

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE  
PRINCIPALS MEETING

**Weekly Meeting Summary Notes**

30 November 2005  
Palais des Nations, Geneva

**I IDPs in Cote d'Ivoire: Fact-finding mission de-briefing**

*By Claudia McGoldrick, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre*

Ms. McGoldrick briefed participants on her mission to Cote d'Ivoire in September 2005 to assess the situation for IDPs in the country, as well as a recently published report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (formerly the Global IDP Project), for which the mission provided research material. Given the deepening political crisis in the country, the future of the some 500,000 IDPs in the country is increasingly uncertain (a recent survey done by UNFPA however suggests the number of IDPs is closer to 1.2 million). In anticipation of further displacement and refugee flows, UN agencies and NGOs have been developing "worst scenario" contingency plans.

Ms. McGoldrick emphasized that already the current IDPs in Cote d'Ivoire are largely neglected and extremely vulnerable. For example, less than 2 percent of them live in proper camps or centres. The huge majority is hidden in overstretched host communities. Health care, water and sanitation, education and other basic services are either non-existent or very difficult to access for IDPs. Thus, Ms. Goldrick stressed that both in the short- and medium-term the international response to internal displacement in Cote d'Ivoire must be stepped up.

The protection measures currently put in place by the international community are inadequate as well. Even in the Zone of Confidence – controlled by French and UN Peacekeepers – extortion, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and other human rights abuses are widespread and committed with impunity on all sides. Ms. Goldrick argued that the failure to impose sanctions against individuals under SC Resolution 1572 and the withholding of the UN report on human rights abuses since 2002 have contributed to the worsening protection situation.

In light of these developments, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre does not see meaningful prospects for the return of IDPs. Therefore, humanitarian agencies should neither promote return of nor limit assistance to IDPs. Instead, Ms. McGoldrick encouraged agencies to increase their civilian protection efforts and make the international response to the humanitarian situation more effective. For example by participating in projects such as Protection and IDP Network initiated by OCHA to make the international response more effective. Furthermore, she stressed the need for efforts in the area of conflict resolution and to have more peace and reconciliation projects, such as the ones done by CARE international. In addition, it is vital to support any efforts that can generate more and accurate information on IDPs (numbers, needs and locations), such as the UNFPA-funded IDP Survey. The discussion focussed on the difficulties around IDP return planning and the integration of IDP concerns into the integrated mission.

## **II 63<sup>rd</sup> IASC Working Group 21-22 November: De-Briefing**

*By Marilena Viviani, IASC Secretariat*

Ms. Marilena Viviani, gave a short briefing on the proceedings and outcome of the 63<sup>rd</sup> IASC WG. One of the main issues of the meeting was cluster accountability and responsibility, which was broadened by discussions on recent experiences with cluster approach in Pakistan and DRC. The cluster issue will also be one of the key areas of the upcoming IASC Principals meeting on 12 December, where the clusters are expected to present progress reports / final reports (as appropriate) including initial indicative costing requirements for the cluster implementation. Other key issues that were discussed in the WG included the Avian Flu / Human Influenza and the Strengthening of the Humanitarian Coordinator System. Furthermore the meeting included briefings of the chairpersons of the IASC Subsidiary Bodies who presented their progress / final reports and work plans 2006, all of which were endorsed.

## **III Humanitarian Situation in southern Sudan**

*By David Gressly, Deputy RC/HC for southern Sudan*

Mr. Gressly briefed on the current humanitarian situation in South Sudan, the setting-up of an administrative and government structure, as well as international engagement in the region.

A government structure is forming in southern Sudan. An interim assembly has met and adopted a constitution and ministries have been established. However, the structure is still very thin and the government faces enormous functional challenges in setting up administration.

Mr. Gressly highlighted a number of ongoing / re-emerging political and security concerns. The North Uganda-based LRA is spreading its activities and is now operating in small pockets all the way to Western Equatoria on the border to DRC. Furthermore, ethnic tensions in the South have risen lately with displays of resentment towards the SPLM and the new government. In this regard, Mr. Gressly stressed that the peace agreement needs to be ensured, taking into account the some 20 armed groups acting in the South that are not part of SPLM and therefore not included in the agreement. Another security concern is the slow breakdown in local command structure as senior army commanders are leaving their regional posts to go to Juba. In Rumbek there has been an increasing number of harassments of aid workers, commandeering of agency material as well as abuse of food assistance. On IDPs and refugees, the UN position is that the South is not ready for large-scale returns due to the lack of ability to provide basic humanitarian services. However, those who have returned and are expected to return in the coming months will receive assistance.

On international assistance, including the Work Plan 2006 and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), 2006 is expected to be a transition year from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development. However, for the South the primary focus will still be on humanitarian assistance. The 2006 Work Plan for Sudan includes about USD 560 million in requirements for the South focusing on food assistance as well as on emergency roads and support to health, education and water. There is however an increasing emphasis on recovery and development. The Multi-donor Trust fund will be a key component in this regard. The initial grant agreement for USD 30 million, which includes USD 10 million from the Government of Southern Sudan (this contribution reflects the first oil revenues) has recently been signed for the emergency provision of health, education, water services and the strengthening of government structures at the state and central level. The the MDTF is expected to reach USD 300 million over a 3 year period,

which is supposed to be matched 2 to 1 by the GoSS, bringing the potential total up to USD 900 million.

Lastly, on the UN and international structure in Southern Sudan. In September the UN started to move its administration from Rumbek and other locations to Juba. All heads of UN agencies are expected to be in Juba by the end of the year. All UN agencies in the South are part of a Common Country Programme within their respective agencies reporting to the head of the representation in Khartoum. However, a merger of UN operations in the South has taken place, which means that the heads of agencies in Juba manages all operations in the 10 southern states and through joint country teams for the North and South, policies for autonomous operations in the South have been established. In addition, Mr. Greesly urged more NGO presence in Juba.

In the discussion following the briefing a number of issues were brought up, such as the need for strengthening government structures in the South and the functioning of the MDTF. Regarding the UN set-up, WHO commented that the line of command between Khartoum and the South should be reversed. On specific questions from OCHA regarding guidelines for NGOs on how to establish in Juba as well as the status of assistance to returnees from the North on the way, Mr. Gressly replied that guidance on various logistical issues has been distributed to NGOs and more could be provided. In terms of the returnees, he mentioned that way-stations along the route from Khartoum to Juba are under construction.

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