

Joint Inter-Agencies Profiling Service

The purpose of this Memo is to inform all cluster leads and members, humanitarian agencies (NGOs, UN & IGOs) of the newly created Joint Inter-Agency Profiling Service and to introduce the support that this resource could provide

Background

The humanitarian reform process and the cluster leadership approach are innovations geared to improving the protection and assistance responses to IDPs and to assist in finding solutions that lead to sustainable return, recovery and development. An effective humanitarian response needs reliable population data for advocacy, planning, protection and assistance. Like all activities in response to IDP crisis situations, IDP profiling is a multi-agency task that requires effective leadership, both at the global and field levels, and the involvement of organizations and institutions that have specific technical expertise.

At both profiling workshops in March 2007 in Brussels and in May 2008 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, participants highlighted the need for external support for profiling exercises at the country level and recommended the creation of a common humanitarian service for IDP profiling. In particular, support would be needed for the preparation phase in the form of consensus building around the terms and scope of the profiling exercise among the different agencies and cluster leads and with a desk review of data and resources already available; for the implementation phase in the form of training opportunities for field staff on both the methodological approach and the protection risks; for the analysis phase in the form of information management and data analysis.

Establishment of the Unit

As a follow up to the recommendations issued at both workshops, UNHCR initiated a study to look into the possibility of establishing and hosting a “Common Humanitarian Service for IDP Profiling” to organize and support IDP profiling activities in complex humanitarian situations.

DRC, NRC-IDMC, UNOCHA, UNFPA, and UNHCR have worked in a collaborative way to set up a Joint IDP

Profiling Service (JIPS) that is hosted by UNHCR Geneva, funded by DRC, IDMC, UNHCR and ECHO, and supervised by the founding members. The aim of the JIPS is to assist humanitarian agencies (NGOs, UN & IGOs) to obtain, maintain and update reliable data on internally displaced populations, including undertaking profiling exercises and setting of profiling systems.

Services provided

JIPS is put in place to:

1. Provide guidance to requesting country offices on all aspects of IDP Profiling, especially concerning the various approaches and methodologies that can be used in different contexts;
2. Respond to requests from country teams through correspondence, deployment or referral to expert institutions. The response package could include analysis of country specific profiling needs, recommendations on methodologies suitable for the particular
3. Training on profiling related issues including methodology, coordination, community related aspects, data management security etc.

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