



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2004

**Global IDP**  
PROJECT



NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL



# **ACTIVITY REPORT** 2004

Cover photo: A returnee from the Hausa ethnic group attends a health clinic in Yelwa, Nigeria. Photo: Global IDP Project/Claudia McGoldrick

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## Mission statement

The Global IDP Project is an international non-governmental body working for better protection and assistance of people who have been displaced within their own country by conflict or because of human rights violations. It aims to help improve the response to the needs of, and increase respect for, the rights of millions of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people. It seeks to promote solutions that ultimately lead to their safe return or resettlement and integration.

In pursuit of this goal, the Project monitors internal displacement worldwide, as mandated by the United Nations, and makes relevant information and analysis available to decision-makers, humanitarian practitioners and the general public. In doing so, the Project seeks to enable key actors at the international, nation-

al and local levels to make timely and informed decisions on responses to the needs and rights of internally displaced people (IDPs), in line with international standards such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Through its work, the Global IDP Project strives to raise awareness of the plight of internally displaced people and advocate, on their behalf, for durable solutions based on the Guiding Principles. It aims at strengthening local capacity to effectively address internal displacement by organising training workshops which bring together local authorities, security forces, aid workers and IDP communities.

### The Global IDP Project

The Global IDP Project, established by the Norwegian Refugee Council in 1996, was requested by the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee to set up an IDP database in 1998. The Geneva-based Project has since evolved into the leading international body monitoring internal displacement in some 50 countries worldwide.

**The Global IDP Project focuses on three main activities:**

- maintaining the Project's IDP database
- providing training on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- advocating for the rights of IDPs



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# Foreword

The Global IDP Project is pleased to present its Activity Report for the year 2004. The past year was extraordinary for the development of the Global IDP Project in several ways. Firstly, the Project's unique role in monitoring internal displacement and providing training on IDP standards was acknowledged and reflected in a series of policy decisions taken during the year, mainly within the UN framework, to improve the international response to internal displacement. Secondly, a number of major new initiatives were introduced to further strengthen the quality and impact of the Project's work, and many of them were already in the process of implementation by the end of the year – somewhat ahead of schedule. And thirdly, the appreciation for our work among the humanitarian community at large was reflected in a broadening of the Project's donor base and a significant increase in income during the year.

Throughout the year, the Project was guided in its work by the goal to make a concrete and useful contribution to international and national efforts to ease the plight of the millions of people who have lost their homes as a result of conflict. As the Project's Global Overview 2004 shows, this goal remained as relevant as ever, with the total IDP population remaining at a staggering 25 million at year's end and the majority of the displaced still without adequate access to the most basic services.

Although the overall picture continues to be bleak, and too little is done too late in most situations, there are countless dedicated individuals and organisations at all levels working for improved responses to displacement crises. We believe that through our work we significant-

ly contribute to these efforts and thus make a real difference to the lives of the displaced – by raising awareness of their plight, advocating for durable solutions, training key players on the ground, and providing information, analysis and policy recommendations to decision-makers.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback we received during the year clearly shows that the Project's work is considered useful by our target audiences and has a concrete impact on their IDP-related activities. We see this feedback as a strong sign of appreciation of the Project's ongoing development and an important source of motivation to further improve the services we provide.

Without the generous support it receives from its donors and other partners, the Project would not be able to carry out its work. It is our hope that we can count on this support also in the future, so that we will be able to continue to work for the world's displaced people in need.



**Elisabeth K. Rasmussen**  
NRC Resident Representative in Geneva



# Key achievements in 2003

2004 was an important year in the Global IDP Project's ongoing transformation from its original function as a clearing-house for internal displacement information towards a more advocacy-oriented role. At the same time, the Project consolidated its position as the leading provider of IDP information, making available comprehensive analysis and data on all situations of internal displacement worldwide. The UN Commission on Human Rights acknowledged this role in resolution 55/2004 in April 2004 and called on governments and UN agencies to cooperate with the Project by providing information and funding.

## Project recognised in revised IDP Policy Package

At the policy-making level, the Project played an active role in advocating for a stronger international response to the global internal displacement crisis. As focal point on IDP issues within the international NGO network ICVA, the Project contributed to the development of the revised UN IDP Policy Package which was adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group in September 2004. The Policy Package recognises the role of the Project as part of the international response to internal displacement and calls on UN Country Teams to make use of the Project's IDP database and its training programmes in their efforts to improve the assistance to, and protection of, internally displaced people.

## New training mandate

In addition to the mandate the Global IDP Project received from the UN for the collection of IDP information, the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator in 2004 also requested the Project to formally take over responsibility for the training of Country Teams on the application of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

## The Project – a key UN partner

In order to clarify the respective roles of the UN Secretary General's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, the UN's Inter-Agency Displacement Division and the Global IDP Project, and to avoid overlap between their activities, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the heads of the three institutions and presented to the donor community in November 2004. The Memorandum underlined the close cooperation and coordination between the three institutions and confirmed the Project's role as a key partner of the UN system on issues related to internal displacement, while acknowledging its independence as a non-governmental organisation.

## Strained staff situation

With its professional and highly motivated international team, the Project managed to carry out its ambitious 2004 programme despite continued strain on its personnel situation. The total number of budgeted full time positions remained at 12, including seven full-time country analyst positions covering some 50 IDP situations. At year's end, the total number of staff was at 14, including several part-time personnel.

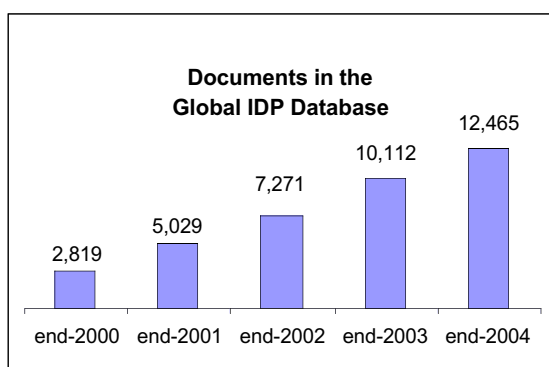
## Increased donor support

The Project's income increased by 43 per cent to 1,020,241 million in 2004, compared to 713,400 USD in 2003. Three new donors decided to support the Project's work in 2004: the government of South Africa, the Oak Foundation and USAID. By the end of the year, the Project had 14 major donors, including 11 governments or governmental development agencies. Despite this increase in support, the Project still had to close its books with a small shortfall, which will be covered by the Norwegian Refugee Council.

# Database

2004 was a crucial year in the Global IDP Project's efforts to strengthen the IDP database as a key tool for providing IDP-related information and analysis, raising awareness of the plight of the displaced and promoting the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

The Project continued to monitor all situations of internal displacement worldwide and provide regularly updated information and analysis on each of these situations. For the first time since the establishment of the Global IDP Project, the number of countries monitored decreased – from 52 in 2003 to 49 at the end of 2004. This was due to the fact that the Project stopped actively following the ending displacement situations in Moldova, Sierra Leone, and the Solomon Islands. During the year, the Project released nearly 50 country profile updates, on average almost one per week. At the same time, the database continued to grow. At year's end, it contained more than 12,000 documents from over 1,800 different sources, roughly 20 per cent more than in 2003.



## Key facts

- Over 12,000 documents
- More than 1,800 sources
- 49 countries monitored
- 3 fact-finding missions
- 68,000 visitor session per month

## New priority country approach

In a major new development, the Project conducted three fact-finding missions as part of a new strategy to focus the Project's research and advocacy on a number of priority countries in addition to the regular monitoring and updating. The priority countries identified in 2004 all have significant displacement situations that are neglected or ignored by national governments and the international community. As a result of the first of these missions, which was conducted to Somalia, an in-depth report was published in November, including a set of recommendations on how to improve the response to the internal displacement crisis in the country. The other two reports, on Nigeria and Guinea, were published in early 2005. The fact-finding missions have proved to be useful in that they open access to new information sources, enhance the credibility of the Project's analysis and reporting, and improve possibilities to identify advocacy opportunities and local partners. More fact-finding missions are planned for 2005.

## Strengthening thematic expertise

In another new development, the Project moved to increase its attention to major thematic issues related to internal displacement, such as health and nutrition, land and property, shelter and housing, or women and

children issues. To this end, a focal point system was introduced in 2004. In addition to their country and regional responsibilities, each country analyst was designated focal point for one or more IDP-related thematic areas. The focal point system was designed to strengthen the database team's thematic expertise and thus enable the Project to cover major IDP-related issues more systematically in its monitoring and reporting. As a result, preparations were underway at the end of year to include, for the first time, thematic sections in the yearly Global Overview.

### **Making the database more userfriendly**

In an effort to further improve the user-friendliness of the database, the Project redesigned the country pages in their function as key interfaces between the users and the database. The improved country pages now enable users to more easily access in-depth reports, profile summaries or the individual entries in the database. In addition, external reports and news, which are entered in the database on a regular basis, are now more visible. This makes it easier for users to get an overview of the most recent developments in each of the countries covered during the period since the country profile was last updated.

### **Project takes over IDP News Alert**

In 2004, the Global IDP Project took over the editorial responsibility of the bi-weekly IDP News Alert, an information bulletin highlighting major IDP-related events and developments in a concise manner. The News Alert continuously informs subscribers about new displacements, return movements, developments at the institutional level, major conferences and publications related to internal displacement. The IDP News Alert is one of the tools designed by the Global IDP Project to ensure that major developments in countries affected by inter-

nal displacement are covered between the publications of country profile updates. Together with the regularly updated country profiles and the yearly Global Overview, the IDP News Alert is an important element in the Project's efforts to provide easily accessible information and analysis related to internal displacement.

### **User survey reveals high approval rates**

In May and June, the Project conducted a user survey on its website in order to learn more about the users of the online IDP database and their information needs.

#### **Useful information source**

The database of the Global IDP Project is a very useful source of information on the situations of IDPs worldwide. It is concise, well structured and regularly up-dated and provides both general overviews of specific IDP situations and detailed information on the needs of IDPs both in terms of protection and assistance. It is of great value for my own work and I regularly consult it.

*Philippe Kaeser, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva*

The survey marked the second stage of an analysis of the database's user groups designed to help the Project to further improve its information services. Participants in the survey provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on the database's structure and content. Over 90 per cent of the respondents rated the quality as well as the usefulness of information provided on the website as "excellent" or "good". 95 per cent of the participants said that the database information has a direct or

indirect impact on their work. The survey suggests that a considerable portion of the visitors use the website for policy-making, strategy definition, programming and the preparation of field missions and briefing materials (nearly 40 per cent).

### **Improving data collection and information sharing**

To improve the sharing of information with UN agencies involved in the international response to internal displacement, the Project requested agencies to designate focal points in their respective organisations. The Project also proposed the establishment of an informal inter-agency working group tasked with identifying best practices and developing guidelines for the collection of primary data on IDPs in the field. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group endorsed both proposals at its meeting on 15-16 June 2004, but by year's end this had not been taken up.

#### **Essential tool for humanitarian workers**

While the issue of institutional responsibility for IDPs in the UN system has been hotly debated for the past several years, what matters is their actual situation, the reasons for their displacement, and the actions of the humanitarian community in responding to the needs of IDPs. The Global IDP database is an essential tool for everybody having an interest in the issues relating to internal displacement and provides a comprehensive overview of IDP populations all over the world, their needs, and the international response. Every humanitarian worker should consult the database before assuming responsibilities in working for, and with, IDPs.

*Ed Schenkenberg van Mierop, ICVA Coordinator*



A widow with one of her nine children in Yelwa, Nigeria. The Global IDP Project interviewed IDPs, local authorities and international agencies during a number of fact-finding missions conducted in 2004

# Advocacy and Public Information

## Global awareness-raising

In February, the Global IDP Project launched its yearly Global Overview of IDP-related trends and developments. The Overview, an important tool to draw attention to major IDP-related concerns, was widely distributed, including at a major international workshop in Geneva on 4 February, and made available online on the Project's website.

The report also received considerable media attention, with reports on BBC World Service, major international news agencies including Reuters, and coverage by several national newspapers and radio stations, and thus contributed to raising awareness of the phenomenon of internal displacement among the general public. During the year, the report was also quoted as a major reference document in speeches, reports and publications relating to internal displacement.

## Regional advocacy: focus on Europe

As part of its long-term campaign advocating for a stronger role of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with regard to addressing internal displacement in its region, the Project prepared a major report, titled "Trapped in Displacement", on the IDP situation in Europe and Central Asia. The report,

which was launched at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Internally Displaced Persons in Vienna in November 2004, features overviews of the IDP situation in all 13 countries affected by internal displacement in the region. Recommendations include a call on governments to step up their efforts to improve the legal and material situation of IDPs who cannot, or do not wish to return. The report, which served as a key background document for the conference, was widely covered by the international media. An article, published by two members of the Project's staff in the Helsinki Monitor, a scientific journal on OSCE affairs, analysed the response of the OSCE to internal displacement and included recommendations for future action.

## Impact at the country level

Although the impact of the Project's country monitoring and reporting is naturally difficult to measure, there were many indications during 2004 that the country profiles and in-depth reports published by the Project contributed to changes on the ground. In March, the Project published a report drawing attention to the displacement crisis in Algeria, which so far has been largely ignored by the government and the international community. The report received wide coverage by the Algerian, French and international media and raised awareness of the

### EUROPE SURVEY REFLECTED IN COUNCIL OF EUROPE MONITORING OF STATE COMPLIANCE

(...) As regards national minorities, there remain legislative and constitutional obstacles to their full integration and even where appropriate legislation does exist, full implementation is still needed. A report on IDPs in the OSCE area (entitled "Trapped in Displacement" and published in November 2004 by the Global IDP Project, established by the Norwegian Refugee Council), notes the continued discrimination faced by minority IDPs and returnees at different levels, including access to housing assistance, utilities, employment, health care and education, which poses an obstacle to return and /or reintegration (...)

*Council of Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Compliance with obligations and commitments and implementation of the post-accession co-operation programme, 4 February 2005*

issue, both within Algeria as well as internationally. Similarly, the Rwanda report released in October raised the question of whether the internal displacement situation in that country can really be considered as resolved, and resulted in the UN putting the issue on the agenda again in its reporting. There were numerous other examples of public and internal statements, reports, policy papers and other documents making reference to findings of the Project's country reports, which thus contributed to shaping agendas and strategies at the country level. The Project's research is also increasingly drawn upon in IDP and forced-migration related studies and assessments that contribute to understanding and tackling the root causes of conflict, an essential precondition to ending internal displacement and establishing durable solutions for IDPs. The priority country approach adopted in 2004 is a major step towards improving the impact of the Project's advocacy activities at the country level, in particular with regard to forgotten or neglected internal displacement situations.

### **Increased media coverage**

The Project in 2004 continued to actively target the media in order to advance its findings and concerns to a broader audience. Over 20 press releases were issued during the year, most of them accompanying the publication of reports and country updates. This resulted in a further strengthening of the Project's profile in the international media. Among the reports particularly well covered in 2004 were the Global Overview, the report on internal displacement in Europe and the country updates on Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq and Sudan.

#### **UN REPORTING TAKES UP FINDINGS OF PROJECT'S RWANDA PROFILE**

IDPs in Rwanda – The IDP situation in Rwanda remains precarious and of concern. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) recently released a report on the situation. In its report the organization indicates that there are still 180,000 relocated families living under plastic sheeting in damaged or temporarily occupying other people's homes (...) Lack of donors support has left the affected persons in a situation where they are neither supported to achieve sustainable livelihoods in the sites nor are they given the opportunity or possibility to return to their original homes. Recommendations have also been made for a survey to be conducted to urgently assess the living conditions and needs of the resettled IDPs in relocation camps as well as their intentions of the return to their homes.

*Great Lakes Information Exchange Meeting,  
UN OCHA, 10 November 2004*

## The Global IDP Project in the media 2004

### **BBC World Service, 11 February 2004**

Around 25 million people - most fleeing civil wars - are refugees within their own countries, says a leading agency monitoring displaced people worldwide. A report by the Global IDP Project says refugees who cross borders tend to get more attention - but nearly twice that number are internally displaced. Their condition is often worse, the Geneva-based body says.

It reports that the number of refugees worldwide has stayed roughly constant over the past year. The agency monitors the constantly fluctuating numbers of people forced out of their homes and the others who return. While three million people were able to go home last year - mostly in Angola and Indonesia - another three million were forced out (...)

### **BBC World Service, 19 February 2004**

An international body that monitors displaced people says about 100,000 Arabs have been forced from their homes by returning Kurds in northern Iraq. The Global IDP Project estimates that about 30,000 Kurds who were evicted under Saddam Hussein have gone back to their home towns and villages. The Arab families have been pushed out, or fled, the group says. Many are camped in abandoned public buildings in non-Kurdish areas and are dependent on food aid. The latest report from the Global IDP Project details the consequences of what it calls the "revolving door effect", triggered by last year's war in Iraq. (...)

### **Reuters, 19 February 2004**

(...) The report by the Geneva-based Global IDP Project warned the unregulated return of thousands of Kurds could enflame simmering tensions in the oil-rich towns of Mosul and Kirkuk where Arabs and Turkmen have protested growing Kurdish political influence. "The change in the political climate in 2003 triggered a revolving door effect whereby returning Kurds, sometimes with the support of Kurdish militia, displaced the Arabs who had been brought in by the ousted authorities," the report said. (...)

### **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 20 February 2004**

The report, by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Global IDP Project, warns that unless the return of thousands more Kurdish refugees to their home areas is better regulated, "simmering tensions between the ethnic groups in the region are likely to worsen." The Global IDP Project, based in Geneva, performed the study as part of its work tracking patterns of internal displacement in numerous countries worldwide. (...)

### **BBC World Service, 5 March 2004**

More than one million people in Algeria have been displaced because of internal violence over the past decade, a Norwegian refugee agency says. A new report by the Norwegian Refugee Council said that the scope of the crisis in Algeria is much more significant than previously thought. It says Algeria is one of the countries worst affected by the problem. (...)

### **Reuters, 15 March 2004**

Fighting between Sudanese troops, government-backed militias and rebels has driven 750,000 people from their homes in western Sudan, a refugee group said on Monday. A report from the Norwegian Refugee Council's Geneva-based Global IDP Project warned of a major crisis in the area, because aid workers could not reach those displaced due to the fighting and government restrictions on aid workers' movements. "We are seeing one of the worst crises in Africa unfolding there (in Darfur)," Raymond Johansen, secretary-general of the Norwegian refugee organisation, said. (...)

### **BBC World Service, 5 November 2004**

Internally displaced people (IDPs) are among the most neglected citizens, a United Nations-mandated body says. In a report, the Global IDP Project said Europe alone had three million among 25m worldwide, far more than those enjoying refugees status. The report calls on governments to take more care of IDPs by granting them the same rights as they would have at home. In addition, it urges the international community to address the causes of forced displacement (...)

### **Increased number of website visitors**

The Project's website attracted an increased number of visitors in 2004. The number of visitor sessions reached 800,000 by the end of the year, an average of 68,000<sup>1</sup> per month or 2,200 per day. This reflects an increase compared to 2003, when the monthly average was 64,000 . This made the website a major tool in getting the Project's messages across to its audiences among governments as well as international and national organisations.

### **Improved public outreach**

In a major marketing effort, the Project contacted numerous potential recipients of IDP-related information, and updated and significantly expanded its distribution lists. Through a newly developed subscription page on the Project's website, users were enabled to subscribe to e-mail notifications announcing new country profile updates, press releases and the IDP News Alert. This new service has since been used by hundreds of subscribers.

### **Translations into regional languages**

During 2004, the Project made available Spanish translations of summaries of all country reports on internal displacement in Latin America on its website. The Spanish summaries – covering the internal displacement situations in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and Mexico – can be accessed from the respective country pages. The translations were provided free of charge as an in-kind contribution by the Regional Legal Unit of the UNHCR's Americas Bureau. In addition, the Project began to translate summaries covering francophone countries. By offering translation into major regional languages, the Project

aims at increasing the impact of its reports in the respective regions.

### **Royal visit**

As part of their visit to the humanitarian organisations in Geneva, the Norwegian Crown Prince and Crown Princess visited the office of the Global IDP Project in September. The royal couple was briefed about the work of the Project and major concerns related to internal displacement. The visit, a gift offered to the couple on the occasion of their wedding by the five largest Norwegian NGOs, was organised by the Norwegian Refugee Council in cooperation with the Norwegian Delegation in Geneva.

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<sup>1</sup> August-December. As the Project introduced a new web statistics programme in August 2003, the figures for the first seven months cannot be compared with the 2004 statistics.



# Training

## Training of UN Country Teams

In 2004, the Global IDP Project was formally requested by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator to take over responsibility for responding to requests by Country Teams for training on the Guiding Principles and the protection of IDPs. This mandate clarified the division of labour between the Global IDP Project and the UN Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division, which, for its part, will "concentrate on strengthening strategy formulation at the country level", as confirmed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator in a letter to the Project in March 2004.

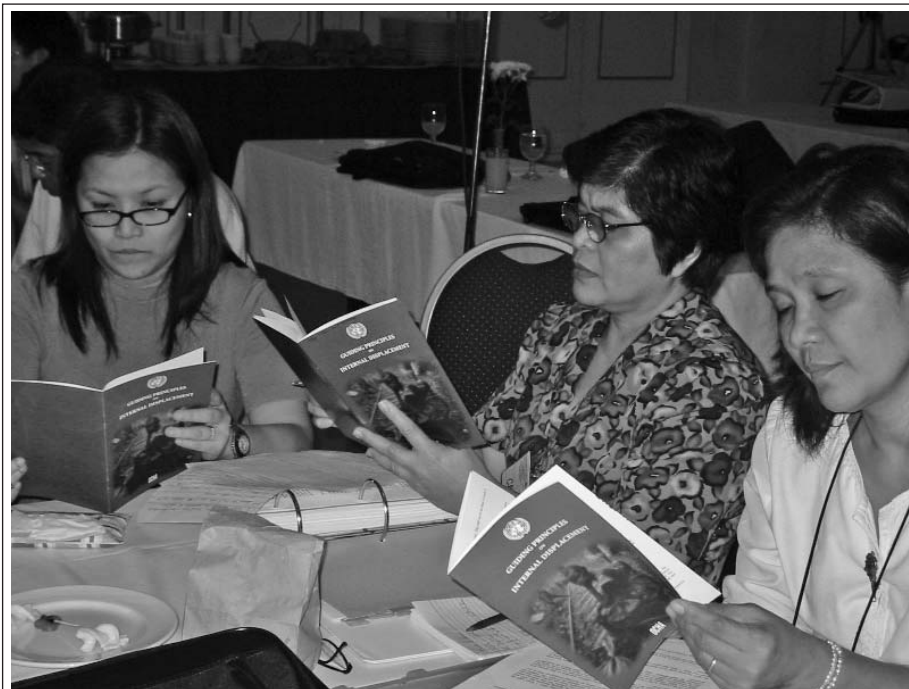
In the framework of its new mandate, the Global IDP Project organised Guiding Principles workshops in Ethiopia, Somalia and Jordan (for the Iraq country team).

The workshops helped OCHA and its partners to enhance the knowledge on protection standards relating to

### Key facts

- New mandate to train UN Country Teams
- 8 training workshops and briefings
- Over 200 participants

IDPs among national and local actors, including governmental or provincial authorities, local NGOs, and representatives of IDP communities. They also served as forums to discuss issues of protection and assistance at stake in these countries, in support to UN advocacy efforts. This was the case of the workshop in Jordan, which gave national and international actors based in Jordan, Iraq and Kuwait an opportunity to discuss displacement issues together. Conclusions and recommendations reached during these workshops concerned the creation of coordination mechanisms on IDPs, the relevance of



Staff of the National Human Rights Commission of the Philippines studying the Guiding Principles at a workshop in November 2004, Photo: Global IDP Project/Greta Zeender

Date	Location	Target groups
21-23 April	Oslo, Norway	NRC secondees
13 May	Stockholm, Sweden	SIDA staff members
24-27 May	Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia	UN Country Team and national/regional authorities
9-10 August	Bossaso, Somalia	NGOs, IDP representatives, UN agencies
14-16 August	Hargeisa, Somaliland, Somalia	NGOs, IDP representatives, authorities, UN agencies
7-9 September	Amman, Jordan	National and regional authorities in Iraq, NGOs, and international agencies
6-16 October	Rumbek, Sudan	NRC Sudan training team
9-12 November	Davao City, Philippines	Staff members of the national human rights commission, including central and regional offices

the Guiding Principles as a reference tool, and the status and protection needs of IDPs.

### Capacity building of national human rights commissions

The Global IDP Project initiated a training programme in support of national human rights commissions in the Asia Pacific Region, as follow-up to a series of assessments of the role of human rights commissions in the region by the Brookings Institution/SAIS Project on Internal Displacement and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.

A first workshop was organised for the national human rights commission in the Philippines. The workshop comprised a four-day residential training event including an "immersion day", facilitated by the NGO Balay, which gave participants a unique opportunity to visit areas of displacement in Mindanao, interview IDPs and dialogue with local actors. More than 40 representatives from the Commission's headquarters and regional offices partici-

pated in the workshop. The commitment of the Commission to a more consistent involvement in the protection of IDPs was further demonstrated by the presence of four Commissioners, who opened the workshop and attended the sessions. One major outcome of the workshop was the development of action plans, in which participants reviewed their role and identified possible activities to strengthen the protection of IDPs.

### Training support to NRC and other institutions

At the request of NRC Oslo, the Project in April organised a training workshop on IDP protection for members of the NRC emergency standby force to be seconded as IDP affairs officers to UN agencies and Humanitarian Coordinators in the field. With the support of the Internal Displacement Unit, UNHCR and the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights, the training reviewed the Guiding Principles from an operational perspective, by focusing on monitoring and information, institutional arrangements and the "collaborative response" model, as well as the

formulation of IDP strategies. The Project also presented a new module on the gender approach to IDP protection. Since this workshop, several of the participants have been seconded to UN OCHA in various situations of internal displacement, where they were asked to coordinate the Country Team's response to IDP protection needs, in collaboration with national and local authorities.

At the request of the NRC's Sudan office, the Project supported the development of a UNHCR-funded training plan in Southern Sudan by assisting the local training team to design an adequate training approach, including model workshop agendas, training participatory activities and facilitators' notes. The trainers were also briefed on the Guiding Principles and training practices. NRC training in South Sudan targeted local communities, including village chiefs, spiritual leaders, NGOs and IDP communities, and aimed at preparing the ground for the return of IDPs from northern Sudan.

**“TRAINING MADE US REALISE OUR CRUCIAL ROLE IN IDP RESPONSE”**

The training on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement given to our office's key personnel was timely and very informative. It has made us realise how crucial our role is as a national human rights institution and how we could effectively respond to internal displacement issues in the country.

*Dominador N. Calamba II, Commissioner in charge of IDPs, Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines*

In June, the Project also delivered a briefing on the Guiding Principles and the international response to internal displacement to staff members of Swedish Aid Agency SIDA.



Group work during a training workshop in Hargeisa, Somaliland, in August 2004. Photo: Global IDP Project/Jens-Hagen Eschenbacher

## **Impact of training on the protection of IDPs**

The Project's training workshop contributed to enhancing the knowledge of the Guiding Principles and IDP protection standards and practices among the organisations targeted. As a result, participating agencies, state institutions and other organisations generally accepted, or confirmed their acceptance of, the Guiding Principles as a reference tool in their work for IDPs. The authorities in the self-declared republic of Somaliland, for example, restated their commitment to consider displaced people originating from the rest of Somalia as IDPs in line with the Guiding Principles. Awareness of IDP protection standards and UN policies was also of direct relevance to the work of IDP affairs officers who were seconded through the NRC standby force to the offices of UN resident representatives or other institutions.

Beyond the promotion of the Guiding Principles, the workshops contributed ultimately to the targeted organisations improving their various responses. The trainings contributed to improving the protection afforded to IDPs, including through the dissemination of information on IDP rights, advocacy with authorities, and field surveys by workshop participants. In Iraq, NGOs stated their willingness to further disseminate the Guiding Principles among their staff and partners at the local level. In the Philippines, the Human Rights Commission designed a series of regional consultations, which will culminate in a national forum on IDPs, in collaboration with Balay, a key NGO working for the protection of IDPs in the country. The Commission also developed materials to promote the Guiding Principles among local actors. Discussions held in the workshop in Somaliland highlighted the need for a more systematic

assessment of the number and location of IDPs, a task for which OCHA offered its support.

In line with the Project's objective of facilitating dialogue between all relevant stakeholders, workshops contributed to creating new partnerships. The workshop in the Philippines gave the national human rights commission the opportunity to appreciate the considerable work done at the local and national level by the NGO Balay. As a result, the workshop opened up a new area of cooperation between the Commission and Balay, as the two organisations agreed to coordinate their efforts towards the adoption of an IDP law by the Parliament. In Ethiopia and Somalia, concrete steps were made towards enhanced coordination among relevant actors in line with recommendations adopted during the workshops, such as the creation of IDP focal points within the relevant organisations.

# Meetings and Conferences

## **Conference on the future of the international response to internal displacement**

The Global IDP Project participated in a conference on the implementation of recommendations included in the evaluation of the UN's Internal Displacement Unit, which was convened in Geneva on 4 February 2004 by the government of Canada at the initiative of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator. The workshop, which was attended by IASC members and donor governments, confirmed the important role the Global IDP Project is playing as a key partner of the UN in the fields of information, training and advocacy. The Emergency Relief Coordinator asked for a clearer division of labour and better coordination and co-operation between the three main bodies specifically dealing with IDP issues: the Internal Displacement Unit (since July 2004: Division), the UN Representative on IDPs, and the Global IDP Project. It was agreed that the Global IDP Project would expand its training activities in response to requests from UN Country Teams to allow the IDP Unit to focus on facilitating the development of IDP strategies within UN Country Teams.

## **Meeting on "When does displacement end?"**

Together with the Brookings/SAIS Project on Internal Displacement and Georgetown University, the Project co-sponsored a consultation meeting held in April on the definition of criteria to determine when internal displacement ends. This meeting was the third and final segment in a series of consultations organised in response to a request from the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator to the UN Representative on IDPs for guidance as to when an internally displaced person should no longer be considered under this category. During the meeting hosted by the Permanent Missions of Canada and Switzerland in Geneva, draft criteria were presented to representatives of countries facing internal displacement and donor govern-

ments, before their submission to the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator.

## **Seminar on internal displacement in Latin America**

The Project made a presentation at a regional seminar on internal displacement in the Americas in Mexico City in February. The seminar was organised by the Government of Mexico, the Office of the UN Representative on IDPs and the Brookings Institution-Johns Hopkins SAIS Project on Internal Displacement. The seminar showed that the problem of internal displacement is still very much alive in the region, not only in Colombia, but also in Guatemala, Peru and Mexico. It was used to establish contacts with potential information providers in the countries affected by internal displacement.

## **Roundtable on Chechen IDPs**

In August, the Global IDP Project facilitated a session in a roundtable organised by NRC Oslo in Moscow on the protection of displaced Chechens. The objective of the meeting was to allow representatives of international agencies and NGOs to exchange information on the protection needs of IDPs in the Russian Federation and to design an advocacy plan. The Project presented the standards on durable solutions defined in the Guiding Principles and facilitated the discussion on advocacy.

## **Conference on housing and shelter**

In September, the Global IDP Project co-sponsored a conference for researchers and practitioners from different academic disciplines and fields on the topic "What is the meaning of 'house' for forced migrants". The conference was organised by the Norway-based NTNU Research Network on Internal Displacement. The Project made a presentation on existing shelter information in the database.

# Financial Report

## Funding

In 2004, the Project's income increased by 43 per cent to 1,020,241 million USD, compared to 713,700 USD in 2003. Three new donors decided to support the Project's work in 2004: the government of South Africa, the Oak Foundation and USAID. Thus, by the end of the year, the Project had 14 main donors, including 11 governments or governmental development agencies, one private foundation (Oak Foundation), one academic institution (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) and one UN agency (UNHCR<sup>2</sup>).

Despite the broadening of its donor base and overwhelmingly positive feedback it received by its stakeholders including users and donors, the Project again closed the year with a shortfall which in 2004 amounted to \$47,000 or about five per cent of the total expenses. The shortfall was covered by the Norwegian Refugee Council's headquarters.

Following the formal request in early 2004 by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator for the Global IDP Project to take over Guiding Principles training for Country

Teams, the Project presented a supplementary budget of \$110,000 to its donors on 22 June. Two governments, the Netherlands and Norway, responded favourably to this extra appeal and contributed \$55,000. Support in form of cost recovery contributions was also given by IOM, UNHCR, NRC Oslo and NRC Sudan for training activities. For the purpose of this presentation, the expenditures and incomes relating to the core budget and the supplementary budget were merged.

Even though the funding situation has improved considerably during 2004, the Project's financial situation is still far from stable and predictable. Multi-year agreements with donors and the timely receipt of funding are crucial for the effective running of the Project.

## Feedback on the Project

Throughout the year the Global IDP Project kept stakeholders regularly informed of the progress and development of the Project's activities and needs. Besides meetings and phone contacts, the Project sent out Quarterly Updates and other information material to its donors and other interested persons and made these reports available on its website.

2 Apart from core support to the Project, UNHCR provided in kind contribution in form of translation services from English to Spanish of the Latin-American country profiles.

## Contributions to the Global IDP Project in 2004

<i>Donors and contributors</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Income USD*</i>
Norway MFA	21.62%	220,568.63
Sweden SIDA	12.92%	131,845.76
United Kingdom DFID	11.17%	113,936.71
United States USAID	9.80%	100,000.00
Denmark MFA	8.99%	91,674.15
Netherlands MFA	7.74%	79,000.00
Australia AUSAID	6.73%	68,664.13
Canada DFAIT	5.21%	53,196.26
Oak Foundation	3.73%	38,083.63
Switzerland MFA	3.56%	36,269.85
Luxembourg MFA	2.45%	25,002.89
NRC Oslo for training serv.	1.43%	14,619.18
UNHCR NGO Liaison Unit	0.98%	10,000.00
UNHCR Jordan	0.78%	7,975.00
IOM Jordan	0.78%	7,950.13
Norwegian Univ. of Science and Technology	0.75%	7,619.44
South Africa MFA	0.71%	7,198.12
NRC Sudan for training serv.	0.65%	6,637.22
<b>Total income 2004</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,020,241.10</b>

Shortfall covered by the Norwegian Refugee Council

47,276.91

\*Contributions recorded at the exchange rate of the day received

## Expenditure

<b>Expenses 2004</b>	<b>Expenses USD** 1.01.04 - 31.12.04</b>
<b>Global IDP Database</b>	
Database coordinator	76,114.44
Six country analysts	471,645.21
Travel expenses	18,362.95
Marketing/Advertising/Miscl.	12,917.95
IT hardware and software	14,330.48
IT maint., telecomm., database hosting	30,882.73
Sub Total Global IDP Database	624,253.76
<b>Protection and Training Activities</b>	
Training coordinator (90%)	89,929.73
Protection workshops	14,061.99
Field-based National Training Programmes	26,210.83
SubTotal Protection and Training activities	
<b>Advocacy and Public Information</b>	
Publications coordinator	68,916.17
Research, publications on IDP's/Miscl.	35,468.42
Travel expenses	6,139.56
Sub Total Advocacy and Public Information	110,524.15
<b>Fixed Costs Global IDP Project</b>	
Adm.Off. (80%) and Donor Rel.Off.(60%)	105,428.85
Travel expenses	2,035.21
Office equipment/furniture	10,836.70
Office cost (rent office, tel.,off.supplies, mail)	84,236.80
Sub Total Fixed Costs	202,537.56
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,067,518.02</b>

\*\* Expenses recorded at the average contributions received exch.rate  
Exchange rate CHF/USD : 1,2382

Geneva, 4 March 2005



**Elisabeth K. Rasmusson**  
NRC Resident Representative in Geneva





■ Statsautoriserte revisorer

Ernst & Young AS  
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Postboks 20  
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The Norwegian Refugee Council  
Chemin de Balexert 7-9  
1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)  
Switzerland

Oslo, 4 March 2005

**Auditor's report for Global IDP project 2004**

We have audited the financial report concerning The Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) activities related to the Global IDP project in Geneva. The financial report 2004 comprises contributions and expenses for the period 1 January – 31 December 2004. The total expenses amounted to USD 1 067 518. The total installments received from 18 donors are USD 1 020 241. The total shortfall USD 47 277 is covered by NRC. For costs incurred in CHF, the NRC have used an average rate for conversion from CHF to USD of 1.2382. The financial report is the responsibility of the The Norwegian Refugee Council. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report 2004 as required by the Norwegian Act on Auditing and Auditors.

It is NRC's responsibility to manage and use the funds received from the donors according to the agreements between the donors and NRC. Our responsibility is to ensure that administration of the donor funds take place in a satisfactory manner and that the financial reporting properly reflects the project.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Norwegian Act on Auditing and Auditors and generally accepted auditing standards in Norway. Our report is in accordance with The Norwegian Institute of Public Accountants (DnR) auditing standard RS800 "Auditor's report on audit engagements with special purpose." Generally accepted auditing standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about:

- The financial report is free of material misstatement
- The internal control of the entity is satisfactory to ensure correct reporting and also satisfactory securing donor funds, including assets acquired in accordance with the donation
- The NRC has complied with the contract conditions in the donation agreements with the donors

The audit include:

- Examining, on a test basis the evidence supporting the amounts in the financial report, evaluation of the used accounting standards together with an assessment of the contents and presentation of the financial report
- Examination of NRCs asset management and accounting- and internal control systems
- Examination of selected parts of the material that support complying with the donation agreements
- Examination of the average exchange rate used

■ Besøksadresse:  
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■ Arendal, Bergen, Bo, Drammen, Fosnavåg, Fredrikstad, Holmestrand, Horten, Hønefoss, Kongsberg, Kragerø, Kristiansand, Larvik, Levanger, Lillehammer, Moss, Måløy, Notodden, Oslo, Otta, Porsgrunn/Skien, Sandefjord, Sortland, Stavanger, Steinkjer, Tromsø, Trondheim, Tønsberg, Vikersund, Ålesund



We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion:

- The financial report 2004 presents fairly the projects result
- The NRC's management have fulfilled its duty to properly register and document the accounting information required by Norwegian law and regulations, together with satisfactory securing donor funds, including assets acquired in accordance with the donation
- The management have complied with the contract conditions in the donation agreement between NRC and the donors

ERNST & YOUNG AS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bjørn Lie', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bjørn Lie  
State Authorised Public Accountant (Norway)

**Global IDP Project**

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