



# Quarterly Update

(April–June 2006)

## Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's activities between 1 April and 30 June 2006. It is also available electronically at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

The **Quarterly Update** should be read along with the 2006 Annual Appeal, which outlines the main objectives, activities and financial needs for the year.



IDPs in Sukuta Lol Marmar, Samburu District, Kenya.  
(Photo by Jesse Bernstein, IDMC)

## IDPs high on the agenda

In April, the IDMC presented the conclusions of the Global Overview on IDP-related trends and developments to donor representatives, UN agencies, research institutes and NGOs in New York and Washington. The New York presentation was hosted by the Norwegian Mission to the UN, while the seminar in Washington was organised by the Brookings Project on Internal Displacement. Both events were well attended and provided the IDMC with valuable feed-back on the reports and ideas for future activities.

Also in April, the IDMC published a major report on internal displacement in West Africa – 'In Need of Durable Solutions: the Revolving Door of Internal Displacement in West Africa' – in line with its broader aim of giving a regional focus to its monitoring and advocacy activities. The report aims to increase awareness and understanding of West Africa's internal displacement crisis and thereby contribute to efforts aimed at improving national and international responses. IDMC presented the report at a three day conference on internal displacement in West Africa – the first event of its kind – which took place in the Nigerian capital Abuja on 26-28 April. The conference was hosted by the Nigerian government and co-organised by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), UNHCR, the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. It brought together a wide variety of representatives of ECOWAS member states, national, regional and international organisations, policy makers and academics.

NRC and UNHCR signed an agreement in Geneva on 29 May 2006 that will forge closer cooperation between the two organisations in the field of IDP protection and assistance. Global humanitarian reform has recently given UNHCR a stronger role in relation to IDPs, with lead responsibility for protection, camp management and emergency shelter. UNHCR and NRC already cooperate in many countries, including Colombia, Uganda, Sudan and Liberia, where they work together on monitoring the return of IDPs and refugees. The new agreement aims to enhance this cooperation at both the global and field level.

## Monitoring & Advocacy

### *Uganda*

In recognition of the IDMC's report on internal displacement in Uganda, published in March, the Centre received a letter from Hilary Benn, the UK Secretary of State for International Development, suggesting to build on the opportunities presented by the recent focus on northern Uganda in the UN Security Council and the humanitarian reform system, and that discussions on such issues continue between the IDMC and DFID.

The IDMC, along with twenty international civil society organisations, had sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General in March, urging him to make strong recommendations to the UN Security Council on the situation in northern Uganda. In particular, the letter recommended the appointment of a special envoy for northern Uganda and the commissioning of a panel of experts to investigate the political and financial support to the LRA. The UN Secretary-General is due to make recommendations to the UN Security Council following two UN Security Council resolutions on armed groups in the Great Lakes region.

The IDMC had also participated in a ministerial meeting on the situation in northern Uganda held in Geneva. On behalf of the Uganda NGO group, the IDMC presented a statement, urging that donor governments and the UN ensure that their renewed attention on the situation in northern Uganda results in improvements for IDPs.

In April, the IDMC presented its recent report on Uganda as well as the broader international NGO advocacy campaign on northern Uganda to the Hague-based Uganda Monitoring Project (UGMP), a coalition of 10 Ugandan organisations and 6 Dutch NGOs, monitoring trends in good governance and democracy in Uganda. As a result of the IDMC's participation in the UGMP meeting, it is hoped that Netherlands-based NGOs working on and in Uganda will become involved in the international effort to address the situation in northern Uganda and that the various Uganda NGO groups can use the UGMP to liaise with the Dutch government. While in The Hague, the IDMC also conducted briefings on northern Uganda with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Criminal Court.

### *Croatia*

In June, the IDMC published an article in the International Committee for Human Rights (ICHR) newsletter on Croatia. Following up on the IDMC's Croatia country profile published in April, the article reviews the progress achieved so far regarding minorities, highlights existing shortcomings, and calls on the international community to maintain its vigilance on the issue of socially-owned property in the context of the regional process of the Sarajevo declaration on refugee return. Croatia is the only country of the region which has not allowed for repossession of this type of property.

### *Serbia & Montenegro*

With support from the IDMC, the Serbian NGO Group 484 in June published a report on the human rights of refugees and IDPs in Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo. The report was launched on World Refugee Day. The IDMC sponsored sections of the report documenting issues where information was lacking, such as the implementation of the Roma National Strategy and its impact on the situation of Roma IDPs, implementation of the IDP strategy in Montenegro, consequences of forced return from abroad on internal displacement, and the situation of IDPs and returnees in Kosovo.

### *Colombia*

The IDMC, together with the International Commission of Jurists, initiated the establishment of an advocacy working group on the conflict in Colombia. The purpose of the working group is to exchange information on activities on and in Colombia, strengthen advocacy activities, improve information flow on the current situation in the country as well as identify issues of common concern. The group met for the first time in March, and has since briefed the office of the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs in preparation for his visit to Colombia, and has sent letter to EU member states and G-24 calling for action on Colombia by the UN Human Rights Council.

### *Property issues*

In April and June, the IDMC participated in two review meetings for the preparation of a handbook on property restitution for refugees and dis-

placed persons, as well as the implementation of the Pinheiro principles adopted by the UN Sub-Commission on the promotion and protection of human rights in August 2005. The IDMC provided comments based on its expertise and input from NRC field offices. This initiative led by the OCHA Internal Displacement Division includes partners such as UNHCR, UN-Habitat, OHCHR, UNDP and FAO.

In May, the IDMC participated in a week-long seminar in Oslo gathering NRC Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) teams from various countries. The objective was to strengthen the advocacy role played by the IDMC on property issues and legal documentation through the use of lessons learned from the field.

### *Displaced children*

In a meeting in June 2006 in New York with the new Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, the IDMC advocated for the need to focus on renewed displacement in Ituri (DRC) and the way it affects children. The Special Representative said it would take this request into account in its report to the Secretary-General on the situation of children in the DRC.

The IDMC provided input on issues pertaining to internally displaced children in DRC for the development of a report by the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict entitled *Struggling to Survive: Children in Armed Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*. The IDMC supported the process of compiling information, verifying facts, developing recommendations, launching the report and conducting follow-up advocacy with relevant international actors in Geneva and New York.

On 25 April, the IDMC participated in a thematic consultation on violence against refugee and other displaced children in post-conflict situations. The consultation brought NGOs and UN representatives together to identify key protection issues relating to internally displaced children in protracted displacement and return situations as well as to suggest input on what should be done to prevent and respond to violence against refugee and other displaced children. The consultation will feed into the UN Study on Violence against Children, which will be presented to the

UN General Assembly in October 2006. The study is intended to lead to a better understanding of violence against children and to stimulate national and international response to address violence against all children.

### *Country profile updates*

In the second quarter of 2006, the IDMC published 11 regular Country Profile updates:

Burundi	11 April
Croatia	18 April
Ethiopia	26 April
Zimbabwe	5 May
Myanmar (Burma)	10 May
Iraq	23 May
Guatemala	9 June
Cote d'Ivoire	9 June
Eritrea	13 June
Occupied Palestinian Territories	21 June
Uganda	30 June

In addition, the IDMC published an in-depth country report on internal displacement in Colombia in June. Two new country pages were added in April and May, covering ongoing violence and displacement in Timor-Leste and Chad.

All updates are available from the online IDP database at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

### *Fact-finding missions*

Following the visit in December 2005 of the UN Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, Walter Kälin, the IDMC undertook a 10-day fact-finding mission to Georgia to improve its data collection on IDPs in Georgia and to advocate for increased attention to their plight. Most national and international actors working with IDPs in Georgia declared to IDMC their readiness to improve the current living conditions of IDPs, many of whom have lived in former hotels and state buildings for the last 13 years. They also said they hoped that the commitment of the Georgian government to act fast to do their part to improve the IDPs' situation would lead to concrete solutions for IDPs. IDMC had a meeting in New York with OCHA to discuss the mission's findings, in particular the need to carry out assessments of the situation of Georgian IDPs living in host families.





*Displaced woman in Georgia (Photo by Greta Zeender, IDMC)*

In early June, the IDMC conducted a two week mission in Kenya to assess the situation of IDPs in the country. The mission will result in a special report, which will make recommendations to the UN and the government on how the broader humanitarian community in Kenya can address the situation of roughly 400,000 IDPs.

## Training & Protection

### *Reinforcing WFP protection capacity*

In April, the IDMC training coordinator joined a mission dispatched by WFP to assess training needs on protection among the staff members of the UN food agency in South Sudan. The mission was the first step in a training project to be conducted on behalf of WFP to train their staff on the protection of IDPs. During the visit to South Sudan, the mission interviewed WFP staff members in Khartoum, Juba and other locations in the South about protection risks facing WFP beneficiaries and their communities. Information regarding practices and attitudes developed by WFP staff to address these risks was also collected, as well as views of WFP's partners and counterparts on the relevance and opportunities for a strengthened contribution to the protection of displaced populations and returnees. Consultations highlighted a will among WFP staff to enhance the capacity of WFP to review activities through a protection lens and to ensure that food aid does not weaken the protection of beneficiaries and is also designed and implemented so as to maximise its protection impact.

Many WFP staff interviewed also expressed a desire to learn more about protection actors' mandates and capacities. This knowledge could facilitate more fruitful discussions about protection concerns among WFP staff and similar organizations and open the way to strengthen coordination. WFP and the IDMC are currently in consultation regarding the development of training modules and the implementation of training workshops for WFP staff in South Sudan, from September 2006.

### *Support to civil society actors in Turkey*

Within the framework of an agreement concluded with UNDP in Turkey, the IDMC launched a training project targeting civil society actors in Turkey. The first step consisted in a training needs assessment, conducted through a written questionnaire sent to 24 NGOs, as well as through phone interviews of representatives from five NGOs. The assessment highlighted the topics which NGOs recommended should be addressed in a training workshop, including durable solutions and property compensation, criteria on when does displacement end, and the responsibility of national authorities. Based on these recommendations, the IDMC designed and facilitated a training workshop in Ankara on 8-9 June, in which about 35 NGOs participated. Based on the conclusions from the workshop, the IDMC will design a training module for a one-day workshop, which NGOs can use to continue the training among local actors. A Training of Trainers, during which selected NGOs will be trained to use this module, has been scheduled for the first half of September.

### *Protection training in Guinea*

Upon request from UN OCHA in Guinea-Conakry, the IDMC conducted a two-day training for authorities, including security forces, civilian officials, and other humanitarian actors, mainly NGOs. The workshop was held in Nzérékoré, Guinée Forestière, where armed incursion from Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2000 and 2001 displaced up to 360,000 people. Although the displacement crisis in Guinea can no longer be considered an emergency situation, following the return home of most IDPs, discussions during the training highlighted the need for continued atten-

tion to vulnerable IDPs, such as female-headed households who have not been able to return to their home and are likely to opt for their integration in host communities.

### Other developments

The IDMC conducted a three-day training for civil society organisations at the Civil Society Centre of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA. The workshop included 25 participants from NGOs in Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. The IDMC also gave a briefing on IDP protection to 40 people participating in a refugee protection course organised by UNHCR France in Strasbourg for French-speakers.

In May, the IDMC recruited a new trainer, Kim Mancini, to reinforce its training team. Kim has been working in the field of human rights for 12 years, including with UNHCR. She has an extensive experience in facilitating seminars/trainings for the authorities, NGOs, lawyers and UN personnel on international (refugee) protection principles.

## Civil Society Project



*.Participants in the Life History workshop in Bogota, Colombia (Photo by Anne-Sophie Lois, IDMC)*

The IDP Network page can now be viewed in three languages: English, French and Spanish. By establishing the IDP Network, the IDMC seeks to provide a platform for IDP communities to express their views and needs, and exchange lessons learned and best practices in responding to situations of internal displacement. The Network currently has 24 members and continues to grow.

### Life histories

In an effort to amplify the voices of IDPs, the IDMC has started a project to collect life histories among displaced persons. This project is piloted in Colombia, one of the IDMC's priority countries, and the work is done in collaboration with NRC Colombia, several local civil society groups, IDPs and *Panos London*, an organisation with expertise in collecting and working with oral testimonies. The first workshop to prepare the collection of life histories was held in Bogota on 24-28 April with 12 participants. By giving displaced people the opportunity to speak out in their own words on issues which concern them, rather than having their needs and priorities interpreted by outsiders, the IDMC hopes to contribute to the empowerment of IDPs and civil society organisations and to give a human face to internal displacement.

### Three comments from IDPs during the workshop

*"The best thing that has happened to me in the last year is being alive, and being able to work despite the threats facing me. In working, I am 'fighting'. I want to continue to be the pebble in the shoes of those who want to harm the community."*

*"I believe that how organisations talk about displacement is very different from how ordinary people talk about displacement... I feel that organisations do not always respect communities."*

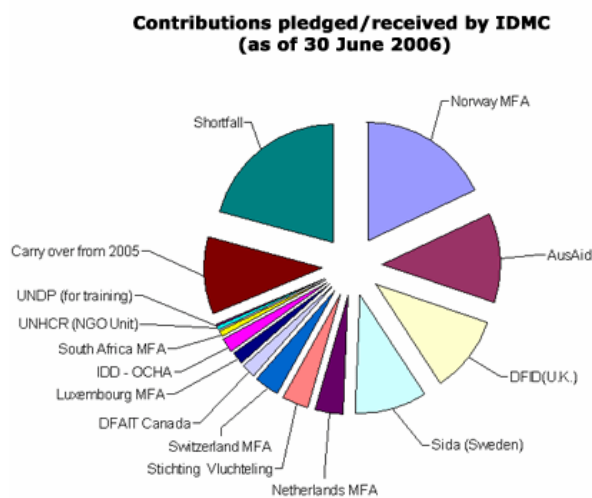
*"Having the opportunity to tell your life story can be therapeutic; it can be a restoring and empowering experience."*

## Financial Situation

The IDMC has received overwhelming financial support from its donors this year and will therefore make a midterm review of its budget, in order to adapt to the new financial situation.

Thank you for supporting the IDMC!

### Contributions received/pledged for the year 2006 (as of 30 June 2006)



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