



Quarterly Update

October-December 2007

Introduction

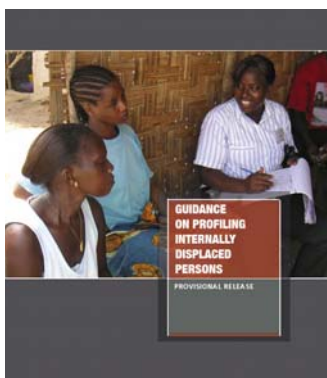
This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the activities of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 October and 31 December 2007. It is also available to be read online or downloaded at www.internal-displacement.org

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

Profiling Guidance forwarded to IASC-WG for endorsement

The inter-agency *Guidance on Profiling Internally Displaced Persons*, developed by IDMC and OCHA-DPSS with support by UNHCR, was submitted to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group for final endorsement in late December 2007.



The Guidance had already been endorsed by the global Protection Cluster Working Group. As a next step, the Guidance will be disseminated to the field and launched at a UNHCR-sponsored meeting on IDP profiling planned for April 2008 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

In November 2007, the IDMC set up a new web page collecting IDP profiling resources. The page presents a growing selection of general and country-related profiling reports and tools and is available at www.internal-displacement.org/profiling.

Presentation of study on scope of IDMC's monitoring

In December 2007, the IDMC presented to its stakeholders the conclusions of a study commissioned to explore whether the Centre should take on the monitoring of internal displacement situations not caused by conflicts, but by environmental factors, natural disasters and development. On the basis of the study, IDMC concluded to continue to focus on conflict-related internal displacement, where it has the greatest added value.

IDMC will develop a clearer definition of the types of conflict situations it will cover, and will take factors relating to environmental change and development into account in its monitoring where these factors influence conflicts leading to internal displacement. The IDMC will also explore possibilities to develop an Internal Displacement Severity Index.

Global Information Symposium +5

In October 2007, the IDMC participated in the Global Symposium +5 "Information for Humanitarian Action" organised by OCHA. Bringing together information management experts from the UN, donor agencies and governments, and NGOs, the conference agreed on a common statement of the central role of information and analysis in support of effective humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery.

Monitoring & Advocacy

Human rights-based advocacy with UN system

In the last quarter of 2007 IDMC continued its human rights based advocacy activities in co-operation with the UN human rights system. The office contributed three reports to treaty bodies, in this instance the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In addition, IDMC engaged in the new monitoring mechanism created by the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, and made submissions regarding situations of internal displacement in three countries to be reviewed during the first session of the first cycle of the Review in April 2008.

Sri Lanka: briefing for UN Representative, advocacy on situation of displaced children

IDMC prepared a briefing paper on the protection and humanitarian concerns of IDPs in Sri Lanka for the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, prior to his Sri Lanka mission in late 2007. IDMC emphasised the complications arising from non-sustainable returns and the deteriorating security situation for returnees who had been sent back prematurely by authorities.

IDMC also reviewed and provided input for the Sri Lanka report of the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict scheduled for launch in March 2008. The Watchlist is a network of NGOs that monitors and reports on violations against children in conflict areas and uses these reports to urge action by the UN Security Council and other policy makers. Additionally, IDMC acted as a conduit with advocacy networks in the US, such as the Sri Lanka Working Group in New York, and kept them abreast of information from Sri Lanka as well as advocacy initiatives in Geneva.

India: Universal Periodic Review submission

Ahead of the UN Human Rights Council session in December 2007, IDMC compiled and submitted a report on the IDP situation in India for the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Council. The report highlighted the inconsistent

response by the Indian government towards the different IDP groups, and made a number of recommendations, including the adoption of a national IDP policy in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Azerbaijan: fact-finding mission and briefing paper on IDP living conditions

IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to Azerbaijan in November 2007 and made a presentation on national responsibilities towards IDPs at a UNHCR/NRC workshop on IDP protection for government officials and NGO leaders. During the mission, IDMC visited 12 urban, semi-urban and rural areas with IDP populations and interviewed displaced people in these areas.

Based on the interviews, a briefing paper was published and disseminated to European institutions including the European Union and Council of Europe, UN agencies (UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR), other international organisations (World Bank, ICRC, OSCE, Danish Refugee Council), the Government of Azerbaijan, international human rights organisations, Azeri human rights NGOs and the media.



Resettled IDP family in rural Azerbaijan. The girl had dropped out of school in order to earn money for the family. Photo: Nadine Walicki, IDMC

Angola: review of remaining IDP needs

In October 2007 IDMC undertook a fact-finding mission to Angola and published a report analysing the internal displacement situation on the basis of the *Framework for Durable Solutions* developed by the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement.

The report reviews the situation of people displaced by the war in Angola and explores whether they still have specific needs and vulnerabilities related to the fact that they were displaced. It considers the return and reintegration processes and the current conditions of former IDPs, concluding that the processes did not abide by the principles contained in national policies. Although in Angola proper former IDPs do not face specific discrimination and their living conditions are broadly the same as those of the non-displaced population, many of them are among the poorest population groups and remain excluded from services and from mechanisms to protect their rights.

Uganda: joint NGO letter and briefing paper on humanitarian concerns

In November, IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to Kampala and northern Uganda and initiated a joint letter that was signed by 48 international and Ugandan NGOs and called on both parties to the conflict in northern Uganda to remain committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and rule out a resumption of military hostilities. The letter also called on the international community to respond to northern Uganda continuing humanitarian, early recovery and development needs. The letter was launched in Kampala and was reported on by a number of different media organisations.

Following the mission to Uganda, IDMC together with the NRC also produced a briefing paper with a detailed analysis of the current situation in northern Uganda. The briefing paper was sent to members of the UN Security Council and the UN Department for Political Affairs, and was shared with the permanent missions of Uganda's donor countries in Geneva.

Algeria: submission to the UN Human Rights Committee

In October, IDMC submitted a report to the UN Human Rights Committee prior to its periodic report on Algeria. IDMC drew the Committee's attention to the scope of the internal displacement problem and the lack of information on the situation. The Algerian Government and the members of the Committee debated a question of internal displacement at its 91st session.

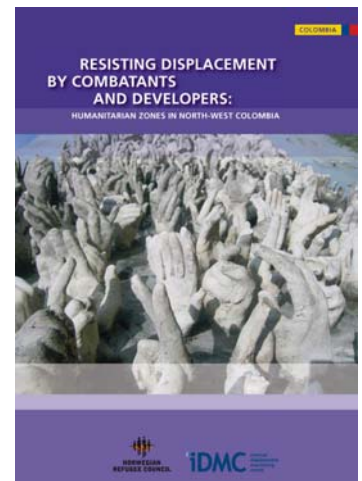
Niger: monitoring new displacement

Following the recent violence in northern Niger, IDMC started monitoring the situation in the country and issued regular updates through its News Alerts. The draft IDP Profiling Guidance and a guidance paper in French were also shared with Niger's Humanitarian Coordinator in view of an assessment mission to the north of the country. The Niger Movement for Justice (MJN) launched an uprising in February 2007 to counter continuing inequalities and demand greater Tuareg autonomy. Fighting between members of the MJN and Niger's army has reportedly led to the displacement of 11,000 people.

Colombia: forced displacement and biofuels plantations

In November, IDMC presented the findings of a report on forced displacements and Colombia's African palm plantations to US policy makers and researchers in Washington DC, including staff of the Congress, US State Department, USAID and research institutions.

In December, the Colombian Attorney General's office opened formal investigations against African palm plantations examined in the report and the US Senate has restricted investment in oil palm plantations if deemed to cause internal displacement or environmental damage



Urban displacement: Colombia case study

In October, IDMC initiated the third and final stage of the urban displacement study in Santa Marta, Colombia in collaboration with Tufts University. The final report is expected to be presented in April 2008 at a UNHCR conference on profiling of IDPs.

Missions to Guatemala and Mexico

In October, IDMC conducted fact-finding missions to Guatemala and Mexico. The missions identified serious flaws in the Guatemalan reparation programme for displaced people, and noted a deterioration of the situation in Chiapas, Mexico, with increased numbers of forced displacements of indigenous people.

Fact-finding mission to Indonesia

IDMC conducted a fact-finding mission to Indonesia in late November and early December. The purpose of the mission was to assess the situation of displaced and resettled communities in the two former conflict-affected provinces of Aceh and Maluku. The mission sought to assess the general human right and humanitarian situation faced by displaced and returnees groups in both provinces and the extent to which they have been able to find durable solutions.

IDMC met with key organisations and institutions working with displaced or resettled populations in Jakarta, Banda Aceh and Ambon, including UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs and local authorities. Field visits were also conducted to resettlement camps and IDP sites in central Aceh, Ambon city and West Seram island, where the mission held meetings with IDPs or IDP representatives as well as community leaders. Information gathered from this mission will be used for the update of Indonesia's country profile in early 2008.



*Young boy in resettled community in central Aceh helping with the drying of coffee, the main source of livelihood.
Photo: Frederik Kok, IDMC*

Redesigned homepage

Following a website usability study conducted in early 2007, the IDMC launched a redesigned homepage for its website in October. Aiming at a clearer structure in presenting the Centre's reports and news and an increased user-friendliness, the new design makes broad use of visual elements and grants multiple accesses to the different sections of the online IDP Database. The changes were well received by the website's audience and the number of both visits and page views increased by 25 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

Country profile updates

Georgia	11 October
Sudan	12 October
Nigeria	29 October
Syria	31 October
DRC	29 November
Serbia	10 December
Angola	12 December
Cyprus	18 December
Algeria	19 December

All these and earlier updates are available on the IDP database at www.internal-displacement.org.

Training and Protection

Joint training with UNHCR

IDMC was invited to join a UNHCR training team in a series of workshops to reinforce the IDP protection capacity of UNHCR field staff. They conducted one workshop in Kampala for about 30 staff in three IDP operations (Uganda, Somalia and Ethiopia), and a second one in Abeche, for 25 staff in Chad.

Workshop participants reviewed key aspects of the protection of IDPs, from the perspective of UNHCR both as an operational agency and the lead agency for the protection cluster. Participants from a wide range of profiles, including both protection and programme officers, discussed how protection should be mainstreamed into UNHCR field activities. The IDMC trainer took part in the preparation of the workshop, developing the objectives, agenda, and methodology with the UNHCR training team. In each workshop, the trainer led two sessions on the legal protection framework and on protection activities.



*Training workshop in Abeche, Chad.
Photo: Yasser Saad/UNHCR*

Several participants mentioned that the training had helped them to visualise concrete steps for UNHCR to plan for and implement “protection” of IDPs in the field. The inclusion of the IDMC trainer in the training team helped to reinforce the cooperation between IDMC and UNHCR’s Protection Capacity Section. This opportunity for UNHCR and IDMC to share experiences and lessons learned on IDP protection training also created the conditions for a more efficient collaboration on training and capacity building activities as planned and developed within the Protection Cluster Learning Task Force.

Support to NRC staff

In December 2007, the IDMC training team conducted a workshop on the protection of IDPs for about 20 NRC staff members based at the Oslo headquarters. The main group comprised programme coordinators, who are the focal points for country programmes at HQ. Other participants included technical advisers, who are responsible for sectoral support and policy development.

The objective of the workshop was to review the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in depth and to ensure that the participants could refer to it appropriately. The training focused mainly on the legal framework applicable to the protection from arbitrary displacement, during displacement and to the search of durable solutions. A particular effort was made to refer to the legal sources of the IDPs’ rights restated in the Guiding Principles and to highlight how these rights are defined under international law.

In line with the human rights-based approach, the training related IDPs’ rights to NRC core activities (shelter, food security, camp management, education, and information counselling and legal advice), thereby highlighting how NRC programmes in the field contribute to the protection of IDPs across the human rights spectrum.

The training was very well received by the participants who welcomed the newly gained knowledge on IDPs’ rights as essential to analyse and address dilemmas and challenges faced by NRC when developing and implementing programmes.



*Workshop on protection for NRC Oslo
Photo: Christophe Beau/IDMC*

Support to African Network of National Human Rights Institutions

The IDMC attended the sixth annual conference of the African Network of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) with a thematic focus on refugees, IDPs and stateless people. This was the first step of its capacity-building partnership with the Brookings-Bern Project on IDPs. IDMC provided an overview of internal displacement in Africa during one of the panels, while Brookings laid out the elements of its capacity-building initiative along with the frameworks it has developed to help national authorities address internal displacement.

This conference presented an opportunity to discuss with other capacity-building organisations and to preliminarily assess the engagement of NHRIs on IDP issues. Following discussions with each of the NHRIs and consultations with other stakeholders including the UN Representative of the Secretary General, Brookings selected the Human Rights Commissions of Togo and Kenya for this pilot project. IDMC will lead the training component of assessment missions in these countries for the first quarter of 2008.

IDP Stakeholders' meeting in Nairobi

The IDMC took advantage of its presence at the NHRI conference in Kigali to follow up on its earlier workshop and meet NRC and national and international members of the IDP Stakeholders' working group in Kenya, which is coordinated by OCHA. The IDMC provided input to the discussions about the agenda for the IDP Stakeholders' meeting planned for 5-6 February 2008, and continued to do so from Geneva following the meeting.

The large-scale displacement caused by violence related to the disputed result of the presidential elections of 27 December 2007 will probably lead to postponement of plans for this forum, however IDMC has offered to provide protection training support to meet emerging needs of the UNHCR-led country teams through the Global Protection Cluster Working Group.

Civil Society Project

Forum Play workshop

An international joint NRC-IDMC Forum Play workshop took place in Tbilisi, Georgia between 29 November and 4 December 2007. In total there were 25 participants, including two from Colombia, one from Uganda, one from Lebanon, one from Timor Leste, one from Côte d'Ivoire and the rest Georgians. The objective of the workshop was to see how Forum Play as a method could be used throughout the organisation and within different activities.



*Group work on international Forum play workshop in Tbilisi.
Photo: Anne-Sophie Lois/IDMC*

Conference on IDP participation

IDMC took active part and presented a paper on its Life story project as a method of IDP participation on a seminar in Geneva called "Consulting with IDPs: Moving Beyond Rhetoric" from 15-16 November 2007 organised by the Brookings-Bern Project on IDPs.

IDP Voices in Georgia

The project concentrated on editing 30 of 60 life stories from Georgian IDPs and people living in conflict zones. Those stories, originally recorded in Georgian and Russian, have now been translated into English.

IDMC went to Tbilisi in December to record life stories in Georgian and Russian on the www.idpvoices.org site. Selected IDPs read the stories as the original narrators needed to remain anonymous for personal protection reasons.



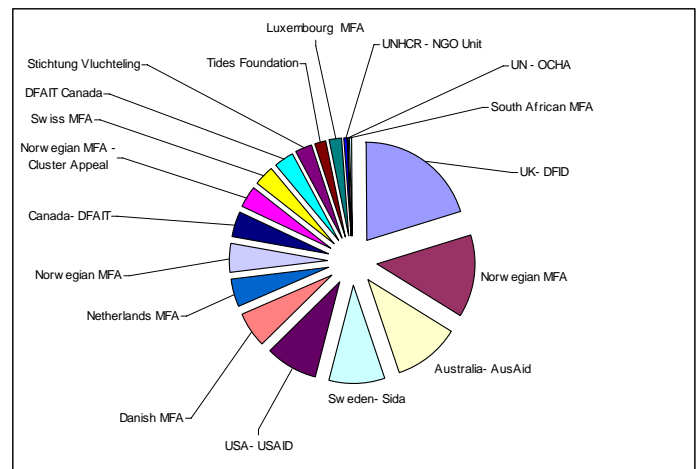
*Recording IDP stories in Tbilisi.
Photo: Matthias Thiemi/IDMC*

support IDMC to work for better protection and assistance of millions of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

IDMC welcome contributions of any size, for its general budget as well as for specific activities and appreciates all efforts from its donors to provide multi-year funding, as it increases the organisations economical stability and planning capacity.

Contributions received for 2007

Amount as of 31 Dec. 2007 =US\$2,487,578



Financial Situation

Special thanks to our donors!

Thank you to our donors for their contributions in 2007 which helped us achieve our main objectives and play an essential role in the international response to internal displacement.

However, the lack of cluster funding in 2007 forced IDMC to review during the year its planned activities in order to avoid a shortfall at the end of the year. For example, the recruitment of an IDP profiling advisor and a third trainer was postponed to 2008. We finally closed our accounts end of 2007 without any shortfall.

In November 2007, IDMC led a donor consultation to present and discuss the plans and activities for 2008. Against a background of major changes in international response mechanisms, the role of IDMC has become more and more important and the organisation needs to produce more outputs and to be more present to ensure that IDP issues are heard and that their rights are respected. The budget proposed for 2008 is \$3,488,000 and the Appeal for 2008 indicates the coordinated and coherent steps IDMC proposes to reach this position. Of this amount, approximately \$1.2 million has already been secured through multi-year agreements.

We hope that in 2008, our donors will respond favorably to the new challenges in the international response mechanisms and will strongly

New Staff

In November 2007, have joined IDMC:

- Véronique de Crouy, as External Relations Officer
- Nuur Mohamud Sheekh, as Country Analyst (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sri Lanka)
- Karim Khalil as Country Analyst (Iraq, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria, Turkey)

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
 Chemin de Balexert 7-9
 CH-1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)
 Switzerland
 Phone: +41 22 799 07 00
 Fax: +41 22 799 07 01
 E-mail: veronique.decrouy@nrc.ch