

**1: Briefing on mission to Nepal**  
(by Carmen van Heese, Inter-agency Internal Displacement Division)

Ms. Carmen van Heese, Inter-Agency Relations Officer in the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division (IDD), briefed on a mission to Nepal, which took place from 10 to 18 April. The mission was a joint mission of IDD and the Office of the RSG on Human Rights of IDPs, including Dr. Kälin, RSG on Human Rights of IDPs, and Mr. McNamara, Director of IDD.

The mission was initiated on request of the RC in Nepal to discuss IDP issues, including the implementation of the collaborative response to situations of internal displacement and to assess the overall situation.

When the mission took place, the country was still in a state of emergency, which was declared by the Nepalese King after he dismissed the Prime Minister and dissolved the cabinet in February 2005. The Maoist rebels effectively control most of the country outside Kathmandu and other major cities, which means about 80% in the country. Although Nepal is not a country with a severe IDP crisis as known from many other emergencies such as Darfur, migration is a well-known phenomenon in Nepal. In addition, about 50% of the population is living below the poverty line.

Regarding UN efforts in Nepal, Ms. van Heese referred to the appointment of the RC as HC and to the MoU signed between the OHCHR and the Nepalese government on 8 April 2005.

The mission met with government representatives in Kathmandu, who indicated that they welcome cooperation with the UN. The GoN has an IDP policy, but little is happening to take it forward, which is largely due to lack of resources. Ms van Heese underlined that the GoN sees the IDPs as a problem solely resulting from Maoist violence.

The CT in Nepal, though having a strong development profile, is clearly recognizing the potential worsening of the humanitarian situation, and has initiated various practical measures such as stocking up supplies and putting field clinics in place, etc. but needs guiding strategies for a worst case scenario.

The mission traveled to villages in the western part of the country where the people had stood up against the Maoist rebels and several Maoist had been killed. A problematic fact was that the Nepalese military and police, although present, had not interfered to stop these fightings. Furthermore Ms. van Heese reported that the mission had visited some first IDP settlements in the West, which had very complex compositions of IDPs regarding social and economic backgrounds.

The mission also met with army officials, who claimed that the military is in control of the country, which is clearly not the case. The army officials stated that they would be willing to work together with the UN and recognized the need to apply to human rights standards.

Mr. Gianni Magazzeni (OHCHR) confirmed the signing of the MoU between the GoN and OHCHR. He also stated that the OHCHR has deployed a team to Nepal to help shape the operation and in the coming months will increase staff in Nepal with up to 50 international staff members. Sub-offices outside Kathmandu will be opened in five locations. The MoU will allow the OHCHR to better monitor and report on the human rights situation in Nepal.

In the discussion following the briefing the focus was on the relationship between internationals and the GoN vis-à-vis the rebels, to which Ms. Van Heese explained that the GoN sees the rebels as terrorists and does not allow agencies to work with them.

**Action points:**

- The IASC Secretariat to distribute to IASC members the OHCHR document outlining the plans and requirements for a start-up phase following the signing of the MoU between the GoN and OHCHR.
- All agencies were urged to collaborate with OHCHR and the Country Team in Nepal.

**2: Update on the Gender-Based Violence Matrix and Guidelines**  
(by Wilma Doedens, UNFPA)

Ms. Wilma Doedens, Technical Officer in UNFPA Geneva and member of the IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance, gave an update on the Gender-based Violence Matrix and Guidelines.

One year after the IASC TF on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse had been closed down, the IASC WG expressed its concern that this issue was no longer addressed and requested the IASC TF on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance to deal with the problem of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Consequently, a sub-working group of the TF on Gender was formed and started to develop a tool kit for GBV interventions in emergency settings aiming to provide practical guidance to humanitarian actors on coordination and activities for the prevention and management of GBV in humanitarian crises.

The matrix and guidelines that are being developed similarly to the IASC HIV/AIDS Guidelines list recommended activities in different sectors of humanitarian assistance as well as in different stages of an emergency. The activities recommended are listed in the matrix as bullet points and are further specified on separate Action Sheets for each activity. The activities mentioned are based on the Sphere Project Standards and do not request agencies to do extra work but to include certain activities into their minimum

response. As SGBV is an overall and comprehensive problem, it requires a multi-sectoral response ensured by all agencies.

While the matrix has already been endorsed by the IASC Working Group in November 2004, the final draft of the Guidelines will be ready by mid May 2005 and will then be sent to the field for another review. Most likely, the guidelines will be ready for printing by June 2005.

In terms of funding, UNIFEM, WFP and UNFPA have contributed to the development process of the matrix and the guidelines. To publish the final product and to ensure the way forward, there is still a funding gap of USD 15 000.

Ms. Doedens also announced that there would be a consultative meeting with a group of experts on sexual violence in conflict, which will be hosted by the Belgium government (Brussels) in early June 2005. She also informed the participants about the recent publishing of a new edition of "Clinical Management of Survivors of Rape".

In the discussion after the meeting, participants asked about the inclusion of children, especially unaccompanied minors, in the matrix, whereon Ms. Doedens highlighted the overview-character of the Matrix, and that the Action Sheets are addressing challenges in a much more detailed way.

**Action points:**

- Participants to consult with their agencies on contributions for the development and publication of the SGBV Matrix and Guidelines.
- IASC Secretariat to distribute the electronic version of the Matrix, endorsed at the 59<sup>th</sup> IASC Working Group Meeting in November 2004.

**3: IASC Standard Briefing**

(by Thomas Getman, World Vision international)

- Today, Wednesday 27 April, the consultative meeting on the Humanitarian Response Review with US-based NGOs is taking place at the InterAction Office in Washington. Ms. Marilena Viviani is attending the meeting.
- For this afternoon, Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) International has organised a debate on the Tsunami response. The motion discussed will be "Was the International Response to the Tsunami a humanitarian showcase or an over-resourced circus?". The debate will take place from 14h00 - 17h30 at the International Environment House II (ground floor, room Rhin-Aare) in Châtelaïne.
- This evening, Wednesday 27 April from 16h00 – 17h00 the IASC Task Force on the Tsunami will take place in Room 3 of the Palais des Nations. The agenda items include an update on shelter, a briefing on

the visa issue in Indonesia and update on the allocation of unearmarked funds.

- An HLWG Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 28 April at 15h30 in Room 25 of the Palais des Nations (1<sup>st</sup> floor, building E). With Mr. Ross Mountain, Humanitarian Coordinator and DSRSG to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) being present, the main topics will be the recent developments and the humanitarian situation in the DRC.
- Another HLWG Meeting will take place on Friday, 29 April at 10h00 in Room 11 of the Palais des Nations. UNRWA's Acting High Commissioner General, Ms. Karen AbuZayd will brief on UNRWA's Geneva Conference Follow-Up.
- The IASC Task Force on Natural Disasters will meet on Friday, 29 April from 14h30 – 17h30 in Room F-3 of the Palais des Nations.
- The IASC Task Force on HIV/ AIDS will meet on Friday, 29 April at 16h00 in the UNAIDS Office in the World Council of Churches.

**IASC Weekly Meeting**  
**27 April 2005**  
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