



# Quarterly Update

April – June 2007

## Introduction

This edition of the **Quarterly Update** covers the activities of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) between 1 April and 30 June 2007. It is also available to be read online or downloaded at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

The **Quarterly Update** should be read along with the *2007 Appeal and Future Strategy*, which outlines the main objectives, activities and financial needs for the year.

## IDPs on global agendas

### Yearly report on global IDP situation

In April, IDMC launched its yearly report on major trends and developments in internal displacement at a press conference in Geneva. The report found that the number of people newly displaced within their own countries by conflict sharply increased during 2006, with the Middle East particularly hard hit by new displacements.

Following the launch in Geneva, IDMC presented the report at the European Parliament in Brussels, to the diplomatic community in New York, as well as at a briefing organised by the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement in Washington. The report received coverage by a broad range of international and national media.

### Helping national NGOs to implement the Great Lakes Pact

In late April, IDMC, in partnership with the International Refugee Rights Initiative, convened a workshop in the Great Lakes region of local civil society organisations, international experts and UN agencies, to explore and assess how the framework provided by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) can

enhance the rights of refugees and IDPs. The workshop, entitled *Enhancing Protection of Displaced Populations: Translating the Great Lakes Peace Pact into Action* was attended by 25 civil society groups from the region, and the Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya was a keynote speaker at the workshop's reception.



*“Enhancing Protection of Displaced Populations: Translating the Great Lakes Peace Pact into Action”*: participants at the workshop (Photo: IDMC. April 2007)

The main outcome document of the workshop will be a detailed guide to enable civil society groups and other stakeholders to use the ICGLR mechanisms to better protect people displaced by conflict in the Great Lakes region. The guide, drawing on the discussions during the workshop as well as additional research and analysis, will describe the ICGLR mechanisms in an accessible manner and provide concrete strategy suggestions and practical examples of advocacy campaigns conducted so far.

Information on the workshop can be found on IDMC's recently launched Great Lakes Project site, [www.internal-displacement.org/greatlakes](http://www.internal-displacement.org/greatlakes). This project has been made possible thanks to the support of DFIAT of Canada.

## **African Union IDP Convention**

In May, IDMC attended an informal consultative meeting in Addis Ababa on the draft African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The African Union invited IDMC, along with the UN Secretary-General's Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, UNHCR, ICRC, other UN agencies and one other NGO, to share information about the AU process itself and to consolidate these partners' comments before finalising the draft for submission to national governments.

The draft convention was discussed article by article and IDMC complemented its written comments with concrete suggestions, notably relating to the IDP definition, housing, land and property issues and civil society participation. The revised draft will be submitted to governments' legislative experts in advance of a meeting later this year, and the final Convention is expected to be adopted by Member States in 2008.

## **Providing information for European Union progress reports**

In June, IDMC advised the European Commission on the situation of IDPs in accession and pre-accession countries in Europe. IDMC took part in consultations and submitted information and recommendations for the preparation of the Commission's regular reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia/Kosovo and Turkey. The reports track the progress made by the respective governments towards fulfilling EU membership criteria, including with regard to refugees, minorities, and IDPs.

## **Collaboration with the Council of Europe**

IDMC met with Council of Europe representatives in Strasbourg on 2-3 April 2007 to introduce IDMC's work and explore opportunities for co-operation. Meetings were held with: the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population; the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights; the UNHCR Liaison Office; the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States; the Human Rights Cooperation and Awareness Division; the Directorate General of Political Affairs; the European Committee for Social Rights; the European

Commission Against Racism and Intolerance; the NGO Unit; and the Secretariat for the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

All these groups expressed an interest in receiving input from IDMC on countries before going on missions or publishing reports. Other models of cooperation were also proposed, such as initiating reports for submission to the Parliamentary Assembly, inclusion with UNHCR in a joint event on IDPs in 2008 and invitations to raise specific issues relating to IDPs as they arise for inclusion in Council of Europe reports.

## **IDP Profiling Guidance presented to the Global Protection Cluster**

In early June, IDMC presented the final draft of the inter-agency IDP Profiling Guidance to the Global Protection Cluster Working Group. The Guidance has been developed by IDMC and OCHA-DPSS with support from UNHCR. The partners plan a provisional release of the Profiling Guidance so that it can be used in the field to improve the quality and availability of IDP information. It will then be submitted to the IASC Working Group for endorsement at the end of the year. In parallel, IDMC, in close coordination with UNHCR and UNFPA, is appealing for funding through the cluster process for the establishment of a post to analyse IDP profiling needs and help field-based staff to implement the Guidance.

Also in June, IDMC sent an expert to the Central African Republic to guide the inter-agency country team in setting up an IDP profiling exercise. The expert helped the country team with preparing the profiling in line with the draft Profiling Guidance.

## Monitoring & Advocacy

### Fact-finding mission to Chad

Responding to the deterioration of the neglected IDP crisis in Chad, IDMC's Country Analyst for Chad conducted a fact-finding mission to the country from 22 April to 2 May 2007. The mission focused on the displacement-affected areas of the south-eastern department of Dar Sila at the border with Sudan's Darfur, to collect information on the situation of IDPs, map protection gaps, identifying protection concerns and formulate recommendations.

The mission met a number of humanitarian agencies in the east and in the capital N'Djamena and briefed them on the findings and made recommendations on the need to build a more concerted and efficient response strategy. The findings of the mission have been published in July in a special country report on the IDP crisis in Chad.

### Mission to the North Caucasus and the Russian Federation

The IDMC Country Analyst for Russia travelled with NRC's Programme Coordinator and Protection and Advocacy Advisor to the Russian Federation from 22 to 29 June 2007.



*In North Ossetia, IDMC Country Analyst for Russia in discussion with a displaced family about new house construction. (Photo: Mads H. Almaas/NRC, June 2007)*

The purposes of the mission were to monitor the projects implemented by the Danish Refugee Council with NRC funding, and to gain a better

understanding of the current situation of IDPs in the North Caucasus. The group travelled to Moscow, North Ossetia, Ingushetia and Chechnya to meet local NGOs, IDP returnees, UNHCR, OHCHR, MSF, IMC, Danish Refugee Council and government officials. Information gathered from this mission will be used for the update of the Russia country profile, and NRC will also issue a mission report later in 2007.

### Mission to Uganda

IDMC continued to actively raise attention and awareness on the conflict and humanitarian situation in northern Uganda. In late April, IDMC in collaboration with NRC Uganda conducted a fact-finding mission to northern Uganda. The mission met with a number of key institutions and stakeholders in Kampala and visited IDP camps and new IDP settlements in Gulu and Amuru districts. The issues raised during the mission's consultations provided input to the development of an NRC/IDMC advocacy strategy.

The mission also led to the production of a briefing paper on the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda, entitled *Informed, Voluntary and Secure: Ensuring Choices for Displaced Communities in Uganda*. The paper, released in early May, was used as a basis for a number of advocacy initiatives, including a briefing for donor governments on the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda, hosted by the French Mission in Geneva. The briefing paper was also sent to the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator before his mission to northern Uganda, and upon his return to New York the paper was sent to Security Council members in advance of his briefing to the Council. In June, the paper was presented to the European Parliament's Development Committee, in a special session on the human rights situation in Uganda, and it also served as a basis for a submission of written evidence to the British Parliament's International Development Committee, which in July held a session on prospects for a sustainable peace in northern Uganda.

### Advocating on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire's IDPs

To coincide with the visit of a Security Council delegation to Côte d'Ivoire in June, the NRC wrote to Council members with the support of IDMC, calling for the full participation of

internally displaced people in the planning and management of their return or resettlement, and arguing for the recognition of the specific documentation needs of IDPs. The UN Security Council is expected to approve a resolution on the role of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire in July.

Also in June, IDMC briefed the UN Secretary General's Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs prior to his visit to Côte d'Ivoire. The briefing focused mainly on the impact of the Ouagadougou peace agreement on the people displaced by the conflict and on the possibilities for their return or resettlement.

### **Highlighting internal displacement in Iraq**

IDMC contributed an article to a special issue of *Forced Migration Review* on Iraq which highlights the massive displacement of Iraqis inside and outside the country. The article draws attention to a neglected cause of the current internal displacement in Iraq: the ongoing military operations. The article calls for a greater separation between military and humanitarian organisations in the country to ensure the principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality.

Following the publication of its latest Iraq profile update, IDMC helped to draft an NGO statement on the humanitarian situation inside Iraq, which was presented at the international UNHCR conference *Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons inside Iraq and in Neighbouring Countries* in Geneva on 17 and 18 April 2007.

### **New country page on IDP situation in Yemen**

In May IDMC began to monitor the new internal displacement situation in Yemen and created a new country page in its IDP database. The eruption of violent conflict between government forces and rebel groups led to the displacement of tens of thousands of people in the north of the country. In June the rebels accepted a ceasefire, but fighting has flared sporadically since 2004.

### **Focussing on internally displaced children**

In May and June, IDMC worked with an expert on displaced children in order to analyse the range and quality of child-specific information in

IDMC database, to provide country analysts with tools for improving their desk-based and field research on the protection situation of children, and to propose recommendations to strengthen IDMC's role in collecting information and advocating on behalf of IDP children.

In order to meet these goals, the expert undertook a desk review of country profiles, conducted internal and external consultations in New York and Geneva, and provided a one day workshop for IDMC staff to introduce and review the issues faced by displaced children and children in armed conflict. IDMC will discuss and implement the recommendations made, in order to improve the information available on displaced children in country profiles, the thematic page on displaced children, and in reports which relate to displaced children. IDMC will continue to participate in forums – especially in New York and Geneva – where it can provide input on displaced children.

In May, IDMC was chosen as an NGO member of the Advisory Committee of the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, in recognition of its work on displaced children.

### **Engaging non-state actors**

On 4-5 June, IDMC participated in a conference on engaging armed non-state actors to respect humanitarian law and human rights law, co-organised by Geneva Call, UNIDIR, and the Graduate Institute for International Studies, in Geneva. During the conference, IDMC presented a paper entitled *Protecting the internally displaced: an opportunity for international NGOs to engage non-state actors*, which will be published in the autumn.

### **Country profile updates**

Congo	18 April
Somalia	24 April
Democratic Republic of Congo	26 April
India	3 May
Yemen	10 May
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June
Peru	8 June

In addition, IDMC published an in-depth report on the internal displacement crisis in the Chad. All these and earlier updates are available at the IDP database at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).



## Training and Protection

### Training on protection for camp management teams in northern Uganda

In May, IDMC joined the NRC camp management training team for a workshop in Gulu, northern Uganda. The objective was to train 25 people working in camp management teams in IDP settlements. The largest group of participants came from NRC and comprised a Project Officer, a Protection Manager, Camp Management Officers, Camp Protection Assistants, Project Officers and Protection Officers. Other participants were from AVSI and ARC, two NGOs conducting camp management in northern Uganda.

The IDMC participation helped the training to focus on key protection aspects of camp management. The sessions on protection identified important protection concerns and issues in IDP settings and provided information on how protection monitoring can be implemented at field level.

The session informed participants about IDPs rights as well as the government's obligations and the responsibilities and roles of humanitarian organisations with regard to protection of IDPs. The workshop also included a special session on gender-based violence, conducted by the American Refugee Council GBV focal point.

The strengthened focus on protection issues in the training for camp management teams in Uganda was justified by the responsibility of the camp management teams for the protection of IDPs not only in camps but also in early-return sites and return villages. In particular, UNHCR has asked the camp management teams to monitor the protection of IDPs and returnees. The sessions on protection raised awareness of IDPs' rights and the risks they may face in camps and upon return. This workshop was also an opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between IDMC training department and NRC camp management programme, with regard to training curriculum and methodology.

### Training of trainers in Nepal

IDMC followed up on the workshop held in Kathmandu in December 2006 by organising

a "training of trainers" (ToT) course on the protection of IDPs.



*Newly qualified trainers receive their certificates at the end of IDMC training in Nepal (Photo: NRC, May 2007)*

18 participants from NGOs and the National Human Rights Commission, as well as selected NRC staff in the Kathmandu, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj offices, had the opportunity to learn more about designing and facilitating training workshops and discussions on the protection issues faced by IDPs in Nepal. The first day was dedicated to reviewing the Guiding Principles and Nepal's revised IDP Policy and was followed by participatory sessions on adult learning, conducting a needs assessment, writing learning outcomes, structuring learning sessions, training techniques, presentation and facilitation skills. All the participants are expected to conduct training on IDP protection in their respective fields of work following the workshop.

## Civil Society Project

### IDP voices – book & website launched

IDMC's Life Stories project culminated in the publication of the book *Para Que Se Sepa - Hablan las personas desplazadas en Colombia* (in English *Let it be Known – Internally displaced people in Colombia speak out*). The book was launched on 27 June at Bogota's National Museum, attended by some 300 people including IDPs, Constitutional Court and Supreme Court magistrates, representatives of the US and other diplomatic missions, and the national and international press.

At the launch, celebrated author Alfred Molano, who contributed to the book, moderated a session in which interviewers and one of the life story narrators shared their experiences. Patricia Linares of the Attorney General's Office gave a presentation and recommendations on the ongoing reparation process. UNHCR Deputy Representative Roberto Mignene presented the current IDP situation, with emphasis on quantitative information in view of the ten years anniversary of Law 387 on the rights of displaced people. Jenny Munoz from Fundacion Dos Mundos presented the project from a psycho-social perspective, before Dag Nylander at the Norwegian Embassy wrapped up with particular thanks to the book's contributors.

In Madrid, the book was presented on 5 July at the Spanish Press Association's premises in collaboration with UNHCR Spain. One Afro-Colombian IDP leader from the north-western Chocó region outlined the humanitarian and human rights situation within the context of an ongoing reparation process. Other participants in the panel were the Colombian and Norwegian ambassadors to Spain, the UNHCR Resident Representative, the Spanish special ambassador on human rights and the leader of the project, who moderated the interventions.

It is impossible to really understand forced displacement without listening to stories of real people in their own words. The website [idpvoices.org](http://idpvoices.org) was launched alongside the book on 27 June, and gives visitors a chance to grasp the impact of the conflict at first hand, and appreciate the extraordinary courage of people determined to let the world know what happened to them.



A screenshot of the newly-launched IDP Voices website, hosting life stories of the displaced in Colombia. (Photo: IDMC)

### IDP Voices in Georgia

From the 31 May-1 June, IDMC carried out a review meeting regarding the oral testimony project in Georgia. This project will be rolled out together with NRC Georgia and Panos London.

### Forum Play in Colombia

From 15-29 June, IDMC carried out the fourth Forum Play workshop in Bogota together with NRC Colombia.

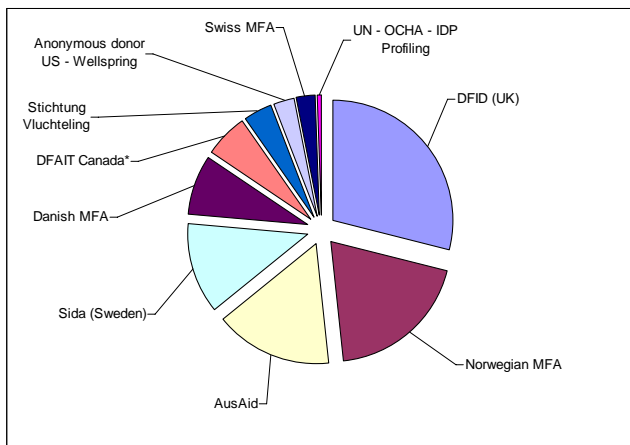
## Financial Situation

### 2007 Global Cluster Appeal – for funding in support of protection cluster

IDMC is seeking to raise \$481,000 through the 2007 Global Cluster Appeal aimed at supporting the work of protection clusters in the field of IDP protection at the global and field levels. Projects focus on IDP profiling, including in urban areas, IDP protection training for cluster partners, and property restitution in informal ownership settings. All projects address key gaps in the current response system, and involve a strong inter-agency dimension. More information on these projects can be found in the *Appeal for Building Global Humanitarian Response Capacity*.

### Mid-year forecast

IDMC has reached mid-year on a sound financial footing, having been able to raise around 71 per cent of its budget by the end of the second quarter. We are excited by the possibility of new donors pledging assistance this year, in order that we may continue to develop and expand the Centre's activities.



**Contributions received/pledged for 2007**  
(as of 30 June 2007)

Thank you for your support to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre!

## New Staff

Edmund Jennings joined IDMC as Editor and Publications Manager in May 2007. Kavita Shukla joined in June 2007 as Country Analyst for Asia.

### Organisational development

During the second quarter of 2007, IDMC has continued the organisational development process it embarked on at the beginning of the year. The process is designed to strengthen IDMC's capacity to respond and adapt to the challenges and opportunities it faces. Through a series of internal workshops, IDMC reviewed all its activities and structures with a view to identifying priorities for the future and areas for improvement. The outcome of the workshops will feed into IDMC's Appeal for 2008 and Strategy for the years 2008-2010.

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