



Quarterly Update

October - December 2008

This Quarterly Update covers the activities of the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 October and 31 December 2008. 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 conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide.

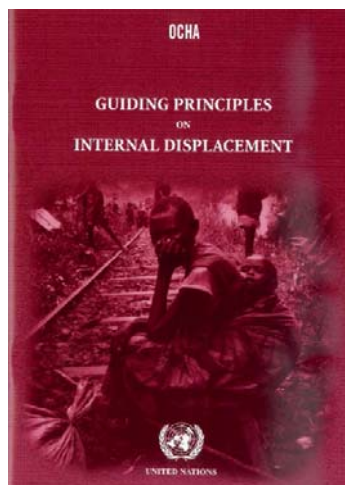
IDPs High on the Agenda

Conference: Ten years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

IDMC was among the co-organisers of the international conference held in Oslo on 16-17 October to mark the ten years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. IDMC, jointly with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Refugee Council Head Office, and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, invited up to 200 representatives of states, international agencies, regional organizations, NGOs and research institutions, as well as individual experts, to review the impact of the Guiding Principles on the response on the protection of IDPs, and consider lessons learned and future challenges.

When released in 1998, the Guiding Principles were first received with caution, if not concern, by several states, mostly facing situations of internal displacement. Ten years

of advocacy efforts from all sorts of actors have led to a noticeable change in the stance which initially reluctant states have taken towards the Guiding Principles. Vocal criticisms from states against the Guiding Principles have globally silenced, leaving space to a near-unanimous recognition from states that the Guiding Principles are an "important framework" for the protection of IDPs.



Elizabeth Rasmussen, John Holmes and Walter Kälin at the GP10 conference. (NRC, October 2008)

The conference gave participants the opportunity to reaffirm the value of the Guiding Principles as a reference tool. Representatives of states affected by internal displacement reviewed how the Guiding Principles have contributed to shape their national response to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs.

The Guiding Principles have shaped the humanitarian and protection operations of national and international agencies. They also provide the primary reference from which humanitarian and protection standards and practices are developed.

Beyond the remarkable acceptance of the Guiding Principles as a reference tool, the conference reviewed whether and how the Guiding Principles have contributed to an improved response to internal displacement, in a context which has brought new challenges to the fore, such as the climate change and disaster-induced displacement, protracted displacement, displacement in urban areas, and the implementation of the humanitarian reform.

Examples of the impact of the Guiding Principles

- The government of Uganda's IDP policy is based on the Guiding Principles, on International Humanitarian Law and on its national Constitution to serve as a guide for government institutions, humanitarian and development agencies while providing assistance and protection to IDPs
- In Georgia, the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation has consulted international representatives to ensure that the actions of the Government are in compliance with the standards of the Guiding Principles, as outlined in the IDP State Strategy Plan of Action.
- In Turkey, the government has incorporated the Guiding Principles in its Strategy document and used them as a basis for its Compensation Law.

The Chair's summary records key recommendations made during the conference regarding these issues, calling for more effective partnerships among all the actors concerned to prevent displacement and develop durable solutions, including in disaster-prone countries. The participation of IDPs in decisions and processes affecting them, a right clearly restated in the Guiding Principles, is also highlighted as instrumental to their effective protection.

The Chair's Summary, as well as photos, videos, and speeches from the event, are available on <http://www.internal-displacement.org/gp10>.

Thematic Initiatives

Urban displacement

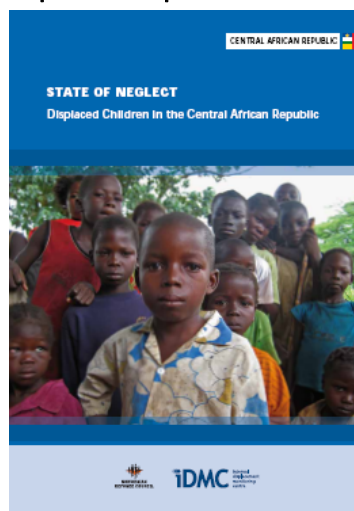
The Tufts-IDMC urban profiling study aims ultimately to help all organisations which assist and promote the rights of IDPs in conflict-affected countries to collect and analyse information on people displaced into cities. IDMC released the report of the seminar held in Geneva on 27 May 2008 on [*Profiling Internally Displaced Persons in Urban Settings*](#), detailing participants' very useful feedback on ways to refine methodology and the feasibility of future studies in other cities.

In an effort to promote a better understanding of urban displacement, IDMC provided an update in November on the Tufts/IDMC urban displacement project to the Task Force on

Information Management of the Protection Cluster Working Group. The presentation generated discussion on the next steps in relation to this study, including new case studies, and feedback on how the study could be more effectively mainstreamed into the various information management activities of the Protection Cluster. A sub-agreement signed between IDMC and UNHCR in the same month enabled IDMC and Tufts University to refine the methodology and design a training strategy for its application in the field.

Displaced Children in CAR

Report on displaced Children in the Central African Republic



In November, IDMC published [*State of Neglect: Displaced Children in the Central African Republic*](#).

The report describes the human rights abuses suffered by displaced children in four areas in the north of the country, and provides recommendations for improving their protection and care. Advocacy work for the report was conducted in Geneva and New York, in

November and December. IDMC briefed the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in November on the situation, alongside the UNICEF Representative in CAR.

UNICEF: Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies.

IDMC participated in a UNICEF consultation to review and update the booklet *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies*. This publication outlines the commitments made by UNICEF to protect children's rights to health, nutrition, water, sanitation, protection, education and HIV/AIDS prevention during humanitarian crises. A wide range of child protection organisations and practitioners attended.

UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict

IDMC attended a meeting chaired by the UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, along with other key NGO partners, to discuss her latest findings and future missions. IDMC also contributed to the work of the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict by participating in strategic sessions on specific services and communication plans for 2009-2010.

Housing land and property (HLP)

HLP issues of Palestinians in Lebanon

IDMC was part of NRC Lebanon's Advisory Committee which reviewed the NRC field report on housing, land and property issues affecting the Palestinian refugees displaced from Nahr Al Bared camp in mid-2007. The report, entitled *Legal Assessment of Land and Property, Ownership, Rights, Transfers and Property Law related to Palestinians in Lebanon*, was published in November. It examines the informal and formal property mechanisms and issues faced by Palestinians in order to guide the humanitarian and development communities' actions for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Nahr al Bared and adjacent areas.

Seminar on Colombia property legislation

IDMC was invited by Displacement Solutions to participate to an expert seminar in October in Chamonix to debate Colombian draft land and property law (bill 157) and finalise a report presenting the elements and principles for a restitution plan in the country. IDMC's contribution was based on desk research and lessons from NRC Colombia's activities on housing, land and property. The report highlights the need to ensure consistency between the various laws covering property and land issues and to consult affected parties (in particular displaced people) in developing the restitution process. It was later submitted to the government and bodies in charge of the restitution process.

Great Lakes Pact



IDMC presentation of the Great Lakes pact at the UN, (IDMC, October 2008)

In October, IDMC organised a side event at UNHCR's ExCom entitled *the Great Lakes Pact and the Rights of Displaced People*. The Great Lakes Pact entered into force in 2008 after being ratified by eight of the 11 member countries. The panel included speakers from OHCHR, UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda and IDMC, who described how the Pact and its Protocols can be used to better protect the human rights of IDPs.

Launch of the Manual for Law and Policy makers

The Brookings Manual for Law and Policymakers on the Protection of IDPs, to which IDMC has been a main contributor, was launched in New York by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes. The manual aims to help legislators with translating the Guiding Principles into national law and policy. It was also released during the GP10 conference in Oslo.

Protracted Internal Displacement in Europe

IDMC presented a [paper on protracted internal displacement](#) at a Council of Europe seminar in November. The paper

“Local integration and resettlement of IDPs in Europe should be explored on equal terms with return”

highlights the outstanding issues for the remaining IDPs in 12 European countries and offers recommendations for securing durable solutions for them.

The paper concluded that IDPs in Europe have often been limited in their choice of durable solutions, and

local integration and resettlement should be explored on equal terms with return. The Council will consider IDMC's recommendations for a resolution in 2009.

Submissions to human rights mechanisms

In November, IDMC submitted a report on the Central African Republic (CAR) to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council. The UPR is a mechanism for reviewing the human rights records of governments; NGOs are encouraged to submit reports on developments regarding human rights violations in the specific countries under review by the Council. The CAR report dealt with five human rights violations committed against displaced children in 2008: right to life, liberty and security of person; prohibition of recruitment into armed forces or groups; right to an adequate standard of living; prohibition of economic exploitation; and prohibition of racial or ethnic discrimination.

The Central African Republic is scheduled to be reviewed at the Council's 5th session in May 2009.

IDP Database and Media

Website statistics October- December 2008

- 22,000 monthly visitors
- 50,000 monthly visits
- 27,500 downloads per month
- 5,600 subscribers to IDMC news

Country Profile Updates

- Colombia 17 October
- Afghanistan 28 October
- Timor-Leste 31 October
- Uganda 3 November
- Côte d'Ivoire 5 November
- Russian Federation 12 November
- Democratic Republic of the Congo / Focus on North Kivu Province: 21 November
- Nigeria 12 December
- India 22 December
- Kenya 23 December
- Iraq 29 December

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

News alerts

IDMC published eight news alerts, which included 44 stories on displacement events in 17 countries. Over 5,600 subscribers access alerts and weekly notifications from any country at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/subscribe>.

Press releases

IDMC published two press releases, in English and French, to accompany the release of *State of Neglect: Displaced Children in the Central African Republic*. Another press release highlighted the situation of displaced people in Afghanistan.

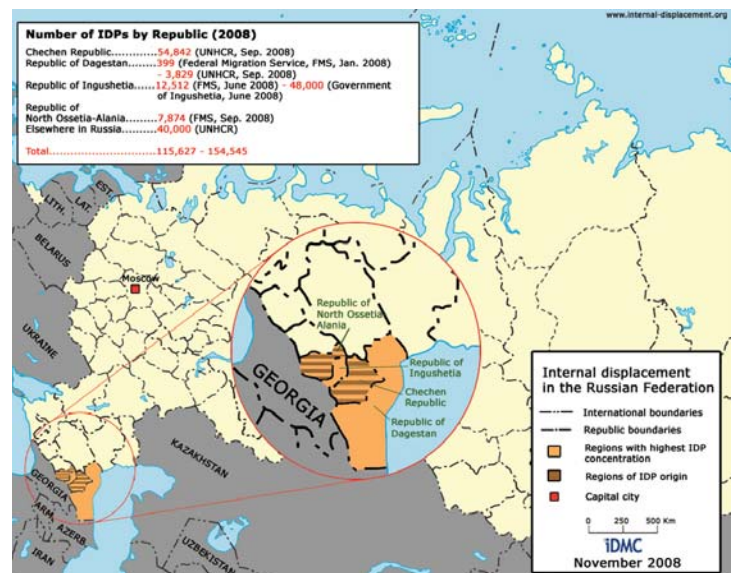
Forced Migration Review – GP10 Special

IDMC also co-sponsored a special issue of *Forced Migration Review* dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the Guiding Principles. IDMC contributed four articles to the issue, discussing the relevance and implementation of the Guiding Principles in Kenya, Uganda, and the Central African Republic, and reviewing how the protection of IDPs is being addressed in existing training programmes.

(<http://www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples10.htm>)

Maps

The archive of maps available at www.internal-displacement.org/maps continued to grow in 2008. IDMC created maps on internal displacement in the Central African Republic (in English and in French), the Russian Federation and Uganda.



IDMC in the news

IDMC continues to be used as a source of reliable and objective information on internal displacement, with media of all political shades referencing our reports and figures. IDMC's coverage was underlined by citations regarding displacement situations which receive less attention. For example, national and international sources quoted IDMC on displacement in Yemen, Algeria, Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan and Nepal as well as on global displacement or well-reported situations such as those in Pakistan, Kenya, Afghanistan and Uganda.

Monitoring and Advocacy

AFRICA

Côte d'Ivoire

In November, IDMC released a country update on Côte d'Ivoire. The overview highlighted the positive developments occurred in the country under the implementation of the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement and their effects on the displacement situation. Nevertheless it drew attention to the fact that some returns have not been sustainable as issues of legal identity and access to land remain unresolved, while remaining threats to long-term peace and stability were also causing new displacements in the second half of 2008.



Yapleu, one of Côte d'Ivoire's village affected by displacement during the recent conflict (IDMC, June 2008)

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In November, IDMC released an overview of internal displacement in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to reflect the developments in the province following its September update of internal displacement in the entire country. The overview focuses on the several hundred thousand people who fled their homes in North Kivu from the end of August 2008, when a tenuous peace process faltered and widespread fighting between the army and the rebel National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) resumed. The overview describes the grave human rights abuses which all factions have committed against IDPs, and the urgent humanitarian needs of the newly displaced. While many international organisations have asked for additional funds to respond to the emergency, access has been significantly restricted due to fighting and harassment of humanitarian workers.

IDMC participated in several initiatives to advance the rights of IDPs in DRC. In November, IDMC and other NGOs briefed the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in the DRC, Alan Doss, on the protection issues faced by IDPs in North Kivu. In December, IDMC took part in a briefing by the UN Special Advisor on Genocide, Francis Deng, following his mission to assess the risk of genocide in the region, and a discussion led by Anthony Gambino, author of *Congo – Securing Peace, Sustaining Progress*, hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations.

Kenya

In December, IDMC published a country update on Kenya highlighting the causes and humanitarian consequences of the December 2007 post-election displacement and the displacement ongoing in various parts of the country. In May 2008, the Government of Kenya launched an IDP return programme "Operation Rudi Nyumbani". To put pressure on IDPs to leave camps, essential services such as water were cut off; the programme failed to meet standards set out in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as it did not establish the conditions for voluntary and safe return, for example by informing people of the security situation in areas of return or by undertaking reconciliation initiatives. Newspaper reports claimed in November 2008 that up to 80,000 people still faced extremely difficult conditions with limited support in transit camps nearer their homes.

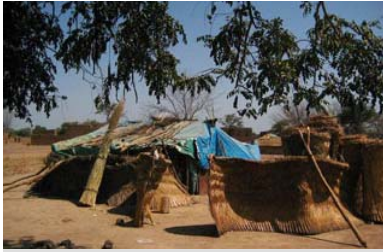
Nigeria

In December, IDMC released a country update on Nigeria. As highlighted in the report, inter-communal conflicts and clashes between the army and militias in the Niger Delta continued to be the main direct causes of displacement in 2008. The implementation of an International Court of Justice ruling giving control over the Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon also created an unexpected wave of displacement into the neighbouring Nigerian states of Cross River and Akwa Ibom. Failure to provide good governance and economic and social development across the country continues to fuel instability.

Zimbabwe

On 15 October 2008 IDMC together with OCHA organised a briefing for donors and IASC members on the situation in Zimbabwe. The briefing focused on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe and the impact on vulnerable people in Zimbabwe, including IDPs.

Sudan



Temporary homes of returning IDPs, Southern Sudan. (IDMC, Nov. 2008)

A fact-finding mission to Southern Sudan in November focused on the return and reintegration of people displaced by the war between in the south, which came to an end in January 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agree-

ment. Since then an estimated 1.7 million IDPs have returned to their homes in Southern Sudan, but many face significant obstacles in returning and rebuilding their lives there. IDMC will publish a briefing paper for donors based on the mission findings in early 2009.

Uganda

IDMC published a country update on Uganda in October. About half of the more than 1.8 million people originally displaced by the conflict have been able to return to their villages, while another quarter have moved to transit sites nearer their homes. The security situation in northern Uganda has much improved, although the peace process has stalled due to the repeated failure by Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony to sign a final peace agreement. The main challenge for returning IDPs, local and national government, and Uganda's humanitarian and development partners is now to secure durable solutions. High crime rates and the lack of capacity of the criminal justice system pose a continuing threat to the security of the population.

AMERICAS

Colombia

In October, IDMC published a country update on Colombia, where protracted internal armed conflict had by June 2008

displaced over 2.6 million people according to the government, and as many as 4.4 million people according to non-governmental sources.

An alarming trend of rising internal displacement has been recorded since 2006,

with the highest rate of displacement in 23 years in the first semester of 2008.

ASIA PACIFIC

Afghanistan

In October, IDMC released an update on the increasing hardship and limited support for IDPs in Afghanistan. The report noted that at least 200,000 people were internally displaced, but that it had been impossible to determine the total number

"In some places in Afghanistan, it has been impossible to profile the displaced, let alone assist them"

due to limited access to much of the country. Conflict and insecurity has prevented humanitarian agencies from delivering services to the displaced, and in some places where displacement is believed to be extensive, it has been impossible to profile the

displaced, let alone assist them. The number of IDPs could increase further if conflict continues at its current pace. The large numbers of returnees from Pakistan and Iran risk secondary displacement if the country cannot find the resources to support their reintegration.

India

In December, IDMC released an update on India. At least 38 per cent of the country's districts are experiencing various insurgency movements, with the Maoist-Naxalite insurgency being the most widespread. In the absence of a national policy framework and response mechanism, the responsibility for assisting and protecting IDPs has frequently been delegated to state governments, which has resulted in an ad-hoc and inconsistent response. In order to protect the basic rights of IDPs, human rights guarantees for people displaced by conflict in India should be incorporated into appropriate legislation.

Timor-Leste

In October, IDMC released a country update on Timor-Leste. In 2008 a government-led recovery programme together with improved security allowed more than half the estimated 100,000 people displaced since the civil unrest of 2006 to return. The report highlighted the protection concerns that some of them have faced upon return which create significant barriers to their reintegration: land and property disputes, food insecurity, limited access to services and to livelihood opportunities. The report also pointed out that many of the issues that contributed to the 2006 violence were still to be addressed by a recovery strategy that remained poorly funded.

EUROPE

Russian Federation



Two elderly IDP women from Chechnya, Pyatigorsk, Russia. (IDMC, March 2008)

In December IDMC released an update on the Russian Federation, where durable solutions for the remaining IDPs are limited as a result of lack of adequate housing, difficulty in securing personal documents and discriminatory treatment of ethnic Chechens who face particular difficulties in securing housing, personal documents and jobs, and in moving freely without police controls.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

IDMC published the updated Iraq profile in December, which underlined the situation of over 2.8 million IDPs. The unprecedented violence and rate of displacement of early 2007 had abated somewhat, but military operations and ongoing

“The humanitarian situation in Iraq remains dire while continued insecurity limits humanitarian access”

sectarian violence still continues to cause displacement, as witnessed in 2008 in large areas of Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, and Mosul. The report underlines that the humanitarian situation remains dire for displaced and non-displaced alike with inadequate access to

protection, shelter, food, clean water, health and employment opportunities; while continued insecurity limits the access of humanitarian agencies to their home areas. A small but growing number of people have returned, mainly in Baghdad. However, insecurity remains comparable to that between 2004 and 2005, and the UN and NGOs have cautioned against premature returns of forcibly displaced people, despite pressure from the governments of Iraq and the United States.

Training and Protection

Training on IDP protection in DRC

Training workshop on the protection of IDPs in DRC	
Location	Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Date	26 - 27 November
Participants	Members of the Protection Cluster Working Group for DRC, National authorities, National Committee for Refugees
Number	34

The workshop was organised jointly by UNHCR, NRC in DRC and IDMC, to develop an action plan for the Protection Cluster in response to internal displacement in DRC.

Participants reviewed critical protection issues for IDPs and discussed the response of the Protection Cluster in 2009, in the light of the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, Walter Kälin, following his visit in February 2008. Protection cluster members discussed protection information collection systems in DRC. The participants also focused their attention on main protection concerns, such as the protection of displaced children, gender-based violence, IDPs in host families, protection in camps and settlements, and IDP participation in the forthcoming local elections. Representatives of other clusters joined the workshop and sought protection cluster guidance on how to mainstream protection into their work. Opportunities and obstacles regarding durable solutions were also discussed, as well as the legal framework pertaining to the protection of IDPs, with reference made to the Great Lakes Pact.

Training course on IDP Protection, Netherlands

Training course on the protection of IDPs	
Location	The Hague, Netherlands
Date	9 October
Participants	Staff members of Stichting Vluchteling
Number	5

The course was delivered at the request of Stichting Vluchteling (Netherlands Refugee Foundation) for its own staff. The course aimed to provide participants, mainly programme officers, with an overview of the normative and institutional framework pertaining to IDPs, as a background to the agency's support to programmes on the ground.

Training workshop on protection coordination

Pilot training workshop on protection coordination	
Location	Geneva, Switzerland
Date	30 November – 5 December
Participants	Current and potential protection cluster coordinators
Number	25

IDMC joined the PCWG core training team to support the development of training modules on protection coordination and co-facilitate a pilot training workshop based on these modules. The training targeted staff members of international organisations who are or may be in charge of the coordination of protection cluster working groups, as well as sub-working groups (such as on child protection or gender-based violence). IDMC worked on the modules relating to coordination skills, including leadership, active listening, meeting management and consensus building.

The workshop will be refined based on participants' feedback and the trainers' observations. Plans have been made to roll out the training in 2009 with two regional workshops.

Training National Human Rights Institutions

Workshop on the role of African National Institutions in protecting the human rights of internally displaced persons	
Location	Nairobi, Kenya
Date	25 - 26 October 2008
Participants	African NHRI representatives
Number	25

IDMC co-facilitated a workshop on the role of African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in protecting the human rights of IDPs, with the Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. The workshop aimed to give NHRIs' chairs and other representatives an overview of the legal and normative framework for protecting IDPs; to share guidelines on developing national laws and policies; and to identify specific strategies for national institutions to protect and assist IDPs. The Brookings-Bern Project and IDMC will continue to cooperate on strengthening NHRIs' capacities in 2009.

Review of IDMC training materials

IDMC consultant, Ms Doris Knoechel, completed the initial review of IDMC training modules on the protection of IDPs. The objective of this review was to ensure that the modules reflect and are in line with all relevant inter-agency standards, policies and tools developed since 2005, such as the cluster policy, the IDP protection handbook and the IDP profiling guidance. It was also an opportunity to consolidate lessons learned and good practices identified during the planning and implementation of training workshops since 2005.

Modules, which were reviewed, included the definition of an IDP, the legal framework of the protection of IDPs, protection from and during displacement, and durable solutions. For each of these modules, detailed session plans and guidance for facilitators were revised, with due attention given to training objectives, key messages, relevant training activities and their sequencing. IDMC plans to present final draft modules to the Learning Task Force (LTF) of the PCWG for comments and feedback, during the first quarter of 2009.

Financial situation

Special thanks to our donors!

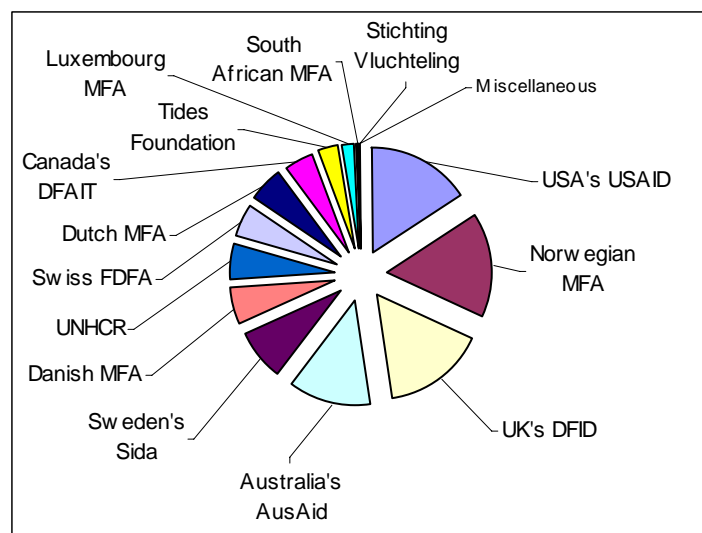
We would like to particularly thank USA's USAID, the Norwegian MFA, UK's DFID, Australia's AusAID, Sweden's SIDA, the Danish MFA, UNHCR, the Dutch MFA, the Swiss DFDA, the Canadian DFAIT, Tides Foundation, the Luxembourg MFA, the South African MFA, Stichting Vluchteling and other supporters for their contribution in 2008.

Your support, no matter the size, is crucial both as a provider of funds and as agent to promote respect for the rights of IDPs. We hope that together we will continue to shape policy on internal displacement and contribute to an improved response to the needs of millions of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

Pledged/received contribution Jan-December 08

Funds received as of 31 December: \$ 2,626,564
Expenditure as of 31 December: \$ 2,626,564

Contributions 2008	Amount in original currency	Amount in USD
USA's USAID	USD 423,613	423,613
Norwegian MFA	NOK 2,110,175	412,042
UK's DFID	GBP 233,856	409,448
Australia's AusAid	AUS 350,000	329,604
Sweden's Sida	SEK 1,500,000	211,620
Danish MFA	DKK 750,000	156,673
UNHCR	USD 141,288	141,288
Swiss FDFA	CHF 150,000	136,920
Dutch MFA	USD 135,000	135,000
Canadian DFAIT	CAD 128,400	127,304
Tides Foundation	USD 75,000	75,000
Luxembourg MFA	EUR 35,000	53,727
South African MFA	USD 6,154	6,154
Stichting Vluchteling	EUR 2,720	3,385
Miscellaneous contributions		4,787
Total income		2,626,564



Donor consultation

IDMC held a consultation with its donors in November to present and discuss its strategy and plans for 2009. The purpose was to discuss objectives and financial implications, put forward some of the dilemmas which IDMC is confronted to (in relation to natural disaster induced displacement, large-scale training requirements, etc.) and get input and suggestions, prior to finalizing the action plan and budget for 2009.

Strategic plan 2009-2001

Under the umbrella of its overall goal to contribute to improving national and international responses to situations of internal displacement, IDMC has identified the following two strategic objectives with activities prioritized for 2009, in the framework of a budget not exceeding \$3,000,000.

Strategic objective 1:

To inform, influence and support the response to specific situations of internal displacement

➤ *Monitoring and advocacy activities*

Country profile updates, fact-finding visits, global overview, targeted briefings and presentations, special country reports, submissions to human rights bodies

➤ *Training and protection activities*

Training on IDP protection, training of trainers, training for national human rights institutions

Strategic objective 2:

To inform and influence the development of policy, tools and standards relating to internal displacement

➤ *Support to the UN and inter-agency mechanisms*

Partnerships with the PCWG, UNHCR, OCHA, RSG on IDPS, Brookings Bern, contribution to inter-agency policy development

➤ *Thematic focus*

Housing, land and property (HLP), profiling (including urban displacement), child protection

➤ *Methodology to monitor displacement as a result of natural disasters*

IDMC's Appeal for 2009 will reflect the outcomes of this three year strategic plan, with a focus on the activities prioritised for 2009.

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