Mission statement

The Global IDP Project is an international non-governmental body working for better protection and assistance of people who have been displaced within their own country by conflict or because of human rights violations. It aims to help improve the response to the needs of, and increase respect for, the rights of millions of the world’s most disadvantaged and vulnerable people. It seeks to find solutions that ultimately lead to their safe return or resettlement and integration.

In pursuit of this goal, the Project monitors internal displacement worldwide, as mandated by the United Nations, and makes relevant information and analysis available to decision-makers, humanitarian practitioners and the general public. In doing so, the Project seeks to enable key actors at the international, national and local levels to make timely and informed decisions on responses to the needs and rights of internally displaced people (IDPs), in line with international standards such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Through its work, the Global IDP Project strives to raise awareness of the plight of internally displaced people and advocate, on their behalf, for durable solutions based on the Guiding Principles. It aims at strengthening local capacity to effectively address internal displacement by organising training workshops which bring together local authorities, security forces, aid workers and IDP communities.

The Global IDP Project

The Global IDP Project, established by the Norwegian Refugee Council in 1996, was requested by the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee to set up an IDP database in 1998. The Geneva-based Project has since evolved into the leading international body monitoring internal displacement in over 50 countries worldwide.

The Global IDP Project focuses on three main activities:

- maintaining the Project’s IDP database
- providing training on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- advocating for the rights of IDPs

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Cover illustration: The photo shows Fariba buying bread in a market in Herat, Afghanistan
(Åshild Helene Eliassen, NRC).
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Key achievements in 2003

The Global IDP Project in 2003 continued to strengthen its role as the leading international NGO monitoring conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide and working for better protection of IDPs.

**Database at the core**
The IDP database, set up in 1998 at the request of the United Nations, remained at the core of the Project. By the end of the year, the database monitored 52 countries, covering all situations of conflict-induced internal displacement around the globe. The wealth of information and analysis included in the database was used by an ever-growing number of policy-makers and field practitioners to shape national and international responses to internal displacement and to concretely address the specific needs of IDPs. The volume of data downloaded in 2003 increased significantly compared to the previous year.

Among the database’s users were governments, UN agencies and other international organisations, as well as universities and the media. Feedback from users confirmed the relevance of the country profiles which were used for a multitude of purposes, including the:

- development of IDP policies by national or international actors;
- preparation of field missions;
- planning of humanitarian assistance;
- advocacy on behalf of IDPs; and
- academic studies or news reporting on internal displacement issues.

With its methodology combining timeliness and user-friendliness with high academic research standards, the Project remained an important link between operational actors on the ground and the research community.

**Crucial international actor**
The expertise accumulated through the database also formed the basis for the Project’s own prominent role in advocating for and contributing to an improved capacity of the international community to adequately react to the challenge of internal displacement. During 2003, the Project provided advice to governments on IDP policy issues and solidified its role as an important partner of the United Nations, entrusted with significant functions within the international IDP protection system currently taking shape, particularly as regards information services and training. At the same time, the Project assumed a more pronounced “watchdog” function, pointing to weaknesses and gaps in the national and international responses to internal displacement.

**Expansion of training activities**
The Project significantly expanded its training activities in 2003. Fifteen workshops on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and their implementation were held in 2003, most of which featured role plays and other interactive elements.

**Key UN partner**
As a focal point for IDP issues within the NGO network ICVA, the Project participated in the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group when IDP issues were discussed. The Project worked in numerous forums to ensure that the capacity of NGOs to contribute to addressing the needs of IDPs is taken into account in the development of the UN’s policies on internal displacement.

The Project also promoted the translation of the “collaborative approach” into concrete action on the ground. The Project’s analysis of the response of the international community to internal displacement situations showed that there were serious shortcomings in the functioning of this cooperation system, which was set up to ensure that UN agencies work together to address the protection and assistance needs of IDPs in the absence of a single agency in charge of internal displacement. Two comprehensive studies published by the UN in autumn 2003, the “Protection Survey” and the “IDP Response Matrix”, confirmed these findings. In this context, the Project participated in the evaluation of the IDP Unit which was established in 2002 within the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to improve the UN’s response to internal displacement. It played an active role in re-establishing the Senior Network on Internal Displacement, a working level forum used to prepare decisions by the Heads of the agencies represented in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. During the NGO meeting preceding the yearly gathering of the UNHCR Executive Committee, the Project chaired a panel discussion on how to make the “collaborative approach” work.

**Like many other field-based training activities organised by the Project, the workshop held in Uganda in November 2003 included role plays and other interactive elements. (photo: Andreas Dannew, Global IDP Project)**

**Key achievements in 2003**

The Project also promoted the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement developed by the UNHCR. In addition, the Project worked with local partners in the field to ensure that training workshops are followed up properly.

**Expansion of training activities**
The Project significantly expanded its training activities in 2003. Fifteen workshops on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and their implementation were held in 8 countries. The Project actively contributed to improving the capacity of the international community to adequately react to the challenge of internal displacement. During 2003, the Project provided advice to governments on IDP policy issues and solidified its role as an important partner of the United Nations, entrusted with significant functions within the international IDP protection system currently taking shape, particularly as regards information services and training. At the same time, the Project assumed a more pronounced “watchdog” function, pointing to weaknesses and gaps in the national and international responses to internal displacement.

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With its methodology combining timeliness and user-friendliness with high academic research standards, the Project remained an important link between operational actors on the ground and the research community.
Further developing the global IDP database as the leading information tool on internal displacement worldwide remained at the core of the Global IDP Project’s activities in 2003. The number of countries monitored reached 52 by the end of last year, as new profiles had to be added on the internal displacement situations in the Central African Republic, Nepal and Turkmenistan. Besides the country profile summaries, the database provided direct access to about 7,500 sources and other documents, and included some 2,500 archived documents.

The Project’s country researchers regularly updated the country profiles included in the database. Some 2,700 new documents were reviewed and included in the database during the course of the year.

Expanding information network
A number of activities carried out in 2003 aimed at further increasing the database’s relevance and usefulness for policy-makers, humanitarian field workers and other key target groups. The existing network of information sources was continuously expanded during the year, particularly among field-based organisations operating in conflict areas. In addition, country researchers conducted several field missions which enabled them to get first-hand information on internal displacement situations in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Uganda, Sudan and Zimbabwe. These missions enhanced the Project’s capacity to get access to unpublished information, to better understand the conflict dynamics, and to widen its information networks. This places the Project in a better position to assess the reliability of available information and to analyse national strategies for IDP protection and the politics of the humanitarian community.

The six-month assignment of a member of the project team to the NRC’s office in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) established important information channels and made the IDP project a leading analyst of the displacement situation in that area.

Regional and global analysis
In addition to its country-level focus, the Project also analysed regional and global developments with regard to internal displacement and brought these to the attention of international policy-makers. In September, the Project made a presentation of the IDP situation in the East African region at an expert meeting preceding a ministerial conference of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). During the yearly human rights conference of the Organisation for Security and

Database

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In 2003, the Global IDP Project significantly expanded its training activities. The training was aimed at improving the protection of internally displaced people through enhancing participants’ knowledge of IDP rights at the field level and strengthening the capacity of local actors to address the needs of IDPs.

Towards field-based training

The Project remained one of the most active providers of training on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement... DRC and the capital Kinshasa. The reports of all workshops can be found on the Project’s website at www.idpproject.org.

Collaborative response

The Project’s training activities in 2003 demonstrate the need to continue using a training format based on a collaborative approach, which involves working with governments, UN agencies, NGOs as well as IDP representatives. In order to continually improve the impact of training, and further develop training techniques, the Project devoted more attention to coordination with various actors, both at the international and at the local level.

Partnership: benefits and challenges

The increase in training activities was also made possible by strengthened cooperation with partners in the field, in particular with NRC field offices. In eastern Uganda, for example, the Project’s training workshops were supported by the local NRC office, as well as by Oxfam. Similar
partnerships with NRC at the field level enabled the Project to hold training workshops in Afghanistan and in Azerbaijan.

The Project also actively cooperated with national authorities which bear the primary responsibility for the provision of protection and assistance to IDPs. This was the case in Nigeria, where a training workshop was held jointly with the National Commission for Refugees. In Nepal, the Project conducted a workshop in cooperation with the National Human Rights Commission. Before the workshop, the Project collaborated with other NGOs and UN agencies in Nepal in trying to assess the scope of displacement in the country. A report – the first ever attempt to comprehensively analyze conflict-induced displacement in Nepal – was issued at the workshop.

The workshops in Uganda and the DRC were closely coordinated with the Internal Displacement Unit of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. This ensured complementarity with regard to training locations, target groups and funding. The Internal Displacement Unit provided funds to the Project for three of the workshops organized in the DRC. Other partners included UNHCR, UNOPS, IDOM and NGOs.

Comment from a Training Participant:

"In Bunia, I was the head of an NGO called the Center for Conflict Resolution. I had to flee the town with thousands of others when the Hema militia UPC (Union of the Congolese Patriots) fought to take over Bunia in May 2003. I walked through forests, and to towns such as Komanda and Mambasa, to finally reach Beni, where I live today. I was weak, and it took me two weeks to reach Beni, while the strongest amongst us arrived after a week. Some people never made it. I saw neighbours dying due to the heat, while others, ethnic Hema, were killed by Lendu militias on the way. What sustained me on the way was the assistance and moral support that villagers and local organizations offered me. This was very precious to me.

Today, I have started an antenna of the Center for Conflict Resolution in Beni, while still hoping to return to Bunia one day. Meanwhile, I want to integrate what I learned during the workshop on the Guiding Principles in Beni in the programmes of the Center."

Gilbert Tanda Bakonzi, Beni, DRC, September 2003

Reaching out to local actors

The Project aimed to directly reach people who were immediately affected by internal displacement, either because they were displaced themselves or because they were in charge of protecting and assisting IDPs locally. This objective was at the core of the training programme implemented in the DRC, where workshops held at the provincial level benefited local authorities, NGOs and community leaders. In northern Uganda, the Project delivered training to over 150 camp leaders and representatives of women’s associations and local authorities. Other training events also targeted relevant actors at the national level, including national authorities, international agencies and NGOs.

A major challenge faced by the training team in 2003 concerned the training methodology. With an increased focus on field-based actors, it became necessary to innovate and develop other training formats, in particular involving more interaction with the participants, without compromising our key messages. For example, trainers developed role plays with the participants, sometimes with the support of local theatre groups. Dissemination of the Guiding Principles was also undertaken outside workshops, for example through the development of radio programmes.
Advocacy and Public Information

In 2003, the Global IDP Project developed and started to implement its new communications strategy. In this context, the Project carried out various advocacy and public outreach activities. These were aimed at raising awareness of internal displacement as a serious humanitarian, human rights and security problem, pointing to gaps in responses to internal displacement, advocating for durable solutions in line with the Guiding Principles, and establishing the Global IDP Project as a credible voice and information source on the issue.

Country-level advocacy

At the country level, the Project increased its advocacy efforts by using the information and analysis on IDP situations contained in the IDP database more actively. The country profile summaries were further improved in terms of structure, style and format to make them more reader-friendly. More attention was paid to the formulation of advocacy messages directed at key actors involved in the protection of, and assistance to, IDPs. The Project also began to issue press releases with most of the country profile updates in order to summarise the key findings and messages contained in the profile in a media-friendly way. This proved to be successful in that it drew increasing attention, among the media and beyond, to IDP-related concerns as well as to the Project and its database.

Targeting regional organisations

At the regional level, the Project focused on advocating for a stronger role for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) on IDPs. A report on the internal displacement situation in the OSCE region was prepared and presented at a side meeting organised by the Project and the Brookings Institution at the OSCE’s yearly human rights conference in Warsaw. The report received considerable media attention. As part of the campaign, the Project also sent an open letter to all OSCE delegations and prepared an article for a journal covering OSCE affairs. The campaign was successful in that it helped in creating a momentum that led to the landmark decision by the OSCE Ministerial Council in December 2003 to acknowledge the Guiding Principles, thus clearing the way for the more systematic involvement of the Organisation in addressing internal displacement. In September, the Project made a presentation of the IDP situation in East Africa at an expert meeting which preceded a ministerial conference of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Global trends and developments

At the global level, in 2003 the Project started preparing its yearly Global Overview of trends of developments in the field of internal displacement. The report was successfully launched in February 2004. During the 2003 UN Commission on Human Rights in April, the Project organised a side-event to mark the 10th anniversary of the appointment of Dr. Francis Deng as UN Representative on Internally Displaced Persons. The panel discussion, which featured the UN Representative, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator as well as a number of other experts dealing with IDP issues, was attended by more than 100 people.

Increased outreach

The intensification of the Project’s outreach activities contributed to a clear increase in the number of hits on its website and a 60 per cent increase in the number of documents downloaded. It also was reflected in better media coverage of the Project’s country profile updates and other reports. However, the process of establishing the Project as a key source of information for the media and a well-known voice on IDP issues was still in its infancy in 2003 and it was clear that, by the end of the year, the Project had not nearly reached its potential in this area.

EXCERPTS OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE GLOBAL IDP PROJECT

"Some 3 million Europeans who fled armed conflict remain refugees in their own countries as their plight slips from public attention, an international watchdog said Friday. In 13 countries, so-called ‘internally displaced people’ are living in squalid conditions with little access to food and water and no opportunity to find work, the Geneva-based IDP Project said in a report produced for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.” (Associated Press, 10 October 2003)

"The Global IDP Project is a leading watchdog group monitoring the situation of IDPs in more than 50 countries.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Newsline, 10 October 2003)

"Sudan is unprepared for the expected return of half a million refugees and one million displaced people once a comprehensive peace deal has been signed, according to a new report. ‘The challenges of mass return are overwhelming and local administrations appear still unprepared,’ says the report from the Norwegian think-tank, Global IDP Project.” (IRIN News, 6 October 2003)
During 2003, the Global IDP Project received contributions from ten governments (ministries of foreign affairs or governmental development agencies), as well as from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Norwegian University for Science and Technology. The Project’s donor base was expanded with two new donors, Australian Aid and Luxembourg.

Despite the overwhelmingly positive appreciation of the Project’s work by all its stakeholders including users and donors, the Project closed the year without being fully funded. Due to the limited resources available, the Project was forced to raise the budget at the middle of the year and was not able to carry out some of its planned activities, like development of thematic maps for the database. The present level of funding is leaving the Project limited room for new initiatives to further improve the quality of its services.

The shortfall for the 2003 budget, which was covered by the Norwegian Refugee Council headquarters, totalled over 110,000 USD, representing 13.4 per cent of total expenses. Thus, the funding situation remained serious as the lack of financial stability and predictability continued to threaten the Project’s ability to fulfill its mandate received from the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Timely receipt of funding is also crucial for the efficient running of the Project. Several contributions pledged for 2003 were received very late in the year or even in 2004.

**Contributions to the Global IDP Project in 2003**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Income USD*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway MFA</td>
<td>25.36%</td>
<td>180,993.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom DFID</td>
<td>14.27%</td>
<td>101,883.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden SIDA</td>
<td>12.65%</td>
<td>90,268.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark MFA</td>
<td>11.90%</td>
<td>85,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia AusAID</td>
<td>8.14%</td>
<td>58,095.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada DFAT**</td>
<td>6.89%</td>
<td>49,162.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy MFA</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
<td>45,581.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands MFA</td>
<td>6.16%</td>
<td>44,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland MFA</td>
<td>4.20%</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luxembourg MFA</td>
<td>2.33%</td>
<td>16,654.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norwegian Univ. of Science and Technology</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>7,104.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR NGO Liaison Unit</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income 2003</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>713,740.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shortfall covered by the Norwegian Refugee Council: 110,421.94 USD

*Contributions recorded at the exchange rate of the day received.

** Of this amount 13,521 USD (exchange rate of 31/12/2003) are pledged and will be received by March 2004.
**Expenses 2003**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>Expenses USD* 01.01.03 - 31.12.03</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global IDP Database</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel: Database Coordinator</td>
<td>76,479.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel: Information Officers</td>
<td>363,681.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>12,191.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing/Advertising/Misc.</td>
<td>5,032.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and telephone equipment</td>
<td>25,286.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications/maintenance/hosting</td>
<td>37,255.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software development</td>
<td>722.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total Database</td>
<td>520,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protection and Training Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Coordinator</td>
<td>60,055.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection workshops</td>
<td>21,829.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field-based National Training Programmes</td>
<td>2,623.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub Total Training activities</td>
<td>84,508.21</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Publications and Advocacy</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Publications on IDP/Misc.</td>
<td>3,965.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>2,729.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub Total Publications</td>
<td>67,965.52</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Costs Global IDP Project</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin. Officer &amp; Donor Relations Officer</td>
<td>99,722.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>1,884.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office equipment/ furniture</td>
<td>4,636.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office cost (rent, tel., office supplies, mail)</td>
<td>44,800.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total Fixed Costs</td>
<td>151,008.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>824,161.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* *Average exchange rate for expenses based on the contributions: USD/CHF : 1.34
Initial budget exchange rate: USD/CHF : 1.50*