



# Quarterly Update

January - March 2009

This Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 01 January and 31 March 2009. It is also available to be read online or downloaded at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

IDMC, established by the Norwegian Refugee Council, is the leading non-governmental body monitoring conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide.

## IDPs high in the Agenda

### Protracted Internal Displacement in Europe

IDMC drafted a report on protracted internal displacement following its participation in a Geneva seminar organised on the issue in October 2008 by the Council of Europe's

Committee for Migration, Refugees and Population.

The Committee used IDMC's report to draft a motion on protracted internal displacement in Europe. After the motion was adopted, the Committee again contacted IDMC for input as it began drafting a report on the issue. IDMC

provided comments to the

Committee along with a checklist of country specific issues for the Rapporteur to consider when visiting countries or drafting the report.

*"The Council of Europe's Committee used IDMC's report to draft a motion on protracted internal displacement in Europe"*

### Displaced Children

After publishing *State of Neglect: Displaced Children in the Central African Republic* in 2008, IDMC conducted advocacy work to disseminate the findings of the report. In February in New York and Washington, IDMC provided recommendations directly to decisions makers at a critical point for CAR, when renewed violence threatened to lead to new displacement of civilians and risks for displaced children. IDMC principal recommendations included:

- 1) Inclusion of the Guiding Principles and the ratification of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict into the UN Peacebuilding Commission's strategic framework document;
- 2) Deployment of a Child Protection Advisor to the upcoming integrated mission in CAR.

A CAR side event was held on 25 March during the Human Rights Council as part of OCHA's launch of the Global IDP Campaign. The IDMC presentation served to present the findings of the report and to highlight new developments and recommendations that could have a direct impact on displaced children.



IDMC presentation on the situation of displaced children in CAR at the launch of OCHA's global advocacy campaign on IDPs (IDMC, March 2009)

IDMC participated also in meetings of the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, and served on the advisory team of the Watchlist's upcoming report on children in Myanmar. IDMC also updated its website's thematic page on displaced children, which describes the main challenges faced by displaced children around the world, including forced recruitment and sexual violence, as well as the impact of displacement on their education. The site also features updated resource documents on displaced children and on children in armed conflict. These new resources were shared in March during a meeting in New York chaired by the UN Special Representative on children and armed conflict.

# Thematic initiatives

## Housing land and property (HLP)

As part of its involvement in the HLP sub-group of the global Protection Cluster Working Group, IDMC provided input to a checklist of issues to be considered by Humanitarian Coordinators and protection cluster leads addressing HLP issues in a post-conflict situation. IDMC's input reflects findings based on its research on customary ownership and input

from NRC field operations. IDMC's input focuses on the need to examine how land titling programmes can affect security of tenure and land rights of displaced people, and how to take into account HLP issues linked to camp settlements and issues of tenure security in relation to shelter activities (such as the re-

*"IDMC's input focuses on the need to examine how land titling programmes can affect security of tenure and land rights of displaced people"*

construction of houses with informal ownership, collective centres and informal settlements). IDMC also raised these and similar issues in the context of the upcoming review of the HLP chapter of the IDP protection handbook.

In February, IDMC drafted a section on problems facing IDPs in Europe in relation to property and adequate housing, for an opinion on adequate housing prepared by the office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. The opinion will be transformed into a recommendation to be made public in June, which will include a section on IDPs.

## Displacement and natural disasters

While IDMC currently focuses on monitoring situations of internal displacement that occur as a result of conflict or generalized violence worldwide, IDMC is also aware of the increasing humanitarian impact of natural disasters, including internal displacement. Therefore, IDMC, together with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), started conducting a desk study that aims at providing improved estimates of the number of people that were displaced by sudden-onset disasters in 2008. The research also hopes to offer some guidance on how future monitoring of displacement caused by natural disasters may be improved. This work will be presented to various stakeholders for input, before wider dissemination.

Additionally, IDMC has been following the work of the IASC task force on climate change, which seeks to raise awareness about the humanitarian impacts of climate change. IDMC has also participated in various round table discussions on the issue.

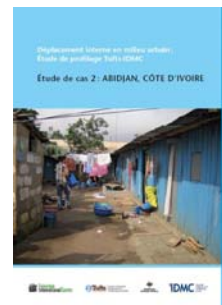
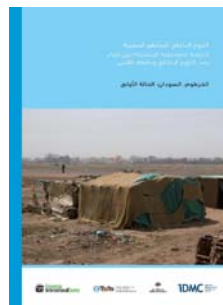
## Profiling

In March, IDMC joined the Information Management Task Force of the Protection Cluster Working Group to work on the development of a toolkit for rapid protection assessments. The toolkit is intended to address the need for assessments in the first stages of humanitarian situations and when for other reasons the time available to conduct protection assessments is limited. It will be developed primarily for use by protection clusters and their members. IDMC is contributing its experience in profiling of IDPs, including those in urban settings, and more generally in collecting and analysing information and identifying different protection concerns in displacement situations.

*"The toolkit addresses the need for assessment in the first stages of humanitarian situations and when the time available to conduct protection assessments is limited"*

## Urban displacement

The survey methodology for profiling IDPs in urban areas was implemented in three cities (Khartoum in Sudan, Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire, and Santa Marta in Colombia), between 2006 and 2008. The reports were published in September 2008 and translated into local languages (the Khartoum study in Arabic, the Abidjan one in French and the Santa Marta one in Spanish) at the end of 2008. In the first quarter of 2009, IDMC started disseminating the studies to ensure they effectively reach the local humanitarian community and have an impact in improving local practice.



## Review of human rights monitoring mechanisms

IDMC conducted a detailed mapping of how international monitoring mechanisms can be used to raise awareness of violations of IDP's rights and promote adequate responses from national authorities. These mechanisms include the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council, and reviews by Treaty bodies.

The research led to the conclusion that advocacy through the Treaty bodies is particularly valuable and effective, since it targets independent experts who review states' human rights records and issue authoritative recommendations to states under review. The UPR is more exposed to political agendas of states, since the process is under their exclusive control. Effective use of the UPR requires that, in addition to written submissions, IDMC lobbies states to ensure that they raise IDP issues during their interactive dialogue with the states under review.

## IDP Database and Media

### Website statistics January - March 2009

- 22,000 monthly visitors
- 47,500 monthly visits
- 40,000 downloads per month
- 5,650 subscribers

### Country Profile Updates

- Peru 8 January
- Eritrea 16 February
- Myanmar 5 March
- Indonesia 20 March

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

### News alerts

IDMC published nine news alerts, which included 41 stories on displacement in 20 countries. Over 5,650 subscribers access alerts and weekly notifications from any country at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/subscribe>.

### Compiling the Global Overview

During this quarter, the Monitoring and Advocacy department focused on the preparation of *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2008*, IDMC's annual flagship publication. The development of the annual *Global Overview*, which is launched and disseminated

every spring, is based on the information and analysis provided by IDMC's ongoing monitoring work through the year. It aims to provide a global figure of displaced populations during the year and to identify main trends and challenges in responding to internal displacement worldwide. The 2008 *Global Overview* will provide country-specific information for all the 52 countries monitored by IDMC, an overview of regional specificities and thematic sections

## Monitoring and Advocacy

### AFRICA

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In February, IDMC met the Office of the UN Special Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs in Geneva to discuss the recommendations on DRC by seven independent experts

*"IDMC stressed the need to incorporate the Guiding Principles into law and the need to prioritise support to vulnerable host communities in DRC"*

to be presented to the Human Rights Council. In March, the Head of IDMC made a presentation on the role of the Human Rights Council in the protection of IDPs in DRC at an HRC side event. Other panellists included Human Rights Watch, UNHCR, and local civil society representatives. IDMC stressed the

need to incorporate the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into law, and for donors to prioritise support to vulnerable host communities to over 30 government and NGO representatives.

#### Eritrea

In February, IDMC published its overview on Eritrea which highlighted the shortcomings of the return process in Eritrea, the continuing tense relations with Ethiopia, and the uneasy relationship with aid agencies which has undermined efforts to respond to the needs of IDPs.

Even though the government reports that everyone displaced as a result of the border war has returned or been resettled, it is likely that some have yet to achieve durable solutions, whatever their situation. Furthermore, there is very little information on the welfare of IDPs who may still be living with host communities.



## Kenya

In February, IDMC participated in an international conference entitled *Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa* organised by the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC) and Radio Deutsche Welle and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation. IDMC presented a paper on internal displacement in Kenya and Somalia and helped raise awareness of the situation of IDPs there. The presentation focused on the need to apply the Guiding Principles when responding to internal displacement situations. The conference report can be accessed at:

[www.bicc.de/uploads/pdf/publications/briefs/brief39/brief39.pdf](http://www.bicc.de/uploads/pdf/publications/briefs/brief39/brief39.pdf)



Participants in the conference on Migration and displacement in sub-Saharan Africa, Bonn, Germany (IDMC, February 2009)

In March, IDMC participated in a round-table discussion in Beirut, Lebanon on migration and security in the Middle East, Asia and East Africa at a forum organised by the Stimson Center and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. IDMC's intervention focused on the nexus between displacement and insecurity in East Africa.

## Somalia

In January, IDMC presented a paper at an international conference on Somalia in Pretoria. The conference, entitled *Unpacking the Somali Conflict*, enabled a forum of experts on the Somali conflict to shed light on the shifting complexities

*"IDMC stressed that for durable solutions to be found, IDPs must be included in the peace process in Somalia"*

of the crisis, the future challenges facing the Transitional Federal Government, the African Union and the international community, and to provide a new perspective that would allow for the discussion of alternative peace and conflict resolution paradigms. IDMC stressed that for durable solutions to be found, IDPs must be included in the peace process. IDMC also highlighted the importance of addressing the issues of IDP return and property restitution, and including compensation for IDPs in the peace process.

## Sudan

In January, IDMC provided comments on Sudan's draft National IDP Policy, which were taken by NRC to a meeting between the Sudanese authorities and NGOs in Khartoum. The final version of the IDP Policy will reflect better the rights of IDPs under international law as reflected in the Guiding Principles.

IDMC also briefed the US permanent mission (USAID and the Refugee Attaché) on the situation of IDPs and returnees in Southern Sudan, following a fact-finding mission to Southern Sudan in November and December 2008. IDMC raised the problems of reintegration faced by many returnees in Southern Sudan. It is hoped that funding decisions by USAID will reflect the need to focus on reintegration and recovery as much as on the return process.

## Uganda

In February, IDMC drafted a paper entitled *Peace, Recovery and Development: Challenges in Northern Uganda*, and briefed donors at an event hosted by the Netherlands mission. The briefing raised the issue to Uganda's donors of the continuing humanitarian needs in the north of the country despite the ongoing returns, and of the need for flexible funding for activities facilitating the transition from humanitarian assistance to development aid. More informed funding would ultimately contribute to the achievement of durable solutions for people who have been displaced in northern Uganda.

*"The briefing raised awareness of the need for activities facilitating the transition from humanitarian assistance to development aid"*

## Zimbabwe

In January, IDMC supported a course on statelessness at the University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre. The course was attended by UNHCR staff, government officials, lawyers, NGO staff, and academics. IDMC led a session on statelessness in Zimbabwe, as almost all people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness are also displaced or at risk of displacement. Participants, and especially UNHCR staff, gained a better understanding of statelessness in Zimbabwe, and its relationship with the problem of displacement.

Together with colleagues at NRC, IDMC drafted a briefing paper on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe, with a focus on the impact of the humanitarian crisis on displaced people. The paper was produced in preparation for a fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe by Norwegian Minister of Environment and Development Erik Solheim and State Secretary Raymond Johansen. It also enabled a better understanding on the part of the Norwegian MFA of the scope and severity of the displacement crisis in Zimbabwe and aimed to trigger funding for programmes to improve the situation of IDPs there.

## AMERICAS

### Peru

In January, IDMC published the country update on Peru. The update focused on the reparations process for people who were displaced because of conflict which continued until 2001. The update documented the fact that no IDPs have yet been granted reparations despite the recommendations to this effect of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In addition to being published on the website, the update was disseminated through contacts and organisations working on internal displacement in Peru.

### Colombia

In March, IDMC visited the country for a fact-finding and networking mission. The mission also involved travel to neighbouring Ecuador, where research was conducted on the situation on the border between the two countries. The country analyst gathered primary information on humanitarian conditions, and established direct contact with government agencies, international and national organisations, and research institutions working on displacement in Colombia

and neighboring Ecuador. The mission will have as an output a report on the humanitarian and security situation on the Colombia-Ecuador border, to be used as evidence and information in support of advocacy work.



Displaced people near the Ecuador-Colombia border participate in a session conducted by a local NGO on the registration process and access to benefits (IDMC, February 2009)

## ASIA PACIFIC

### Indonesia

In March, IDMC published a country update on Indonesia, where most people displaced since the late 1990s in a number

*"The lack of access to areas of conflict in Papua has made it difficult to assess the number and needs of people displaced"*

of provinces have returned, integrated locally or resettled elsewhere. Papua remains the only province where conflict and violence, albeit of low intensity, has continued to regularly force people from their homes in the past years. The lack of access of international and independent observers to the

conflict-affected areas in Papua, mainly located in the Central Highlands, has however made it difficult to assess their number and needs.

The update suggested that the combined number of those still displaced in Indonesia at the beginning of 2009 and those who have returned or resettled, but who continue to face barriers which prevent them from enjoying the full range of their rights, could reach 120,000. The principal concerns of remaining IDPs continued to revolve around accessing the

basic necessities of life and rebuilding sustainable livelihoods. Resolution of property disputes, access to farming land and compensation for property lost were also recurring issues. Efforts were needed to relocate those in camps to decent settlements where they could acquire land to work and property titles, or else grant them the land the camps are situated on and improve the living conditions there.

## Myanmar

In March, IDMC released an update on Myanmar which focused on displacement as a result of conflict and human rights violations in the country. International attention on Myanmar in recent months has focused on displacement in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis that struck the Ayeyarwady Delta in May 2008, and the unprecedented access of humanitarian agencies in response.

The IDMC update sought to highlight the ongoing conflict-induced displacement caused by government forces and by the insurgent ethnic armed groups fighting them in the eastern part of the country. The update underlined that at least 451,000 people are displaced by conflict in the east alone and there are unknown but significant numbers of IDPs in other parts of Myanmar. The humanitarian community is facing severe restrictions in its efforts to assist them.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

In February, IDMC provided a brief to the Rapporteurs on the situation of Gaza and displacement prior to the tenth session of the Human Rights Council. IDMC also briefed ProCap staff and other UN personnel appointed to OCHA OPT on the situation of displacement in the OPT.

IDMC-NRC provided an oral submission on the situation of displacement in the OPT, particularly in Gaza. The submission raised awareness of the causes and protection concerns faced by Palestinians displaced as result of the Israeli incursions in Gaza and Israeli policies entailing displacement in the West Bank.

In March, IDMC briefed an IASC meeting on forced displacement in the OPT. The presentation underlined the policies of displacement of the Israeli government, and raised awareness of the need for an appropriate response.

## Yemen

In preparation for a fact-finding mission to research the situation of internal displacement in Yemen, IDMC consulted various Geneva-based organisations including UNHCR, ICRC, and Islamic Relief. OCHA in Dubai and WFP in Yemen were also consulted. A policy paper will be drafted based on the findings of the research and mission.

## EUROPE

### Cyprus

A fact-finding mission to Cyprus in March focused on the current situation of IDPs living on the island. In the absence of a peace agreement, up to 200,000 IDPs are still barred from returning to their homes some 35 years after being displaced. They still cannot claim the properties they left behind and their freedom of movement and choice of residence is restricted. However, their living conditions are similar to those of their non-displaced neighbours, primarily as a result of assistance from national authorities. IDMC will publish the updated country profile in mid-2009.

*“Up to 200,000 IDPs are still barred from returning to their homes some 35 years after being displaced”*



A Greek Cypriot IDP in a cafe he runs. The cafe is owned by a Turkish Cypriot, who also fled during the conflict (IDMC, March 2009)



# Training and protection

## Support to the protection cluster

IDMC contributed to the drafting of a multi-year strategy for the Global Protection Cluster Working Group. IDMC's aim was to help the PCWG to design its work plan in more strategic terms based on field-oriented objectives, with a particular focus on the effective coordination of protection activities on the ground.

## Planning training on IDP protection

IDMC started consultations to plan training projects in Afghanistan, CAR and for NHRIs in Africa to be implemented in the course of the year. The protection cluster in Afghanistan agreed on a training package for local and national authorities and civil society, to be implemented from June 2009. Plans were also made for a workshop targeting national authorities in CAR in June 2009, in preparation to a regional workshop on the protection of IDPs in the Great Lakes region, scheduled in July 2009 under the sponsorship of the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs. IDMC and the Brookings/Bern Project identified national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in Uganda and South Africa as targets for training on IDP protection, after consulting with UNHCR and OHCHR. Trainings workshops for these NHRIs are tentatively scheduled for autumn 2009.

# Financial situation

## Thanks to our donors!

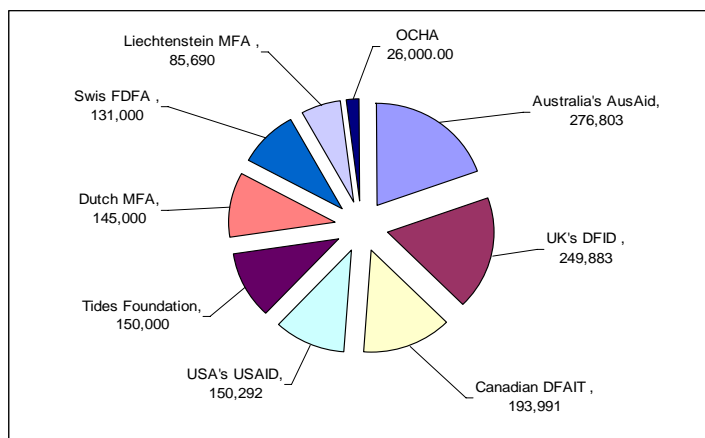
We would like to particularly thank Australia's AusAID, UK's DFID, the Canadian DFAIT, USA's USAID, Tides Foundation, the Dutch MFA, the Swiss FDFA, the Liechtenstein MFA and OCHA for their contributions pledged or received in the first quarter of 2009.

IDMC welcomes a new donor for 2009, the Liechtenstein MFA, which has committed to contribute CHF100,000 to IDMC's monitoring and advocacy activities in 2009.

## Contributions pledged or received

Funds received as of 31 March 2009:	\$448,831.85
Funds pledged and funds received:	\$1,408,659.52
Expenditure as of 31 March 2009:	\$502,738.39
% 2009 budget pledged/received:	56%

**Pledged/received as of 31 March 2009 (in USD)**  
(Average exchange rate used: CHF/USD: 1.153991)



## IDMC Appeal 2009

IDMC published its Appeal for 2009, which details its objectives and activities for 2009 in the framework of its three-year strategy, together with corresponding financial requirements totaling \$2,940,000. IDMC's strategy is built around two main objectives.

The first is to support appropriate responses to country-specific situations of internal displacement, and includes IDMC's global monitoring of internal displacement, country-specific advocacy work and training on protection.

The second is to support the development and effective use of policies and standards for the protection of displaced people, in support of inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including those of the Protection Cluster Working Group. Issues specifically covered include housing, land and property, appropriate responses to urban displacement, protection of displaced children and monitoring of displaced populations in the context of natural disasters.

IDMC will also contribute to policy on topics such as ending situations of protracted displacement, promote an early recovery focus and bring attention to neglected situations.

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