IDPs high on the agenda

Internally displaced children in Turkey

IDMC released the first in a series of case studies on the access to education of internally displaced children in protracted displacement situations. The case study on Turkey recommended five good practices to policy makers, in the fields of data collection, gender considerations, durable solutions, non-discrimination and poverty alleviation. The study, entitled Principle versus Practice: Poverty and Discrimination as Barriers to the Enjoyment of the Right to education for Internally Displaced Children, is available at: http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/children_turkey

IDMC presented the case study to staff of the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict and to Turkish NGOs. The study informed global policy debates on education in and around conflict, within the Inter-Agency Network on Education in Emergencies (INEE) and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA).

Georgia: Premiere of documentary on IDPs displaced in early 1990s

The IDMC-supported documentary Lives in Transit premiered in Georgia in September. It focuses on IDPs who fled Abkhazia in the early 1990s and have been living in a collective centre in the capital Tbilisi ever since. The film explores their daily lives, hopes and personal experiences of being in exile. This first screening was attended by around 100 persons from Georgian civil society, the international community as well as IDP organizations, and feedback was very positive. It will also be shown in other locations in Tbilisi and western Georgia later in 2010 and is planned to be screened at various film festivals throughout Europe and sent to European political institutions, international humanitarian, development and finance organisations, research institutes and donor governments.

Promoting the Framework on Durable Solutions

During field missions in Georgia and the Russian Federation in July, IDMC promoted the revised Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in meetings with government officials and representatives of local and international organisations. IDMC highlighted the Framework as an essential reference on durable solutions for IDPs. After the document was presented to NRC staff in Georgia, NRC co-organised an event with OHCHR and UNHCR where the Representative of the Secretary General on the human rights of IDPs presented the Framework to major stakeholders. The participants will go on to explore the possibility of conducting a national assessment of the achievement of durable solutions for IDPs.

IDPs outside camps

Following the presentation of the discussion paper, Internally Displaced persons outside camps: Achieving a more equitable humanitarian response at the IASC Working Group in July, an informal working group was set up and met for the first time to agree on a way forward in September under the chairmanship of the RSG on the human rights of IDPs. The purpose of the initiative is to strengthen humanitarian and development commitments and capacities to respond to the needs of IDPs outside camps.

NRC/IDMC and the other agencies present expressed strong support for this initiative. It was agreed that a steering group would be set up comprising OCHA, UNHCR, NRC/IDMC, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, the World Health Organization, the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to finalise terms of reference for a mapping exercise to identify gaps, practices to date and roles of the various actors involved.
**Policy guidance**

**Gender**

In September, during a conference held in Oslo entitled “Gender in Humanitarian Assistance 2010: Do we pass the quality test?”, IDMC gave a presentation on the problem of violence against internally displaced women and girls in eastern Chad. The objective of the Oslo conference was to review how gender has been mainstreamed by humanitarian organisations in field operations.

IDMC’s presentation focused on how the problem of violence against internally displaced women and girls has changed since the beginning of the internal displacement crisis in eastern Chad in 2005 and on the responses by the Chadian government and humanitarian community. IDMC distributed the Executive Summary and Recommendations for its upcoming report National Outrage: Violence against internally displaced women and girls in eastern Chad, which is to be published in November 2010.

In July 2010, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes encouraged UN agencies and humanitarian organisations to include in their staff training the IASC e-learning course on gender and humanitarian action called “Different Needs – Equal Opportunities: Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men”. As of September, all IDMC staff have taken the course which was made mandatory by the organisation.

**Urban displacement**

In September IDMC travelled to Afghanistan to research the phenomena of urban displacement in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute and the ICRC as well as NRC Afghanistan. The research aims to provide a better understanding of the varied and complex patterns of displacement in Afghanistan, to inform programming in urban areas. IDMC trained the research team and met government representatives, research institutions, UN agencies and donors.

Displacement caused by natural disasters

In July and August, IDMC wrote an article on disaster-induced displacement for the UN International Strategy on Disaster Reduction. This aimed to highlight internal displacement in the context of less intense or smaller-scale natural disasters as well as highly-visible disasters or catastrophes, drawing on a dataset recording local disaster information and on IDMC’s field visit to Colombia during the previous quarter.

IDMC wrote for the Tulane Environmental Law Journal (TELJ) an article examining displacement in the context of climate change in countries facing protracted conflict. The article first reviewed the application of international human rights law to the protection of people displaced by disasters, and the challenges in implementing these standards facing states which have already developed a protection structure geared towards people internally displaced by conflict. The article will be published by the TELJ in its forthcoming Spring issue.

IDMC opened a position for a senior advisor on natural disasters, charged with conceptualising and managing the implementation of IDMC’s three-year plan for monitoring disaster-induced displacement, leading to the design of a strategy for monitoring disaster-induced displacement.

**The Kampala Convention**

IDMC has been working with the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union (AU) on a guide to encourage African civil society organisations to promote the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (the Kampala Convention). At the AU Summit in July, the ECOSOCC President presented the guide to the AU Executive Council, and it was officially endorsed by the AU. The guide will be put into the public domain in time for the first anniversary of the adoption of the Kampala Convention on 23 October and will be available in the four official AU languages (Arabic, English, French and Portuguese).

**ECOSOCC report to the AU Executive Council, July 2010 (excerpt)**

ECOSOCC would accelerate the pace of its ongoing cluster initiatives and strengthen them as appropriate. In this regard, the organ is pleased to inform Council that in collaboration with the IDMC, it has approved the publication of a Civil Society Guide around the Kampala Convention on Refugees and Internally Displaced persons. ECOSOCC wishes to thank the IDMC for its lead role in this process and the office of the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission for its association with the project.

IDMC is also continuing to support the efforts of civil society and governments in individual AU member states to promote the ratification of the Kampala Convention. Preparations are under way for a workshop for members of parliament in Kenya, as well as workshops for civil society organisations and parliamentarians in Liberia. IDMC is also working closely with UNHCR on workshops for MPs and CSOs in further AU member states.
**Housing, land and property issues (HLP)**

In the context of the development of a new training module on durable solutions by the HLP sub-cluster of the global protection cluster working group, IDMC included four sessions on general HLP issues, groups with particular vulnerabilities in relation to land issues (including women, indigenous people, pastoralists, certain minority groups), HLP issues in informal tenure settings, and restitution. IDMC’s main target groups for training are civil society organisations, national human rights institutions and national authorities. IDMC is advising NRC head office in the development of HLP modules for NRC field staff and other humanitarians.

IDMC has successfully advocated for a stronger involvement of UNHCR in the HLP sub-cluster, to reinforce the protection dimension and the human-rights-based approach of the group, therefore supporting IDMC’s efforts on the matter.

**Rights of internally displaced children**

IDMC provided input to the paper by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, entitled *The Rights and Guarantees of Internally Displaced Children in Armed Conflict*, available at: http://www.internal-displacement.org/children/armed-conflict

In September, at the launch of the paper taking place alongside a session of the Human Rights Council, IDMC highlighted three areas of concern that are particularly relevant for displaced children: poverty and access to basic needs, recruitment, and access to education.

IDMC contributed to revisions of the child protection components of the SPHERE handbook by raising the profile of the needs of internally displaced children in emergencies.

IDMC became a member of the Global Coalition for Protecting Education from Attack (GCPEA), to contribute to a better understanding of the links between conflict, displacement and education. Through the GCPEA, IDMC contributed to UNESCO’s upcoming monitoring report on Education for All. IDMC participated also in inter-agency meetings on child friendly spaces and in the Child Protection Working Group’s annual meeting.

**Website and Media**

**Website statistics July-September 2010**

- 90,406 visits
- 77,018 unique visitors
- 104,482 downloads

**Most visited pages**

During the period from July to September the website traffic shows these country pages as the most visited in order:

- Angola
- Colombia
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Sudan
- Pakistan
- Georgia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Somalia
- India
- Philippines

**Country Profile Updates**

The profiles of these countries were updated between July and September:

- Chad** 2 July
- Somalia** 30 July
- Yemen** 3 August
- Indonesia (West Timor)* 25 August
- India* 2 September
- Pakistan* 6 September
- Indonesia (Aceh)* 8 September
- Côte d’Ivoire** 22 September

*New format ** Translation available

**News alerts and press releases**

Six news alerts including 24 stories were published between July and September. Over 5,900 subscribers access alerts and receive notifications of new reports on countries of their choice, after subscribing at http://www.internal-displacement.org/subscribe

**IDMC in the media (excerpt)**

*According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), by June 15, 2010, there were more than 3.3 million conflict IDPs in Pakistan, since the start of the fight between Pakistan’s Armed Forces and militant groups in 2008.*

Côte d’Ivoire

In September, IDMC published an update of its profile on the internal displacement situation in Côte d’Ivoire. Information on returns being more or less limited to the western regions of Moyen Cavally and Dix-huit Montagnes, the overall number of people still displaced remains unknown. The update drew attention to the fact that obstacles to sustainable returns persist. They include insecurity, rampant criminality, human rights abuses and, especially in the west, land disputes. The announcement of the new date of 31 October for the presidential elections and the agreement on the voter list constitute progress in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Peace Accord. However, fears of renewed violence and further displacement remain. The update is available at: http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/cotedivoire

Somalia

In July, IDMC published a new overview of the displacement situation in Somalia. The overview brought attention to the deteriorating humanitarian situation and ongoing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The overview highlighted the shrinking of humanitarian space, the recruitment of children by all parties to the conflict, and the continued violations of the human rights of internally displaced people. The update is available at: http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/somalia

Sudan

In August, IDMC briefed a group of donor missions, UN agencies and NGOs on the situation of displacement in Southern Sudan, following a mission carried out in June and early July.

The briefing focused on obstacles to durable solutions, in particular conflicts over land. Following the signing of the CPA, over two million IDPs returned to the south from the north and from neighbouring states and often found their houses and plots occupied. The process of restituting land and resolving land disputes has sometimes led to violence between returnees and occupants who are often IDPs themselves.

IDMC emphasised that managing land and resolving land disputes will be essential to the future stability of Southern Sudan. IDMC further reiterated a need for greater long-term support for interventions dealing with land conflicts, including support for national policy-making and implementation. The briefing paper is available at http://www.internal-displacement.org/briefing/south-sudan

Burundi

IDMC’s report on IDPs in Burundi, which followed a mission to the country, includes detailed recommendations on how to foster durable solutions for IDPs in settlements scattered across the north and centre of the country. The report was shared in September in Bujumbura among the members of the group on Rural Integrated Villages, a forum comprised of national ministries, international agencies including UNHCR, and donor governments. The NRC Burundi office reported that members of the group had found the report very useful for their work on IDPs, which will be further developed in a planned IDP working group. The mission report is available at: http://www.internal-displacement.org/briefing/burundi

Chad

In July, IDMC published an update to the country profile on internal displacement in eastern Chad. The overview entitled Prevailing insecurity blocking solutions for IDPs reported that in mid-2010 170,000 people were internally displaced and living in 38 camps in eastern Chad, as a result of internal armed conflict, inter-ethnic violence over land and natural resources, and attacks by bandits against civilians.

Ongoing protection monitoring of IDP camps in eastern Chad found the main protection risks to be insecurity, circulation of small arms in camps, and violence against women including domestic violence, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation (FGM). With UN peacekeeping troops scheduled to withdraw by the end of 2010, a worsening food security crisis that has already affected two million people in Chad, severe limits to the access and capacity of humanitarian organisations, and a government committed to military spending rather than social development, it is unlikely that conditions for the sustainable return, integration or resettlement of IDPs will be in place in the near future. The update is available at: http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/chad
Zimbabwe

In July, IDMC joined a team of colleagues from NRC for an assessment mission in Zimbabwe. NRC received its registration as an NGO in Zimbabwe in July, paving the way for the commencement of activities in the sectors of education and livelihoods. IDMC contributed expertise on the specific circumstances and needs of internally displaced people in Zimbabwe.

AMERICAS

Colombia

IDMC provided comments to the Brookings-Bern Project’s ongoing research on the Framework for National Responsibility and its implementation in Colombia. Along the same lines, IDMC contributed to the journal Disasters by reviewing a submission for publication.

In relation to IDMC’s forthcoming report on property restitution in Colombia, IDMC published an article analysing the new bill on property restitution which the government has brought to Congress. This analysis was carried out at a forum of housing, land and property experts. The recent bill aims to launch a programme to reconstitute some 2.2 million hectares of land to IDPs who have lost it as a result of conflict and human rights abuses. The analysis considered the bill’s compliance with international standards gathered notably in the Pinheiro Principles on Property Restitution. This article can be found at:

ASIA PACIFIC

India

In September, IDMC published an update of the India country profile. India has continued to experience several different displacement situations, with a total of at least 650,000 people internally displaced. Between mid-2009 and mid-2010, armed conflict between government forces and Maoist insurgents over land and mineral resources in tribal forest areas in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal states newly displaced over 100,000 people. In these states, a further 50,000 people remained in displacement from before 2009.

200,000 people were in situations of protracted displacement due to conflict in several states in north-east India, as were 250,000 Pandits from the Kashmir Valley, 19,000 Muslims in Gujarat state and 10,000 Christians in Orissa state. India has no national policy to assist and protect IDPs. State- and district-level responses – where they exist – are insufficient and vary widely between different groups of IDPs. The update is available at:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/india

Indonesia

In August, IDMC published an update on the displacement situation in Papua (formerly West Timor), Indonesia. The update highlighted that 11 years after being initially displaced from what was then East Timor, several thousand people remained in camps near the border with Timor-Leste, or near the provincial capital Kupang. Their main concerns are lack of access to land, poor integration with local communities, very poor living conditions, high unemployment levels, lack of access to education and unresolved compensation issues. The government has discouraged further assistance as its main priority is now to close the camps.

In September, IDMC published an update on the internal displacement situation in Aceh. The report highlighted that, five years after the Helsinki peace agreement put an end to 30 years of conflict between the government and Acehnese separatists, the number of IDPs may still be as high as 146,000. The majority are ethnic Javanese who have been slower to return due to security concerns, while many of those who have returned to their homes since 2005 have been struggling to recover. Many also face land and property disputes, and fear and mistrust still run high. The assistance needs of conflict-induced IDPs and returnees have been largely overlooked by the government and the international community. The update is available at:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/indonesia

Pakistan

In July, IDMC finalised the first phase of a research project on durable solutions for internally displaced communities in north-west Pakistan. The study shows how the wider Shia community has helped Shia IDPs with shelter and livelihoods while Sunni IDPs have relied exclusively on support from relatives. Moreover, since the special jurisdiction of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas has prohibited party politics there, political parties have not mobilised to support the IDPs from FATA.

In September, IDMC published an update of the Pakistan profile. The update highlighted how flooding has worsened the situation of people displaced by the conflict in the north-west. It further illustrated that since the expansion of the insurgency and the government’s counter-insurgency operations, short-distance displacements have become untenable. More IDPs have fled in fear of impending violence, and displacements have become more protracted. Moreover, as communities become ever more entangled in the conflict, local integration and return have increasingly become unsafe. The update is available at:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/pakistan
EUROPE

Georgia

In July, IDMC/NRC made a submission to the UN’s Universal Periodic Review mechanism on internally displaced people in Georgia. The main concerns raised were the inadequacy of housing, lack of employment opportunities, poor quality of education, lack of reliable information on the health of IDPs and the general absence of consultation with IDPs.

IDMC’s recommendations included an assessment of the achievement of durable solutions using the revised IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, application of the adopted housing allocation standards and an assessment of the potential impact of integrating IDPs from a separate assistance system into a general social assistance programme. The working group on the UPR will review Georgia’s compliance with international human rights standards in January 2011.

IDMC conducted a mission to Georgia in July to collect information for a case study on local integration of IDPs displaced in the early 1990s. IDMC interviewed IDPs living in collective centres and their non-displaced neighbours in four towns in western Georgia, as well as government officials and representatives of international organisations assisting them. In September IDMC briefed a group of donor missions in Geneva based on the information collected in the field. In addition to the issues raised in the UPR submission, the lack of a remedy for lost property and the limited freedom of choice of residence were also highlighted. The briefing paper is available at http://www.internal-displacement.org/briefing/georgia

MIDDLE EAST

Yemen

In August IDMC published an update of the Yemen country profile, including the shorter overview in Arabic and English. In the update, IDMC underlined the conditions of displacement, highlighting the negligence of the international community in providing adequate funding, and risk of protracted displacement with limited durable solutions.

As of July 2010, approximately 342,000 people were registered as internally displaced, and more than 800,000 people had been indirectly affected by the conflict, including communities hosting IDPs and residents who had lost access to basic services. Following intermittent clashes between Al-Houthi groups and the Yemeni government in July 2009, the situation in Sa’ada governorate escalated into open conflict in the sixth round of hostilities since 2004 leading to the largest number of displacement witnessed in Yemen. In February 2010 a ceasefire put an end to hostilities; however intermittent violence has continued in affected governorates. The situation escalated into open conflict leading to the largest number of displacement witnessed in Yemen

http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/yemen

Iraq

The representative of the UN Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs (the RSG) undertook his first visit to Iraq in September 2010. IDMC provided a brief paper of the situation of displacement in Iraq and verbally briefed the RSG’s office on the situation in Iraq since March 2010.

The RSG took forward the key recommendations made in the IDMC brief urging the government to develop a national action plan to provide assistance and compensation with a special attention to vulnerable people.

In line with IDMC’s recommendation on informal settlements and occupation of public buildings, the RSG requested a moratorium on evictions until a new strategy providing viable alternatives is found. The RSG requested the government of Iraq to re-open registration for IDPs to facilitate their access to much needed basic services.

He advocated for a national plan for durable solutions including local integration and resettlement. IDMC had underlined this recommendation in order to ensure a national dialogue and the development of a cohesive response between the government of Iraq and the Kurdish Regional Government.

Russian Federation

IDMC conducted a mission to the Russian Federation in July. The objectives were to collect information on the situation of IDPs inside and outside the North Caucasus and to make contact with local and international organisations currently assisting IDPs there. During the mission, IDMC referred one case of imminent eviction to UNHCR since the group of IDPs did not have alternative accommodation or friends or family to stay with. UNHCR contacted the regional ombudsman and a local NGO, who committed to providing legal assistance and registration of the group with the housing department. Following the mission, IDMC presented a briefing paper to donor missions in Geneva in September. The paper raised issues concerning the lack of permanent housing, personal documentation, psychosocial assistance and consultation of IDPs, as well as their limited freedom of choice of residence. The briefing paper is available at: http://www.internal-displacement.org/briefing/russia

Former car factory where IDPs from Chechnya have been living for over 10 years. (IDMC, June 2010)
Training activities

Central African Republic

Title | Workshop on protection of displaced persons and national law
---|---
Location | Bangui (Central African Republic)
Dates | 15-16 July 2010
Participants | 50 participants
- High Commissioner for Human Rights and Good Governance
- ministries within the National Standing Committee for the Coordination and the Management of the Protection of IDPs
- Governors (préfets) from displacement-affected areas
- members of the protection cluster
- representatives of displaced communities
- parliamentarians
- members of the National Follow-up Committee for the Great Lakes Pact

Partners | UNHCR, the Permanent Secretariat of the Great Lakes Pact, and a Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs

The objective of the workshop was to support the process leading to the reform of the domestic legal framework to ensure that it complies with CAR’s obligations relating to the protection of IDPs under the Great Lakes Pact, as well as the African Union Convention on the protection and assistance of IDPs (the Kampala Convention). The workshop gave an opportunity to examine the key elements of a legal review, the nature of changes needed in existing laws and the rationale for a framework law on IDPs.

Participants identified provisions to be included in the legal framework to strengthen protection from arbitrary displacement, protection during displacement, and the search for durable solutions. At the end of the workshops, they adopted a series of recommendations for bringing the legal framework in line with international and regional standards. Participants also called the authorities to ensure that the responsibilities of central and provincial institutions are clearly defined, and highlighted a series of issues which need to be addressed by the law, including the access to essential services for IDPs, and the support to voluntary integration in home areas, areas of displacement or elsewhere in the country.

Senegal

Title | Regional workshop on protection coordination
---|---
Location | Dakar (Senegal)
Dates | 4-9 July 2010
Participants | 30 participants:
- representatives of UN agencies
- national authorities and NGOs
- involved in protection cluster coordination in French-speaking African countries, Burundi, CAR, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Conakry, Niger and DRC
- three participants from regional offices in Dakar

Partners | Global Protection Cluster Working Group’s Learning Task Force

IDMC co-facilitated a five-day training workshop, which aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of people in charge of leading or chairing Protection Cluster/Areas of Responsibility working groups at the country level. Participants reviewed and applied three sets of skills and knowledge relating to the institutional and policy frame-

Uganda

Title | Training-of-trainers workshop on protection of the human rights of IDPs
---|---
Location | Gulu (Uganda)
Dates | 7-11 September 2010
Participants | 19 participants:
- 7 from the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
- 3 from Uganda civil society NGOs
- 3 from UNHCR Uganda
- 4 from NRC Uganda and IDMC
- 2 from NRC Southern Sudan

Partners | NRC Uganda

As a follow-up to the IDMC/Brookings-Bern IDP protection workshop held in November 2009 in Gulu, IDMC conducted an intensive five-day training-of-trainers (ToT) workshop for selected participants from the Uganda Human Rights Commission, civil society and international organisations, on conceptualisation, delivery and evaluation of IDP protection training. The workshop was delivered with the assistance and support of NRC Uganda.

The ToT used IDMC modules on protection of human rights of IDPs and encouraged participants to adapt training implementation to the context of Uganda, with a special emphasis on durable solutions. During the ToT, participants were trained on adult learning methodology, practiced the different phases of providing training and received feedback from other participants and the facilitators. The ToT resulted in a pool of trainers who are expected to deliver short training courses on IDP protection within their organisations and externally to other national stakeholders.
Thanks to our donors!

We would like to thank our donors for their support in 2010: the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the USA's USAID, the UK's DFID, the Australia's AusAID, the Sweden's SIDA, the Swiss FDFA, the Liechtenstein MFA, the Canadian DFAIT, Stichting Vluchteling, the Luxembourg MFA, the German MFA, the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), UNHCR, Tides Foundation and other supporters.

IDMC welcomes a new donor since July 2010, the German MFA, which has committed to support with EUR 50,000 the training workshop for the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, to be held in November.

Training for IDMC staff

In September, IDMC staff participated in an internal training workshop on the human rights-based approach. The workshop was organised as part of IDMC’s project to mainstream human rights into its various activities, in particular its advocacy. This workshop focused on the rights related to physical security and integrity (including the protection of children from recruitment), participation, documentation and citizenship, and access to justice. The legal framework applicable to the protection of indigenous people and minorities was also examined.

Finance and Governance

Financial situation as of 30 September

| Funds received | $ 2,954,000 |
| Funds received and funds pledged: | $ 3,483,000 |
| Expenditure | $ 2,234,000 |
| 2010 budget | $ 3,540,000 |
| % 2010 budget pledged/received | 98 per cent |

Funds pledged or received as of 30 September

![Financial pie chart]

For further information, please contact
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