal Government (Return and Reintegration, Health, Youth and Sport, Women, Interior, Education, Water and Mining Resources), as well as the National Refugee Council. The rest of the 44 participants included authorities from the Bay region (district commissioners), as well as members of international organizations and NGOs. The workshop was the first opportunity for authorities in South-Central to become familiar with international standards of IDP protection, review the protection concerns of IDPs in the area, and discuss the roles and capacities of the bodies tasked to respond to them.



An IDMC training group in Baidoa, Somalia. IDMC carries out IDP protection training in field programmes, bringing together participants from governments and civil society. (Photo: IDMC)

The second workshop in Garowe, Puntland's administrative capital, involved 20 representatives from the provincial and local authorities, including one governor and five mayors. National and international staff members of NGOs and international organizations were also present. The workshop aimed to strengthen the involvement of the Puntland authorities in efforts to coordinate the protection response to internal displacement in Puntland. In particular, the participants reviewed the inter-agency IDP 2005 strategy and discussed

possible actions to help achieve the Strategy's objectives. This input will be discussed again by UN agencies and the authorities in early 2008 in the scheduled review of the 2005 Strategy.

### Sri Lanka training

The IDMC provided training support to the Norwegian Refugee Council and the UNHCR field offices in Sri Lanka, by organising a workshop on the protection of IDPs.

25 participants representing governmental and NGO humanitarian partners working in the North, the East, Puttlam and the Capital attended the workshop held in Negombo from 2 to 4 July. Using the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as a framework and tool, government agents, and assistant government agents representing relevant ministries, the Sri Lankan Army and Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission joined NGO, UNHCR and NRC representatives to analyse and apply international human rights and humanitarian law standards to their work, to identify priority protection concerns and propose activities in response.

### Training of trainers follow-up in Côte d'Ivoire

The IDMC provided training support to the NRC field office in Côte d'Ivoire to follow up on the March 2007 "training of trainers" workshop held in Abidjan. The IDMC worked with the NRC training assistant responsible for coordinating a pool of local trainers and NRC's in-country training programme. IDMC co-facilitated two workshops for government officials and led an advanced training session for the trainers on the human rights legal framework. IDMC also led group and individual meetings to document and evaluate the impact of the December 2006 and March 2007 workshops and take stock of constraints and lessons learned by trainers.

Preliminary indicators are positive – six months after the TOT, NRC had conducted eight workshops for over 300 representatives of government, local NGOs, communities and IDPs across the country. Several representatives indicated that they had observed changes in the behaviour and attitudes of their government counterparts as a result of their better understanding of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

## Civil Society Project

### Civil Society strategy in 2008

Following the IDMC internal restructuring process, a new strategy for the civil society department has been developed and will be rolled out in 2008. Focus will be on the IDP Voices project. The following activities were carried out during the period under review.

#### Published July 2007: *Let It Be Known – Internally Displaced Colombians Speak Out*



*Let It Be Known* is a compilation of life stories told by people displaced by Colombia's years of internal conflict and human rights violations. You can read or hear the stories online, in English or Spanish, at [www.idpvoices.org](http://www.idpvoices.org).

The book is one outcome of the first of a series of IDP oral testimony projects from around the world. In these 19 interviews, peasant farmers, indigenous people and Afro-Colombians relate the great drama of forced displacement which they themselves have lived. Some have been displaced more than once, and all have been separated from family members and spouses in their flight. But these life stories are not about passive victims – they are about people with inner strength, with a strong will to survive and regain control of their lives, who continue to show enormous courage in standing up for their rights.

#### IDP Voices – European launch of IDP voices site and English version of life stories book

On 5 July, IDMC launched the book *Let It Be Known – Internally Displaced Colombians Speak Out* together with UNHCR at the Madrid Press Association. Speakers and panellists included Norwegian Ambassador Per Ludvig Magnus, Colombian Ambassador Martha Noemí Sanin, Spain's Ambassador on Human Rights Silvia Escobar, UNHCR's representative to Spain Agni Castro Pita, and Maria Ligia Chaverra who is

herself displaced and the legal representative of the “Cuenca del Curvarado” in Chocó, Colombia. IDMC presented the project and moderated the event. Around 30 representatives of the media and the NGO community in Spain participated, and several interviews were published in the press and on the radio.



IDMC European launch of *Let It Be Known* with the UNHCR Madrid office at the Madrid Press Association. (Photo: Patricia Palomar Recio, July 2007)

#### Life stories workshop in Georgia

IDMC gave advice and support to an “end of collection meeting” of the joint IDMC/NRC life story project, which took place in Thavkisi, Georgia from 27 to 29 July. The 15 participants shared their experiences of collecting nearly 60 stories in Georgian and Russian, and the reading committee presented their work. Using precise criteria, the life stories were thoroughly analysed and 26 were selected for publication. Dissemination strategies were developed and a psychosocial support session was held. The selected stories are currently being edited.



Participants in the IDP Voices Project in Georgia reviewing the life stories of displaced people. (Photo: NRC Georgia)

## Financial Situation

### Global Cluster Appeal

IDMC has requested \$481,000 through the 2007 Global Cluster Appeal, in order to support the work of protection clusters in the field of IDP protection at the global and field levels. Projects focus on IDP profiling, including in urban areas, IDP protection training for cluster partners, and property restitution in informal ownership settings. All these projects address key gaps in the current response system, and involve a strong inter-agency dimension.

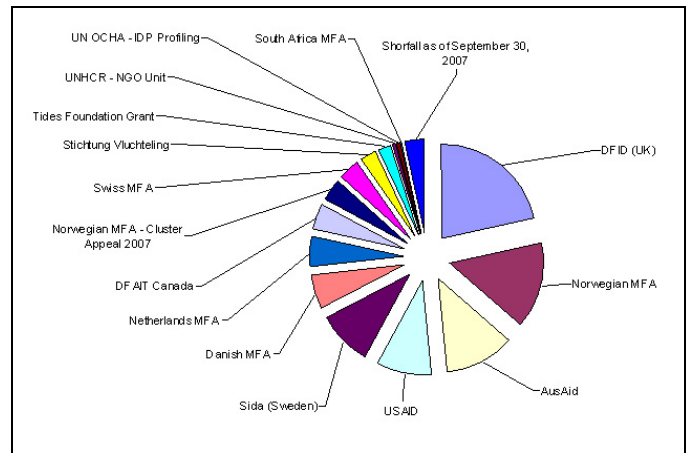
To date IDMC has received only \$85,000, less than one fifth of the amount it appealed for in the Appeal for Building Global Humanitarian Response Capacity. We welcome the cluster contributions we have received from MFA Norway, but note with concern that a majority of our projects in support of the Protection Cluster will remain on hold and uncompleted without further financial support.

All information on the IDMC projects related to the cluster appeal can be found in the Appeal for Building Global Humanitarian Response Capacity.

### Third-quarter forecast

The lack of cluster funding has had a negative impact on IDMCs financial situation. A budget review was made in September, in which the cluster funds were incorporated into the core budget. In order to avoid a shortfall at the end of the year, some of the IDMC's planned activities have been removed from the budget and others have been put on hold pending new funding. For example, the recruitment of an IDP profiling advisor and a third trainer have been suspended. The revised and merged core and cluster budget amounts to \$2,272,000. IDMC strongly encourage its donors to consider further support.

The DFAIT Canada contribution of \$83,400 for the Great Lakes Project, has not been included in the original budget, but as a foot note.



**Contributions received/pledged for 2007**  
(as of 30 September 2007)

Thank you for supporting the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre! All contributions small or large are most appreciated.

## New Staff

Katinka Ridderbos joined IDMC in July 2007 as Country Analyst for Uganda, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

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