



Quarterly Update

July - September 2012

This Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 July and 30 September 2012. It is also available to be read online or downloaded at www.internal-displacement.org.

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

IDPs High on the Agenda

Raising awareness of IDP protection issues in Syria

In July, IDMC launched a campaign aimed at positioning IDP protection concerns within the ongoing international debate on Syria with the publication of a report entitled *Syria: a full-scale displacement and humanitarian crisis with no solutions in sight*. This overview of Syria's long history of internal displacement dating back to 1967 was complemented in August by an IDMC report specifically focused on displacement resulting from the current conflict entitled *No safe haven - A country on the move, a nation on the brink*.

As part of this campaign, IDMC also informed a public statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs in relation to the severe internal displacement crisis in Syria, and worked with other NGOs under the umbrella of Crisis Action to issue a statement and a press release on the plight of IDPs in that country. The statement was signed by members of The Elders, including former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Mozambique Education Minister Graça Machel, and former Irish President Mary Robinson. The press release generated [extensive global media coverage](#) (see media section).

Support to Afghanistan's IDP policy development process

IDMC and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) were requested by the Afghan government in July to provide technical and facilitation support in developing an IDP policy for Afghanistan, based on IDMC's pilot *Guide for Practitioners on National Law and Policy Making on Internal Displacement*. In an initial response to this request, IDMC facilitated a national stakeholder workshop convened in Kabul later in July by the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, during which participants drew up a roadmap for the national IDP policy development process.

In September, as a follow-up to the workshop and at the request of the same ministry, IDMC supported the latter in initiating consultations on IDP issues in seven Afghan provinces with local authorities, IDP communities, and responders. The consultations raised interest in and support for the IDP policy development process by local authorities, and informed the policy on a number of core protection issues and durable solutions.

Support to Nigeria's draft IDP policy

In July, following a learning event supported and co-facilitated by IDMC respectively for Nigerian authorities and Nigerian civil society organisations (CSO), the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) led a process to re-draft the draft national policy on IDPs. IDPs from 12 Nigerian states joined civil society organisations, government agencies and ministries in sharing ideas and suggestions based on their respective knowledge and experiences. At the request of NCFR, IDMC provided input to the draft policy. The draft policy is awaiting approval by the Federal Executive Council.

Policy guidance

Internally Displaced Women

In September, IDMC participated in an [expert workshop](#) in Geneva on internally displaced women convened by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. The event was an opportunity both to discuss challenges faced by internally displaced women and to suggest recommendations to the Special Rapporteur, who chaired the event together with the Brookings-LSE project on internal displacement. IDMC, along with UNHCR, was invited as a keynote speaker and presented protection issues faced by IDP women brought into focus by its research in Burundi, eastern Chad and Pakistan. It also highlighted the need for IDP protection needs assessments to include data disaggregated by sex, age and location.



An internally displaced woman waits for a relative to carry her belongings to her tent in a Emergency Response camp in Herat province of Afghanistan, June 2012. (Farzana Wahidy for NRC, April 2012)

The perspectives and concerns raised at the workshop will inform the thematic report on internally displaced women that the Special Rapporteur will submit to the Human Rights Council in 2013.

Promoting innovative housing solutions for IDPs in Europe

IDMC advocated for innovative long-term housing solutions for IDPs during a meeting it convened on the sidelines of the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September. Preliminary findings of IDMC research, presented to delegations of 12 countries, 13 national NGOs and OSCE representatives, informed the conclusions which found that: adequate housing is just one component of durable solutions; housing practices in Georgia and Serbia might be replicated elsewhere in the region; states should reaffirm and implement their commitments to IDPs; and the OSCE should hold states accountable to their commitments.



An internally displaced Georgian in Kutaisi. (IDMC, 2009)

Natural disasters

IDMC and NRC data draws increased attention to climate change-related displacement

In September, IDMC and NRC drafted two joint submissions that illustrate how evidence and knowledge they have accumulated on climate change-related displacement can be leveraged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Joining IDMC and NRC in presenting the submissions to the UNFCCC were the UN High Commission for Refugees, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, United Nations University, the International Organization for Migration and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The two joint submissions will help IDMC and NRC advocate more effectively with the UNFCCC as it seeks to raise the profile of climate change-related internal displacement under the Convention.

Addressing displacement and migration related to climate change impacts

In September, IDMC were invited to the [ClimMig Conference on Human Rights, Environmental Change, Migration and Displacement in Vienna](#) to outline the EC-funded research that will be undertaken to inform the Nansen Initiative on cross-border disaster-induced displacement. IDMC and NRC illustrated how new interdisciplinary research, combining both quantitative and qualitative analysis, could advance understanding of the potential protection concerns

associated with climate change-related displacement and allow duty bearers to effectively address them. The conference was co-organised by the Vienna-based Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and the Paris-based Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations.

Also in September, IDMC was invited by the [Norwegian](#) and Swiss delegations to the OSCE in Vienna to give a presentation on forced displacement and natural disasters in OSCE countries. IDMC noted that displacement resulting from natural disasters and climate change is likely to increase, and recalled that between 2008 and 2011 some 2.5 million people are estimated to have been displaced by sudden-onset natural disasters in the OSCE region alone. In reflecting on existing responses and best practices in relation to the protection of IDPs in the OSCE region, IDMC urged the international community to develop more effective ways of promoting the human rights of IDPs.

Africa

Promoting durable solutions to displacement in Burundi

An IDMC article on internal displacement in Burundi, scheduled to be published in the Refugee Survey Quarterly in 2013, provided useful background information to the UN Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees and the Director of the UNHCR Africa Bureau ahead of their visit to Burundi in September. The article describes the national and international response to internal displacement in Burundi and presents the results of the IDP profiling exercise in support of durable solutions conducted there in Autumn 2011. It also makes recommendations relating to the Burundian authorities' draft plan for durable solutions, which includes a focus on local integration – the solution preferred by 85% of IDPs in the country.

Côte d'Ivoire

IDMC tailored briefing notes on internal displacement in Côte d'Ivoire, including data on specific concerns relating to the housing, land and property rights of IDPs, served as preparatory information for UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Chaloka Beyani's visit to the country in July to examine internal displacement issues.

The issues raised by IDMC were reflected in the concluding remarks of the Special Rapporteur at the end of his visit. These notably included the need to address the continued human rights, assistance and protection needs of IDPs in the country, " [...] many of whom still lack durable solutions", and the importance of ensuring that land reform processes are " [...] inclusive, transparent, have a clear IDP focal point in the government, and include measures which explicitly take into account the situation of IDPs, promote local ownership of solutions and involve civil society."

Asia

Survey on internal displacement caused by tropical storm Washi/Sendong initiated in northern Mindanao, Philippines

In September, IDMC, NRC and local partner NGOs launched a 300-person survey in and around Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, the

two cities most affected by tropical storm Washi/Sendong in December 2011. The survey captures disaggregated data related to displacement and protection concerns that have yet to be addressed by the government, as well as to measures taken both prior and subsequent to the disaster to mitigate the scale of displacement and the severity of the hardship caused by the storm-induced displacement. The survey findings will be included in a forthcoming IDMC/NRC report on the displacement impact of the disaster. The report will aim to promote measures to reduce the risks of disaster-induced displacement and to make this issue a central theme of the May 2013 elections in northern Mindanao.

Europe and the Caucasus

Speaking at the 73rd session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Committee on Land and Housing Management in September, IDMC underlined the importance of housing and land for IDPs in the region and pressed for continued information and recommendations on housing for IDPs in Europe. The Committee expressed interest in cooperating with IDMC on formulating recommendations and producing joint country profiles. IDMC plans to meet again with UNECE to take this forward.

Kosovo

In October, IDMC issued [an overview](#) of the ongoing protracted displacement situation in Kosovo. In the report IDMC highlighted how the numbers of IDPs had reduced in recent years. However, IDMC also drew attention to the ongoing challenges many IDPs face in obtaining documentation and in repossessing, or being compensated for, their property. Widespread discrimination against Serbs and Roma people has made it difficult for them to return to certain areas, preventing them from achieving durable solutions to their displacement situations.

Middle East and North Africa

Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)

IDMC took an active part in a meeting between the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the recently established Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in Geneva at the beginning of July. IDMC contributed to the IPHRC's engagement with NGOs and civil society, raised its awareness of IDP issues, and urged the body to include more protection considerations in its institutional mechanisms and policies.

Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

In July, as part of its objective to raise the profile of the plight of Palestinian IDPs, IDMC submitted a report on displacement in the OPT to the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review for its 15th session scheduled to take place from 21 January to 1 February 2013. The report demonstrates a practice of deliberate discrimination against the Palestinian community, provoking the forced displacement of Palestinians in the OPT. Since the last review in 2008, settlement construction and expansion in the OPT has continued, and close to 507,000 settlers are now estimated to be living in the OPT – 196,000 of them in East Jerusalem.

In September, IDMC submitted a statement on Item 7 (human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories) to the 21st session of the UN Human Rights Council. The statement highlighted the plight of the 15,700 people who remain displaced as a consequence of Israel's 'Cast Lead' military operation conducted in the Gaza Strip from 27 December 2008 to 18 January 2009.

Creation of a Geneva-based OPT Displacement Network

In July, IDMC laid the foundation for the creation of a Geneva-based OPT Displacement Network "where information can regularly be exchanged and advocacy work coordinated on a voluntary and confidential basis". This was in response to discussion with the coordinator of an OPT displacement network in Jerusalem, which established the need for such a structure. Further meetings with prospective partners are planned aimed at developing a common framework that places displacement at the core of the international response in the OPT.

Training

IDP Protection Training in Myanmar

Location	Yangon, Myanmar
Dates	8 and 9 September 2012
Participants	24 members of NGO Myanmar Egress and the Myanmar Peace Center
Partners	Swiss Embassy in Myanmar / Swiss Development Cooperation

In September, IDMC conducted a training workshop on IDP protection within a peace-building context in Myanmar. Co-facilitated by a representative of the Swiss Development Cooperation, the two-day workshop focused on the importance of observing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement – including application throughout the country of their standard definition of IDP status – and the need for stakeholders to engage in consultation and participation with IDPs and displacement-affected communities. Participants also discussed the need to respect IDP settlement option choices as a necessary component of any durable solutions and how the latter can be achieved in peace-building contexts through application of the requisite principles and criteria. The workshop generated ideas on how to effectively integrate internal displacement issues into the peace-building work of the NGO Myanmar Egress and the Myanmar Peace Center.

Co-facilitation of "Protection Cluster Coordination Training" for the Mindanao (Philippines) Protection Cluster

In August, IDMC co-facilitated training with UNHCR on protection coordination for members of the Mindanao Protection Cluster. This was the first of two pilot workshops held by IDMC and UNHCR, as the co-leads for the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Task Team on Learning, to broaden the target audience to include members of country-level protection clusters. The workshop participants included representatives of national and local authorities, local NGOs and international organisations. Participatory methodologies were used in all sessions, which covered the legal bases, substantive concepts and tools related to protection analysis and design of protection responses as well as soft skills related to communication, presentation, consensus building, negotiation, running effective meetings and building effective teams.

Website and media

Global media coverage

IDMC's focus on internal displacement in Syria generated extensive media coverage around the world, including in the Wall Street Journal (1 October), Le Journal du Dimanche (26 August), AFP and the Australian (2 August). IDMC experts joined two television debates on Al Jazeera (Qatar), and gave radio interviews to France Culture (France), Radio France (France), and For Your Ears Only (USA).



IDMC was featured twice on Al-Jazeera regarding Syrian displacement.

Moving towards a website redesign

In August, as part of ongoing plans to redesign and redevelop the IDMC website, IDMC communications department launched a web user survey. Over 200 users responded, and the results offered a revealing insight into the needs and desires of the online audience. The results revealed that IDMC has a global web audience, with users primarily residing in USA, UK, Australia, Canada and Switzerland. While primarily positive, the survey highlighted areas that could be improved including better search functionality, more expert opinion pieces and multimedia content. This information provided valuable information for website redesign plans, and the new IDMC website will launch in 2013.

Sample responses from the user survey:

"IDMC is my go-to site for up to date information about IDPs - reports, policies, frameworks, issues etc. I use IDMC reports in all of my humanitarian trainings and I recommend the IDMC site to all gov't and in the field colleagues. Keep up the great work!"

"The main challenge you have, as far as I can see, is that you have too much useful information which is not always sufficiently easy to find.... In any case, good luck, you're doing a good job with high level of professionalism, so keep it up!"

Website statistics July-September 2012:

Visits: 202,588 Unique Visitors: 96,129 Downloads: 287,064

Most visited countries:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Syria | 6. Uganda |
| 2. Kenya | 7. Somalia |
| 3. Colombia | 8. Nigeria |
| 4. Sudan | 9. Iraq |
| 5. DR Congo | 10. Sri Lanka |

News alerts:

IDMC published 6 news alerts during the quarter as well as 23 stories covering 19 countries.

IDMC's financial situation

Financial Situation at 30 September 2012

Funds received: CHF 3,269,113.41 | USD 3,491,411.02

Funds pledged USD 1,024,004.85

Expenditure: USD 3,019,091.51

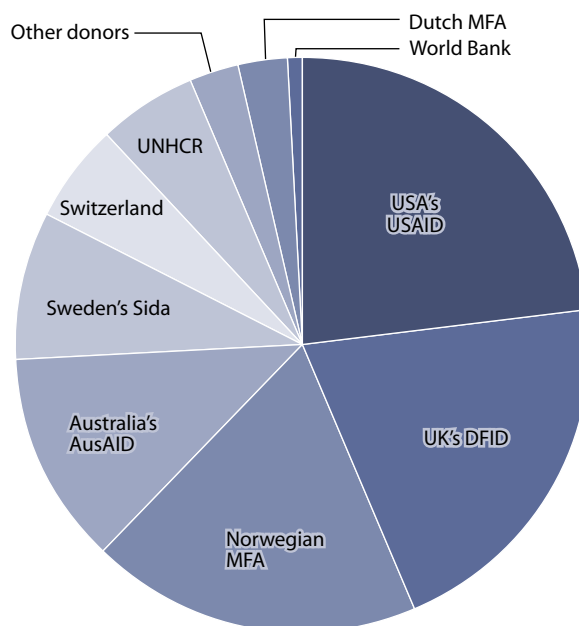
% 2012 budget pledged/received: 88.83 per cent

Thanks to our donors!

We would like to thank our donors for their support in 2012 so far:

Australia's AusAID, the Netherlands MFA, Norway's MFA, Sweden's SIDA, Switzerland FDFA, UNHCR, the UK's DFID, USA's USAID and the World Bank Group.

Funds pledged or received as of 30 September 2012



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