The overviews describe the national normative and policy frameworks addressing internal displacement and the protection of IDPs and their impact on the national response. The overviews will be made available on the IDMC website.
Thematic initiatives

Urban displacement

In September, IDMC participated in a three-day seminar of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on “Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas”, led by UN-HABITAT in Rome, Italy. Participants brainstormed on the challenges linked to rapid urbanisation and its potential for humanitarian crises, on those deriving from humanitarian emergencies and operations unfolding in urban areas and on the coordination mechanisms needed in the response when interacting with a new set of actors and institutional counterparts.

Challenges are linked to rapid urbanisation and its potential for humanitarian crises, and the coordination mechanisms needed in the response when interacting with a new set of actors and institutional counterparts.

IDMC contributed its experience in profiling IDPs in urban settings and mainstreamed its knowledge of the nature of internal displacement in urban areas throughout the discussions.

IDMC also engaged in internal discussions on the importance of data collection mechanisms in urban areas as a first step to a programmatic response, and exchanged experiences and practices with field staff at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)’s global seminars. Such exchanges aimed to disseminate IDMC’s experience in profiling IDPs in urban areas and test its applicability on the ground and advocate for the use of data collection systems for wider protection purposes as well as NRC’s core activities such as shelter, camp management and Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA).

Displaced children

IDMC focused on improving the information on displaced children in reports structured according to a new, streamlined format and contributed actively in the work of the New York-based Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict.

IDMC continued advocacy work in Geneva and New York, targeting the inter-Agency Standing Committee, UNICEF and other UN agencies, the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs (RSG), the RSG on Children and Armed Conflict, governments, donors and humanitarian NGOs.

Furthermore, a new Child Rights Advisor has joined the organisation in September. She will prioritize children's rights reporting in specific countries with major displacement crises; development of an external training module on children's rights and will participate in the core membership of the Child Protection Working Group.

Protracted displacement

An IDMC article on protracted internal displacement in Europe was published in Forced Migration Review in September. It underlined that more support and assistance should be given to IDPs who do not want or cannot return to their areas of origin.

IDMC also drafted a section on protracted displacement for the revised version of the IDP protection handbook.

Housing Land and Property (HLP)

Nairobi workshop on the Great Lakes Pact

In July, IDMC participated in a conference in Nairobi entitled “Protecting IDPs through national laws, policies and practices: A technical workshop for members states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region”. IDMC gave a presentation focusing on the Great Lakes Pact’s Protocol on property rights of returnees. IDMC reviewed provisions of the Protocol in the light of international policy and standards. Most of the presentations points were included by the participants as part as the workshop’s final recommendations.

UN-HABITAT Nairobi workshop on land guidelines

IDMC participated in a UN-HABITAT facilitated workshop on “Land and Conflict Issues and Tools” in Nairobi, Kenya from 14 to 17 September. The workshop, which gathered land experts and humanitarian actors dealing with land issues, served to discuss two sets of guidelines: a “quick guide to housing, land and property issues” mainly directed at humanitarians and a set of “land guidelines in post-conflict situations for land experts.

These tools are meant to strengthen the international community’s capacity to address land and property challenges in conflict and post-conflict situations. They are being developed by UN-HABITAT at the initiative of the Early Recovery Cluster in Geneva, in cooperation with the HLP sub-cluster of the PCWG which IDMC co-chairs.
IDP Database and Media

Website statistics July-September 2009
- 23,000 monthly visitors
- 39,000 monthly visits
- 71,000 downloads in the trimester
- 5,900 subscribers

News Alerts
Seven news alerts were published:
- July: 3 alerts, 13 stories
- August: 3 alerts, 14 stories
- September: 1 alert, 3 stories

Over 5,800 subscribers access alerts and are sent notifications from any country at:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/subscribe

Country Profile Updates
The profiles of 12 countries were updated between July and September:
- Colombia: 3 July
- Georgia: 6 July
- Bangladesh: 16 July
- Yemen: 22 July
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): 12 August
- Uganda: 19 August
- Croatia: 1 September
- Ethiopia: 3 September
- Niger: 8 September
- Republic of the Congo: 25 September
- Lebanon: 28 September
- Algeria: 29 September

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

IDMC in the media: Case study on the Philippines

Philippines had most displaced people in 2008: study, ABS-CBN News 2 May 2009
The biggest new internal displacement of people last year was in the Philippines, where 600,000 fled fighting between the government and Muslim rebels, a United Nations-backed report said on Friday.
The NRC report [IDMC’s Global Overview] said that although many of the people displaced by the fighting later returned home, more than half had not done so by the end of the year.

Bombings pose fresh threat to peace talks, IRIN 9 July 2009
According to a Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) report released in June, the crisis in Mindanao was the “most neglected displacement situation” in 2008. “We are also concerned by the fact the new military operations have been accompanied by restrictions in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as serious protection concerns for the displaced,” Kate Halff, head of the council’s internal displacement monitoring centre, told IRIN.

Manila’s Arroyo halts army offensive against Muslim rebels, Reuters 23 Jul 2009
President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered on Thursday a suspension of a military offensive against Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines, paving the way for the revival of peace talks stalled since August 2008.(…)
Rafael Seguis, the government’s chief peace negotiator, said the truce would allow nearly 350,000 displaced people to return to their farms and homes and allow children to go back to school.
“The president is very concerned with the situation of the internally displaced people in Maguindanao," Seguis said. A report in May [IDMC's Global Overview] said the Philippines had the biggest new internal displacement of people in 2008, exceeding Sudan and Congo.

International aid community shows optimism on Mindanao, Business World Online 31 July 2009
Foreign and domestic aid extended to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in parts of Mindanao have reached nearly P1 billion, an indication of the international community’s optimism on the southern peace process.(…). Alistair MacDonald, EU delegation head who visited the region early this week, noted the recent ceasefire declarations issued by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were a step forward in efforts to end the decades-old conflict.(…).
The Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reported that for 2008, the biggest new displacement in the world caused by internal conflict occurred in the Philippines.
Monitoring and Advocacy

AFRICA

AU Social and Labour Affairs Commission

From 28 September to 2 October, IDMC was invited to observe the seventh session of the African Union Social and Labour Affairs Commission, where experts and ministers from member states deliberated on issues pertaining to the impact of the global financial crisis on labour markets in Africa. IDMC highlighted to country delegates the need to take into account the impact of displacement on productivity.

Algeria

In September, IDMC published the country profile update for Algeria. This update showed that in the post-conflict national reconciliation process led by President Bouteflika, IDPs have been excluded as a population of concern.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

IDMC published in August an update of the DRC profile. The update focused on the 800,000 people who were displaced from their homes during the first six months of 2009, to escape fighting between militia groups and Congolese armed forces supported by the UN, as well as to escape attacks against civilians. It stressed that many of them had not received assistance from international agencies, whose access had been blocked by the insecurity. It also found that the army had failed to protect civilians, and that it included commanders and soldiers with horrific human rights records, including several war criminals. Members of the army as well as of militia groups were reportedly involved in the illegal exploitation of precious minerals, and the smuggling of goods and weapons, contributing to further human rights violations, insecurity and displacement.

Ethiopia

In July, IDMC gave the IASC an overview of the causes of displacement in Ethiopia and the dynamics that underpin the response to the protection and humanitarian needs of IDPs.

IDMC published also the Ethiopia country profile update that highlighted how human rights violations and conflict lead to displacement in Ethiopia. It also gave an analysis of challenges faced by agencies in responding to conflict related internal displacement and put forward the lack of a coherent government policy to deal with this issue.

This publication and its conclusions were well received by the humanitarian community in Ethiopia. According to OCHA Ethiopia, donors and humanitarian actors will use the report to inform the design of responses and to engage the government of Ethiopia in discussions on the way forward. The Ethiopian Mission in Geneva also provided IDMC with constructive feedback.

Niger

NEW COUNTRY PROFILE

In September, IDMC released a new country profile on Niger. It highlighted the impact that displacement has had on the traditional pastoralist ways of life in northern Niger, the obstacles posed by the lack of humanitarian access in the north, and the need to look into displacement caused by inter-communal clashes. The humanitarian response has suffered from the lack of access to the northern region of Agadez and the impossibility of carrying out comprehensive needs assessments on the situation of either IDPs or returnees. Meanwhile, inter-communal clashes between pastoralists and farmers, across the country and especially along the western border with Mali, have caused significant but little-reported displacement.

**NIGER: Lull in conflict favours return in the north**

| Country Statistics | Latest IDP figures: around 6,000 IDPs
| Number of refugees (originating from the country): 31,000 IDPs (June 2009) |

Since the conflict between the Algerian government and Tuareg groups intensified in 2007 following the creation of the Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, around 11,000 people have been displaced from their homes in the northern areas of Agadez. The conflict has spilled into 2009, and many of the internally displaced people (IDPs) have started going back to their homes, either spontaneously or with assistance from the local municipalities and the international community. A state of emergency in place in the whole region and humanitarian access limited, the available information rarely gives a comprehensive assessment of the situation of either IDPs or returnees.

The conflict has severely affected people’s livelihoods in the region. Displacement has disrupted many pastoralist traditional ways of life as they have found refuge in towns. The spread of landmines on both sides has cut supply routes and affected local agricultural production as well as threatening the security of both IDPs and conflict-affected communities. Children have been affected, forced to leave school. The humanitarian community is badly affected by lack of access to returnees.

**Overview:** Niger: Lull in conflict favours return in the north (15 September 2009)

**Key Documents:**
- [Accord de Ouargla](http://example.com/niger/agreement), Government of Niger, 15 April EBS}
Any development funding must take into account the specific needs of conflict-affected populations, including any remaining IDPs, returnees and host communities, thereby ensuring that durable solutions are achieved and that durable peace is attained.

Uganda

In August, IDMC published the country profile for Uganda, where the returns process continues for the 1.8 million IDPs who lived in camps at the height of the crisis in northern Uganda. Of the people who remain in the camps, many would like to return to their villages of origin, but are unable to do so because of land disputes, or because of a lack of access to services in the return areas. Furthermore, much remains to be done to ensure that these returns are sustainable. Basic infrastructure and services in the return areas are in-adequate or non-existent. While returnees have begun to grow their own food, the food security situation of many is still fragile. Significant numbers of people remain in the camps because they are unable to return to their home areas, either because of land disputes or because they have special needs and vulnerabilities which means they are unable to support themselves in return areas.

The government and its international partners have struggled to manage the transition from humanitarian emergency assistance to recovery and development. The government is in the process of reasserting its authority in northern Uganda, but a lack of capacity at the local level means that government authorities frequently struggle to discharge their operational responsibilities.

Republic of the Congo

In September, IDMC published a country profile update for the Republic of the Congo. The update found that no new assessment of the number of IDPs has been carried out since 2006, when the government estimated the number to have fallen to 7,800 from 800,000 at the peak of the conflict in 1998. The update also found that the achievement of durable solutions has not been studied, leaving unanswered the question of whether internal displacement has really ended in the Republic of the Congo.

Although it is the fifth largest oil-producing country in sub-Saharan Africa, half of the population still lives under the poverty line. Any remaining IDPs and returnees continue to share hardship with other vulnerable populations in the Pool region, which was the most affected by fighting and displacement. The update stressed that any development funding must take into account the specific needs of conflict-affected populations, including any remaining IDPs, returnees and host communities, thereby ensuring that durable solutions are achieved and that durable peace is attained.

Nigeria

In July and August, IDMC visited Nigeria for a research and networking mission. IDMC researched in particular the specific concerns faced by people displaced by the Jos and Bauchi crises in November 2008 and February 2009 respectively. The data collected will inform the next country update and a special country report.

AMERICAS

Colombia

In July IDMC published the country profile update for Colombia. The overview included information on the ongoing debate about under-registration, the involvement of the judicial branch in the protection of IDP rights, and an assessment of access to basic necessities of lives by IDPs.

IDMC briefed in July the United States Mission in Geneva on the latest developments related to internal displacement in Colombia.

In September, IDMC produced a briefing paper on the humanitarian situation on the Ecuador/Colombia border. The paper aimed to document the plight of Colombian asylum seekers and the growing displacement of Ecuadorians in the Northern provinces, and also to influence the humanitarian response in the area.

In August, IDMC made a submission to the Human Rights Committee, the treaty body monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The submission aimed at providing the experts of the Committee with information about the enjoyment of rights included in the Covenant by IDPs in Colombia.

IDMC worked together with Colombian NGOs who had submitted a shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to deliver an oral statement during CERD’s examination of Colombia in Geneva.
### ASIA PACIFIC

#### Bangladesh

In July, IDMC released an update on the little-known internal displacement situation in Bangladesh, which is believed to have affected tens of thousands of people from indigenous groups. The profile focused on the fact that although the armed conflict in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) had officially ended in 1997, many of its causes persisted and a peace accord between the two sides had never been fully implemented. Internal displacement has continued and indigenous people continue to be forcibly displaced from their land due to evictions by authorities or by Bengali settlers with the knowledge or direct support of the army. The profile further noted that religious minorities in Bangladesh, such as the Hindus and those belonging to the Ahmadi Islamic sect, have also been displaced as a result of discrimination or communal violence.

Elections in December 2008 brought a new government to power in Bangladesh and its premier has promised a full implementation of the 1997 peace accord in the CHT and protection of religious minorities all over the country. IDMC urged the government to implement these pledges so that the situation of internally displaced people in the country can improve.

#### The Philippines

In September, IDMC briefed an Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the IDP situation in the southern Philippines (Mindanao). The presentation underlined the need for increased assistance to address the needs of the estimated 400,000 IDPs living in Mindanao, many of whom had been living in camps for more than a year. Particular attention was drawn to the protection needs of the displaced which remained poorly monitored and insufficiently addressed in the context of an armed conflict where government security forces are often failing to clearly distinguish between civilians and armed combatants. The presentation recommended the strengthening of the overall humanitarian and protection response by designating a humanitarian coordinator to lead the response of the inter-national community in Mindanao, as well as the designation of a protection-mandated agency to lead the protection cluster in the country.

IDMC’s recommendation stressed on designing a humanitarian coordinator to lead the response of the international community in Mindanao and a protection-mandated agency to lead the protection cluster in the country.

### EUROPE

#### Croatia

IDMC published a country update on Croatia in September. By June 2009, the number of IDPs stood at 2,400, including over 1,600 ethnic Serbs. One continuing barrier to durable solutions for ethnic Serb IDPs has been the absence of a remedy for the arbitrary cancellation of tenancy rights for former occupiers of socially-owned apartments. Alternative housing options have been made available to those who wished to return, but others have been left without any durable housing solutions or compensation for the loss of their tenancy right. To enable them to find durable solutions it would be necessary to combine economic support to the most vulnerable, fair compensation for former holders of occupancy rights, and an effective monitoring system to ensure minority rights are upheld.

#### Serbia and Kosovo

IDMC provided two briefing papers on Serbia and Kosovo, one focusing on property issues and one on other protection issues affecting IDPs from and within Kosovo. The briefing papers were shared with Walter Kälin, Rapporteur on property issues for refugees and IDPs in Europe, appointed by the Committee for Migrations, Refugees and Population of the Council of Europe (CoE). The briefing papers analysed the most acute protection issues and made suggestions on how to address them with the hope that the UNRSG and the CoE Rapporteur would look into similar issues during their missions and reports.

IDMC also contributed to the drafting of the Serbia/Kosovo section of Poulsen’s report.

#### Azerbaijan

IDMC made written and oral submissions on the issues facing IDPs in Azerbaijan to three UN treaty body committees: the Human Rights Committee, the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. All three committees took up issues raised by IDMC in their reviews of Azerbaijan’s compliance with the relevant international covenant. These issues included early marriage of internally displaced girls, inadequate housing, employment, health care and quality of education of IDPs, lack of consultation with IDPs about policies that affect them and the difficulties IDPs face obtaining residence registration and accessing related rights.
Lebanon does not have a national IDP policy, which has at times led to differences in the assistance provided to different displaced communities. The update offered a summary of all issues facing IDPs organised in ten categories, as part of an IDMC multi-year effort to improve the user-friendliness of its information.

**Middle East**

**Iraq**

IDMC briefed the United States Government Accounting Office mission examining the international and national response to situations of displacement on the situation of displacement in Iraq since IDMC’s report and profile update of December 2008.

**Lebanon**

In September IDMC published an update of the Lebanon profile on internal displacement. The update underlined the protection concerns arising from a number of displacement situations including the situation of protracted displacement which persisted in Lebanon since the 1975-1990 civil war, an 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon by Israel, the 33-day war in July 2006, the destruction in 2007 of Palestinian refugees’ camps and localised violence in mid-2008 in Tripoli. The IDMC update assessed many of the challenges preventing IDPs and refugees in secondary displacement from reaching durable solutions. These included inadequate compensation to rebuild homes, outstanding reconciliation issues between different religious communities, the presence of unexploded ordnance, particularly in southern Lebanon, and financing problems. The update also highlighted that Lebanon does not have a national IDP policy, which has at times led to differences in the assistance provided to different displaced communities.

**Occupied Palestinian Territory**

IDMC contributed to the Humanitarian Practice Network of the Overseas Development Institute publication in the September issue on mechanisms of response to the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The article underlined the opportunities, limitations and gaps in the humanitarian response to situations of displacement in the OPT.

**Yemen**

IDMC updated the country profile of Yemen, focusing especially on the humanitarian and protection concerns of people displaced due to the reoccurring conflict in the Sa’ada region. In June and July 2009 the number of IDPs increased by several thousand and following new conflict in Sa’ada on 11 August, 150,000 people have been displaced. IDMC undertook several bilateral advocacy initiatives to raise the issue of displacement in Yemen.

**Training activities**

**Conference on the Great Lakes Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Protecting IDPs through national laws, policies and practices: A technical workshop for members states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>9-10 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>Delegations of ICGLR Member States, ICGLR Group of Friends, Steering Committee, and Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>63 participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The event was jointly organised by the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR, the Office of the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs (RSG), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with the support of IDMC.

The key objectives of the workshop were to create a common understanding of IDPs’ rights and vulnerabilities and the relevant legal framework, as reinforced by the ICGLR Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons; and to assess the status of national policies and institutional frameworks of members states.

During the workshop, IDMC made two presentations. The first focused on the role of civil society in the national response to internal displacement, and reviewed a series of good practices to involve NGOs in the planning, implementation and monitoring of protection activities.

IDMC recommended the national authorities to involve IDPs themselves in the development of the national response. On the second day, IDMC gave a presentation focusing on the Protocol on property rights of returnees (see section above, thematic initiative, HLP).
**Protection Cluster Coordination, Jakarta**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Training workshop on Protection Cluster Coordination</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>31 August – 4 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number</td>
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</table>

IDMC and UNHCR organised and conducted a training workshop aiming to reinforce coordination skills for protection workers in charge of protection coordination in five Asian countries. This project was planned on behalf of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group and its Learning Task Force, to ensure a higher degree of predictability and consistency in the leadership of local protection clusters and sub-clusters.

The workshop agenda combined three types of components. First, a series of sessions focused on essential “soft skills” for coordination and leadership. Second, participants were briefed on the institutional and policy framework relevant to their cluster leadership responsibility, such as humanitarian reform, ethical standards and the definition of protection. Third, sessions on protection tools (analytical models, funding tools, contingency planning) gave participants the opportunity to relate coordination skills to their protection work. At the end of the workshop, participants brainstormed on possible solutions to key challenges they face in the coordination of their protection working groups.

**Financial situation**

**Thanks to our donors!**

We would like to particularly thank the Norwegian MFA, UK’s DFID, USA’s USAID, Australia’s AusAID, Sweden’s SIDA, the Canadian DFAIT, the Dutch MFA, Tides Foundation, the Swiss FDFA, DG-ECHO, the Liechtenstein MFA, the Luxembourg MFA, OCHA, UNHCR and Stichting Vluchteling for their contributions pledged or received in 2009.

IDMC welcomes a new donor for 2009, the European Commission’s Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO (DG-ECHO), which has committed to contribute €80,000 from April 2009 to March 2010. DG-ECHO supports IDMC’s work in building national and local capacity to provide an integrated response to IDP protection, within the framework of the protection cluster.

Thanks to the generous support of its donors, IDMC has covered 100 per cent of its planned budget. IDMC has just recruited a third training/legal officer and a Child Rights advisor, and will recruit an additional country analyst to increase monitoring and advocacy related to internal displacement in Asia.

**Financial situation as of 30 September**

- Revised budget 2009 $2,910,000
- Funds received $2,192,000
- Funds pledged and funds received $2,910,000
- % 2009 budget pledged/received 100%
- Expenditure $1,796,815

**Pledged/received as of 30 September per donor (in USD)**

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<td>Misc small private</td>
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</table>

For further information, please contact

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**Learning needs assessment in Uganda**

IDMC conducted a learning needs assessment mission to Uganda from 18 to 23 September, in preparation for the IDMC-Brookings training workshop on IDP protection for the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC). The workshop is scheduled for the week of November 9 in Gulu.